

## **April 1, 2024 – Audubon Neighborhood Association Community Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Christian Hokans, Board President. 7:05pm

**Board Members Present:** Christian Hokans, President; Mary Stadler, Secretary; Onan Justonan, Vice President; Blake Hampton, Treasurer; Angelica Carvajal, Board member; and Deborah Brister, Executive Director. Absent: Lisa Lopez, Board member

**Pothole Palooza Benefit Concert:** Christian introduced event this Saturday, April 6th from 3-8pm with 5 different bands. The event is a fundraiser to benefit the parking lot utilized by businesses, market garden, and farmer's market. There will be a food truck there on Johnson Street outside the theater and beverage offerings inside. Event is inside the newly restored Hollywood Theater. Board distributed a flyer to community attendees. Board requested volunteers to assist with event. Tickets \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance using QR code. Deb Brister, Executive Director of ANA, summarized bands and noted event is all-ages.

**Northeast Market Garden:** Deb Brister, Executive Director of ANA, gave update of improvements to garden. A new shed has been built for cold storage and a tool shed. The addition of cold storage will enable sale of products (fresh produce and herbs) beyond the farmers market, calling it the Food 'Farm'-acy and pushing 'fresh food as medicine and medicine as fresh food'. The plan is for it to be open from 4-7 during the week. Deb Brister reviewed programs to be added:

- Monday: Caregiver Chillout = Time for caregivers to relax with childcare available to relieve the caregivers. Hope to talk with salons to offer services for caregivers.
- Tuesday: Audubon Garden Club - able to come and work in beds and talk with other gardeners
- Wednesday: Pay What You Can Wednesday- farmers have agreed to
- Thursday: Farmer's Market
- Fridays: Decompression Sessions, chill music and have drinks/ snacks. Musicians have offered to do the sessions.

Those interested in volunteering for NE Market Garden can go to website to check out volunteer opportunities. Will be posting outside in the NE Market Garden and posting set times.

Posting for interns in the Market Garden, 14 and 15 year olds. They will be working on projects and some community farm to table events and learning about creating value-added products. If interested, the interns can be taught how to develop a product and work with them to see what it is like to operate a business. The program is a paid internship through Step-up program.

Plots have been assigned, but there is some room for movement if needed.

**Spring Festival:** Christian Hokans announced upcoming Spring Festival to be held May 4th from 11am to 3pm. There is a need for all manner of volunteers for the event. Community members should let Deb Brister know if wanting a booth or desire to sell anything.

There will be a food truck, games for kids, face-painting, free cotton candy, multiple bands, seedlings available for purchase, and exchange toddler gear with MN ReUse doing a training prior to event.

The event will continue with Mississippi and water theme, possibly Star Wars since May the 4th.

Reviewed need for volunteers

**Farmers Market:** The Audubon Farmers Market season will be from **June 6th through October (weather permitting).**

Deb Brister shared that there are a number of new farmers that will be selling. We have a Micro-greens farmer. Deb noted a lot of vendors and several new to the market; we will be having packed options. Christian Hokans, Board President, announced need for volunteers for set up and tear down. Thursdays throughout the summer and into the fall.

**Board Member Announcement:** Christian Hokans announced opportunity for community members to join the board.

**Neighborhood Updates:** Discussed bringing crime report back.

Christian Hokans, ANA Board President, called to adjourn the meeting.