**NWNW Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 5:30 pm**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance**

**NWNW Review Board:**

Kristi Wuttig, Arlington Heights

Les Blaize, Forest Park (Secretary)

Scott Schaffer, Goose Hollow

Gary Berger, Hillside (arrived 5:37)

Richard Barker, Linnton (President)

Steve Pinger, NWDA (Treasurer)

Brian Harvey, OTCA

Stan Penkin, Pearl District (VP)

**NWNW Staff:**

Mark Sieber, Executive Director

Anastasia Zurcher, Program Manager

Rhys Ornstein-Hawes, Communications Specialist

**Guests:**

Darlene Urban Garrett, Downtown

Allan Classen, NW Examiner

Eric Simon, Goose Hollow

**5:31 Welcome & Introductions**

**5:34 Approval of February 10, 2021 minutes**

*Motion 1: Blaize moved to approve the February minutes by unanimous consent. Passed*

**5:35 Observations from Public Meeting with Commissioner Hardesty and preparation for her visit to NWNW April meeting**

Conversations with commissioner Hardesty seem to indicate that she is aware of the dysfunction within the bureau and committed to finding solutions. Overall she supports neighborhoods and community involvement. No clear plan or objectives have been indicated. It sounds like she is in an investigative phase and trying to gather information. She did say she is not looking at returning to the code 396 changes for now, and acknowledged a lack of training and services provided to neighborhoods.

2 new Civic Life staff are planned to be hired to take on the SW neighborhoods. The topic of NWNW taking on SW neighborhoods was discussed. Distinction would need to be made as to whether they would be provided administrative support only, or join the coalition as board members. Some agreement that adding to board would not be preferable. Will “wait and see”.

Blaize: NWNW should wait to hear from the City to plan future steps for development.

Urban Garrett: We should set our own course and take that to the City for support. Make your plans and set goals and find the funding, don’t let lack of funding determine the path forward.

Commissioner Hardesty is scheduled to attend the April meeting of NWNW.

Directors should provide a list of current projects or top priority subject areas in order to compile the information in a coherent way to be distributed prior to meeting (Mar 26). Send this list by next week (Mar 19). Urban Garrett agreed to compile a summary of unsheltered outreach initiatives after confirming with other neighborhoods. Additional questions for Hardesty should also be sent in, and will be narrowed down to 4-5 for the meeting.

Meeting agenda will consist of 5-10 minutes or so for the commissioner to present on her goals and plans for the neighborhood system. Then 4-5 focused questions compiled prior. Or possibly just jump into the questions since many have already heard her “pitch”.

Schaffer recommends providing an “ask”, tell her what we actually need so that she can go back and find answers and see if they can provide for that need.

**6:40 Administrative**

Kaiser health insurance is not serving the needs of all staff. The current cost of this monthly premium would be distributed directly to the staff person in order for them to purchase their own plan. This is allowable via the insurance carrier but has never been NWNW policy. Sieber requests authorization to provide funds directly to staff rather than purchase their insurance. Amount is $526.31.

*Motion 2: Blaize moved to approve this benefit option via unanimous consent. Motion passed.*

Office networking system is misfunctioning and needs updating. A contractor has been secured to provide services and purchase equipment. Cost is $1,500. This will require a minor budget adjustment of $85 in order to secure service.

*Motion 3: Penkin moved via unanimous consent to approve the budget adjustment. Passed.*

**6:45 Update on strategic planning process**

Barker: Consultants have been identified as potential team to lead the next steps of strategic planning. Further details and scope of work proposal will be outlined for all, hopefully prior to April meeting.

Concerns about changes in City direction were brought up as affecting future direction of NWNW development.

**7:33 Other business, Neighborhood Reports, Public Comment**

SHNA – will be identifying new reps as Kristin Shorey has resigned. Penkin requests a letter of recognition be sent to Shorey. Barker will compose letter.

No others

**7:34 Adjourn**

Next Meeting: April 14, 2021

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Les Blaize*