

**Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2011**

Present: Matthew Ayres, Neal Baxter, Andy Hestness, Whitney Kieffer, Mike Klick, Evette McCarthy, George Moore, Mike Simons, Matt Toburen, Keith Twist

Guests: Jacque Passow, Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Absent: Sara Luoma, Ryan Sturtz

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Chairman Andy Hestness. As we had a guest, the Chair asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. Then the following business was seen to:

1. Agenda of April Meeting Evette moved to accept, Bud seconded; approved.
2. Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden had the following observations:
 - a. Southern Bike Connection Public Works has a list of traffic calmers they will choose from. Of special interest to Bancroft are the medians at 38th & 42nd Streets (and 17th Avenue So.). They are both high on the list. Construction of this project will not begin until 2012, due to meetings and the like that need to happen before project's final specifications are determined.
 - b. 38th & Chicago new leases have been signed at the building north of the SuperAmerica station. The whole site is filled with prospective tenants, including 2 local photographers of note and a coffee shop. Jessica, the former coordinator for the business association, will soon be replaced. Evette added that the association hopes to hire by end of June.
 - c. NRP a real, in-depth update on changes to the status of money from NRP will have to wait for the end of the legislative session. However, probably 66% of Phase 2 allocations will be supported.
 - d. 38th & Bloomington Profuel gas station had to close, as sales of food could not cover expenditures. Wells Fargo bank has not yet finished foreclosure proceedings

on the site. The site has a pedestrian overlay zoning status, which means that anyone wanting to open another gas station there will have only one year to start one up.

e. Mike Simons asked Elizabeth about 42nd & Cedar. She urged us to organize with the other associations near that corner to help business stay on that crossroads.

f. As to the church in the old bowling alley, Glidden said the church had sought a parking variance that never materialized. They also bought the site on a contract for deed. She offered to contact the owner to get more information. Mike Klick and others allowed that the property looked unsightly all winter. Glidden urged us to contact her office with complaints about this property.

g. New Pilot Programs for plastics recycling and organic waste pick-up are available for neighborhoods that want to serve as test areas. Contact Susan Young at the Dept. of Solid Waste.

3. Keith Twist presented the Treasurer's report for April 2011. Mike Simons urged the transfer of Ruth Kincaid and other funds into the general bank account. Andy said the Finance Committee will soon be revived, and will take up that issue. On a motion of Neal's, seconded by Evette, the members voted to review and file the Report.

4. Jacque Passow, formerly of the Bancroft board, spoke about the history of the **Bancroft Meridian Garden**. It was started in 1994 or 1995 with a grant on foreclosed, black-topped land. Bancroft N.A. awarded a grant in 1996, and many others gave money to help get the Garden started. The Park Board holds the deed to the property, and also required the founders of the Garden to work with a sponsoring institution. Bancroft N.A. took on that responsibility, and has always paid the insurance that the Park Board required (\$50 per annum). Bancroft N.A. has also paid the rather nominal water bill, as the organizers of the Garden opened no bank account and had no cash flow. Water use will henceforth be metered, and is expected to cost much more in 2012 than hitherto. In 2010 6 small plots were laid out on the west side of the Garden; Bancroft N.A. received the fees charged for these plots (\$20 each for the year). Jacque said she and her associates would be grateful if Bancroft N.A. would continue to pay the Garden's insurance bill; as to the water bill, she said they will probably ask for donations from the community. Jessica added that, while the Meridian Garden was set up with help from Bancroft N.A., the Garden is not now a function of the Bancroft N.A. in any way. Bud suggested collecting rain water as a way of reducing the fee for City water, and several members had ideas along that line.

5. **Green Initiatives Committee**, Neal Baxter: outlined the festivities that will celebrate the opening of the River- Lake Greenway, on June 11.

6. **Commercial Development Committee**, Evette McCarthy: Emmett is still drawing up a list of commercial vacancies in the area; SE corner of 38th & Chicago has a new mural but no new occupant; no news about the vacancy on 11th Avenue & 38th Street; Men in Business (38th & 14th Ave.) is gone, and the new occupants keep a low profile; the 38th & Chicago Business Association will have a website soon; the group is considering altering their name, to broaden their appeal, geographic reach, and what not.

7. **Outreach**, Mike Klick: Focus groups are still in the planning stage; there will be 5 or so, and will include churches, businesses, residents. The Survey is still in progress, and will consist of a sheet with 4 questions to hand out at events.

8. **Community Organizer's Report**, Jessica Rosenberg: a. the Banner has been mailed; b. the Garden at Bethel church is up and running; c. the July-to-December NRP reimbursement has come in; d. we have been encouraged to march in the Torchlight Aquatennial Parade, on Wed. evening, July 20; e. the Southside Youth Engagement meetings need a Bancroft area participant; f. on May 21, El Colegio is hosting a car wash to raise funds.

9. **Old & New Business**, Andy Hestness: Corcoran Neighborhood, on behalf of the South Central collaboration of neighborhood associations, has applied for a McKnight Foundation grant to hire a consultant for the group; Mike S. moved that B.N.A. add our name to the grant application, Bud seconded; Approved.

10. Motion to Adjourn Mike S. moved, Neal seconded. Approved, at 8:31 PM

11. Jessica announced immediately after the vote to adjourn that Rob Warland has resigned from the Board.