

NNA Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2020

Present: Michelle Weber, Renee Girardin, Katie Birmingham, Liz Hinard, Marla Espeseth, Sally Smith, Dave Tomke, Larry Griffin, Jim Nathan, Kevin Sullivan

This was a planned shortened session (30 minutes) to allow for speaker State Representative Ann Williams. Day-of addition, U.S. Representative Mike Quigley also attended the call.

Board Updates:

September meeting minutes were approved.

Advisory Board: Sally Smith provided an update on the Advisory Board initiatives. A fundraising initiative is moving forward. This effort will involve two email campaigns. The first email effort will outline the organization's current situation regarding significantly diminished revenue and fixed costs. It will be a direct request for donations. The second campaign which will run a couple of weeks later will include member testimonials to the value the organization brings and be a dollar for dollar matching campaign based on the donation of a generous, anonymous donor. It was confirmed that donations to NNA are tax deductible. Michelle Weber indicated that she hopes the outlined fundraising approach will be a sustainable one in future years.

EVENTS:

Halloween Event: Liz Hinard provided an update on the Halloween Walk event. The walk will take place during the last week of October. Neighbors can sign up to add their house to the walk and participants will download a map of decorated houses to visit. Some of the houses will also be collecting donations for the Common Pantry. There will be a link on the NNA website for those who would like to make a monetary donation. The event will be promoted on social media, on the NNA website and with signage closer to the event. Board members were asked to like and repost on social media and within networks. It was decided not to make the event a contest as the 47th ward alderman's office is running a contest. The alderman's office did include the walk in their communications. To date there are about 14 houses signed up and we are projecting around 20 hours total. There has been a good response from families. Maeve Schoenbeck, a high school senior and former Bell student brought the Halloween Walk idea to the committee and will be posting the signs throughout the neighborhood. We are hoping to

add some additional houses north of Irving Park Road. Renee Girardin will share with contacts associated with Coonley School to help with participation in this area.

Mask Up North Center: Michelle Weber suggested that we move forward with this effort to engage the community. Participants would “mask up” trees and post a photo with the hashtag #maskupnorthcenter to be entered in a drawing for a pizza dinner. We’ll see if a local pizza restaurant would be willing to donate the dinner. Michelle asked that each board member mask up a tree and indicated that she has supplies and a write up to be posted is in the shared drive.

Possible speaker event in November: State Representative Sara Feigenholtz--Dave Tomke is reaching out to explore this further.

Suggestion made for future speaker events to have a set topic for the discussion and consider recording and posting the recording to allow greater access

ZONING:

A full update was not possible based on a shortened meeting. A brief discussion took place regarding the project at Damen and Irving. This project seems to have progressed and zoning committee members are trying to get a meeting with the developer and a better understanding of what the city envisions for this project. Board members should reach out to Jim Nathan, Dave Tomke or Kevin Sullivan for more information or with specific questions.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT:

A strategic planning document was created by Renee Girardin and Katie Birmingham with input from Sally Smith. The plan has many good ideas and subsequent discussion should focus on the couple of strategies we want to implement initially and the proposed timing for those efforts.

Action Item: All Board members should review the planning document which is linked to the October meeting agenda and provide inline comments.

Action Item: All Board members should have NNA signs in their yards. Larry Griffin has additional signs for anyone who needs one.

Housekeeping: September board meeting minutes are approved.

Speaker Event: State Representative Ann Williams

Dave Tomke introduced the representative and moderated questions. Ann is serving her fifth term as State Representative of the 11th District. The district includes the West Lakeview, Roscoe Village and Northcenter, as well as parts of Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, and Ravenswood. Ann is a resident of North Center.

Ann currently chairs the Energy and Environment Committee and is the lead sponsor of the Clean Energy Jobs Act which she discussed during the session. Other topics included COVID economic recovery efforts, a focus on the concerning surge in gun violence in the 17th police district, human infrastructure services needed including paid sick leave, child care issues, access to technology, telehealth for both physical and mental health and access to affordable healthcare. Additional discussion took place on mechanisms to assure ballot access and ways to support local businesses including evolving laws to remove in person requirements, facilitate the evolution of offerings and processes and generally do what makes sense in the current COVID environment.

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley also attended the meeting and spoke briefly. He asked that the committee share his contact information:

Rep. Mike Quigley (IL-05)
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