

February 5, 2024 – Audubon Neighborhood Association Community Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Christian Hokans, Board President. 7:07pm

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

Needs Based Assessment (Research and Draft at CCC Feb 17) Christian Hokans, Board President invited update regarding Needs Based Assessment progress. Julien Halabi, ANA project staff, presented on Needs-based assessment survey progress and being able to gain in research and creating the assessment. The focus is on caregivers and elders, with creation of the survey started. A draft of the survey will be ready to present at the ANA table for Community Connection Conference to get feedback on the drafts of the survey.

Survey Focus:

- Ensuring that participants are part of Audubon neighborhood or somewhere nearby
- Seeing how long they have lived in the community
- Identifying if there are having insecurities about food or housing
- Identify any additional needs

Format:

- Multiple choice form
 - Majority will have an 'other' option

Method of collecting:

(After getting feed back from draft)

- Get into community spaces: churches, senior meetings, promote on social media, talk to community leaders, nursing homes, community center, some door to door

Julien Halabi further discussed needing to work out the best way to administer the survey and best way to assist anyone needing additional support to complete the survey. Deb Brister noted that they are working with Gustavus Adolfus Church who has senior groups and meetings to create focus groups to discuss the survey and have some open-ended questions to discover specific needs. Audubon Rec Center and other neighborhood organizations have seniors and events that they work with.

Initial reveal of draft will be February 17th at the Community Connections Conference held from 9am to 4pm. Julien Halabi plans to table the entire day with Christian Hokans planning to assist @ noon to provide relief.

Pothole Palooza Benefit Concert: Christian Hokans initiated discussion of Pothole Palooza event. Andrew Vulna, who owns the Hollywood Theater, has tentatively offered to host the event

to generate money to repair the parking lot that is in extreme disrepair. Johnson Street Merchant Association has been in discussion of ways to fundraise through having a benefit concert.

Deb Brister provided overview of cost estimates: \$10-12,000 to fix parking lot as a bandaid with full renovation to make sustainable would be @ \$125,000 to 150,000. Currently the lot is in severe disrepair.

Johnson Street Merchants Association is planning the event to book 4-5 bands for the fundraising. Hollywood Theater has catering and alcohol capabilities. ANA could pitch a beer tent with other vendors and other bands.

Tickets for the event and food/ beverage sales would go to repair; minus money to pay for the bands and other costs. Deb Brister noted working date of April 6th for the event.

Further discussion of parking lot and whether Johnson Street Merchants should have more invested in the lot that will benefit their businesses.

Deb Brister reviewed event progress as underway for the Johnson Street Merchants. ANA would need to begin process if deciding to have something set up in the market garden; get alcohol license, rent canopy. She noted that ANA has business district grant with money available for having a business expo if we incorporate other businesses as vendors.

Christian Hokans, ANA Board President, inquired of Market Garden lease renewal. Deb Brister, ANA Executive Director noted that renewal is in progress with needing to get Certificate of Insurance for approval.

Deb Brister discussed looking into legalities of beer vending and connect with Fair State brewery. ANA discussed pursuing bands and beer vendors now that date has been set.

Other Notes: Audubon Farmer Market set to open for 2024 on June 6th, NE Cross-Cultural Tasting Tour later in the summer.

Christian Hokans, ANA Board President, noted to keep in touch regarding Pothole Palooza then called to adjourn the meeting.