

MPNAI August Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

6:30-8pm

Hosted by Stewart Park

Board members present: Joe Golish, Jana Metge, Beth Hart, Rand Retterath, Sunshine Sevigny, Mahamed Cali, Miriam Maples

Board members absent: Donna Neste

Guests: Robert Thompson

Quorum reached at 6:35pm

I. Call to Order - Joe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

- **Motion** was made by Beth to accept the August meeting agenda with the addition of discussion of the proposed changes to tenant the screening ordinance being considered by the Minneapolis City Council. Motion seconded by Jana and approved unanimously.
- **Motion** was made by Jana to approve July meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Beth and approved unanimously.

II. Utility Box Project Update

- Sunny reviewed the City of Minneapolis application and approval processes for custom art. The next application deadline is August 31 for work to be completed Fall 2019. Sunny and Bart Burch are working with partner organizations to encourage local artists and residents to participate in this program.
- **Motion** made by Jana to authorize Sunny and Bart to complete the city application and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Miriam and approved unanimously.

III. Proposed Changes to Tenant Screening Ordinance

- Rand reviewed the tenant screening changes being proposed by the Minneapolis City Council. This proposal would change the ways in which landlords are permitted to use credit and criminal background checks to screen prospective tenants. The group discussed concerns about how these changes will impact individual neighborhood property owners who rent out their properties and rely on these screenings to select safe, reliable tenants. Limiting the use of credit and criminal history in tenant screening could lead to negative outcomes for property owners and the neighborhood.
- Discussion of materials provided by MN Multi Housing and distributed to the Board by Rand via email. A number of other neighborhood organizations have passed resolutions opposing these changes to the tenant screening ordinance and the City Council will hear public comment on the issue at a meeting on August 28.
- **Motion** made by Jana to pass resolution below. Motion seconded by Beth and passed with one no vote.

Be it resolved that Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association urges the city to focus on measures that reduce barriers to accessing housing by increasing the total rental housing existing in the city and building rental housing that meets the needs of residence of varying backgrounds.

Be it resolved by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association that we find the draft rental screening and deposit ordinances will undermine safety and opportunities for people from all walks of life.

Be it further resolved that we believe the city can provide opportunities for populations struggling with housing instability without the unintended consequences of the draft proposals.

Be it further resolved that we urge the city to consider the financial and social impact on all people and all communities before adopting proposed rental ordinances.

Be it further resolved that we oppose the draft rental ordinances in their current form and encourage the city to engage in robust community discussion without the benefits downsides and unintended consequences before adopting new rental regulations.

Be it further resolved that Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, the board chair or designee to prepare copies and transmit them to City Council and Mayor of Minneapolis

IV. Financial Report

- **Motion** made by Rand to accept and receive June, 2019 financial reports. Motion seconded by Jana and passed unanimously.

V. Organized

- Joe asked group to think of 1-2 specific mission based goals for the Board to focus their work on.
- Brief discussion of examples from other neighborhood groups including; Lake Street Council, Banyan, East Phillips and South Minneapolis Public Safety Coalition
- Further discussions on this topic will take place during Fall 2019 as the Board prepares for 2020 activities.

VI. Community Meetings

- August - to be held at KALY Radio with Office of Immigrant & Refugee Services
- September - Angela Conley will discuss the Hennepin County Commission's 2020 budgeting process and priorities.
- Geu Xiong, Stewart Park Director would like to talk with residents about recent safety issues at the park

VII. Board Training with Robert Thompson

- Roles and responsibilities of neighborhood organizations
- Best practices for neighborhood organizations
- Suggested resources for Board and committees

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Miriam Maples