

## **February 5, 2024 – Audubon Neighborhood Association Board Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Christian Hokans, Board President.

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

**Community Connections Conference:** Deb Brister reviewed upcoming Community Connections Conference, a City of Minneapolis event to be held February 17th from 9am to 4 pm. The event has various attendees, including city departments, other non-profits, and neighbor representatives. Deb Brister is running as a candidate for District 1 to the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) Policy Board. Deb Brister noted that ANA will have a table at the event that will be headed by her and Julian Halabi. They will provide have a draft of the neighborhood needs assessment and promote ANA farmer's market, the market garden, and Audubon Spring Festival.

ANA is required to have a delegate to vote at the conference and discussion of who could represent Audubon. Deb Brister described purpose and duties of the NRP Policy Board; manages disbursement of funds used by the 80 Minneapolis neighborhoods to invest in and improve respective neighborhoods. Christian Hokans, ANA President, noted he can attend for some of the time. Board discussed merits of Audubon representative on the NRP Board.

**Open Streets:** Deb Brister requested to discuss Open Streets where streets are blocked off for the day. The event has bands, businesses, and food. The City of Minneapolis has decided to fund 5 sites for 2024; NE is one of the selected sites again. The request for proposals is for \$50,000 for an organizer to coordinate the businesses and bands who would be part of Open Streets. The event creates visibility for businesses, organizations, and venues. Other neighborhood associations have been thinking about collaborating or submitting but ultimately have backed out; Windom, Logan, NE Park. Deb Brister inquired ANA Board interest in submitting a proposal. Board discussed the merits of proposal and what it would entail: organizing or hiring someone to plan the event and contact neighborhoods, hiring bands, advertising, security, insurance.

Christian Hokans, ANA President, moved to decline submitting proposal to organize Open Streets. Onan Justonan, Vice President, seconded. Board approved.

**Audubon Spring Festival:** Christian Hokans, ANA President, began discussion of the Spring Festival to be held on May 4th, 2024. Deb Brister, Executive Director of ANA, was invited to give overview of the highlights of the festival. She proposed for focus on a theme of weather-related and climate change emphasis. Deb Brister reviewed merits and ideas toward this focus;

volunteers interested in sustainability, solar gardens, considering a big storm historical pop-up that would intersect with the age-friendly program and foster connections with seniors in the neighborhood, and various environmental partners to participated in the event.

Deb Brister reviewed concerns for emergency preparedness and getting neighborhood members organized and trained in specific things, like first aid; to have people in the community be available if needed. There is training available through FEMA and begin the conversation within the neighborhood.

Other festival options:

- ReUse Center is interested in doing a baby gear swap where people bring in items to exchange to meet needs of families with young children. There is a community member, Margot Ashmore (used to be with Northeaster), is considering heading it up.
- Various plants and starters available from farmers for sale during festival.

Christian Hokans, ANA President, discussed need for forming a committee to organize the event. Deb Brister noted historical struggles with committee and reviewed legwork already done: talked with Dakota regarding sound stage scheduled, paperwork completed, potential musicians, and will talk with school. Deb Brister proposed to continue to organize and head event; would like to have volunteers to take on specific areas. Board discussed merits of Deb managing vs committee; reviewed need for communication on progress and needs.

Deb Brister clarified for Board to review things on Drive with Audubon information posted to the Drive. Board discussed needing system for regular review to stay updated on information relevant to ANA Board business.

Further discussion regarding no alcohol or police at this years event

Onan Justonan moved to have climate-change theme for Audubon Spring Festival. Blake Hampton, seconded. Board approved.

**Bank:** Christian Hokans, ANA President, requested update on NE Bank paperwork task with Blake Hampton responded with plans to take care of signatures this week.

**Storage Unit:** Christian Hokans, ANA President, discussed ending storage unit use and what is needed to close the storage. Deb Brister and Board agreed with need for volunteers to move items to be discussed at a later time.

Christian Hokans adjourned meeting.

