

NNA Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2020

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

Absent: Kevin Sullivan, Liz Hinard, Emily Friend, Caroline Malloy

Board Update:

Michelle Weber provided the board update:

- We continue to have a need to fill the Treasurer role for 2021 by September of this year. Larry Griffin will be moving off the board this year, and the sooner we have this role filled, the more opportunity it will provide for a smooth transition. We also need to transition the bank accounts and registered agent for IL corporate compliance purposes.
- Alderman Liaison role - Dave Tomke provided an overview of this new role. Pending review by Michelle Weber, she will send an introductory email to the Alderman's office letting them know Dave will serve in this capacity and a description of the responsibilities. With this new role, we will be able to leverage the alderman's list of block party coordinators in Northcenter to share specific Northcenter related information.
- We are still awaiting a detailed copy of the board contact sheet. Caroline Malloy will provide so that we can share with the alderman's office.

Treasurer's Report:

Larry Griffin provided an overview of NNA finances.

Larry proposed we eliminate the NNA phone service. It was agreed we would do so.

Zoom Account: Larry shared that he has opened up a Zoom Account. It's \$15/month. However Google has a similar service which is free. We agreed to try the Google service for next month's meeting, and if all agree it meets our needs, we will use Google going forward.

Reimbursements: Larry reminded all board members who have any reimbursements to please submit them to him ASAP.

Other Items of Business:

Advisory Board: Sally Smith presented an update on the calls to the Advisory Board requesting assistance in developing a fundraising plan. Five Advisory Board members have agreed to assist. Additionally, it was agreed to meet with Julie Hobert this week to share our initial thoughts about the next steps. In making the initial outreach calls we learned Kathleen Abbott is moving out of Northcenter. A discussion ensued regarding when to remove her from the

advisory board. It was agreed that Kevin Sullivan would make a followup call to Kathleen to acknowledge their conversation, and let her know we are removing her from the Advisory Board list.

State Representative Ann Williams: Ann Williams' office reached out to Michelle asking for a slot at one of the NNA Board meetings. We agreed to host her in October which will allow time to publicize her attendance to the greater NNA community. A discussion ensued regarding what the agenda should be for Rep. Williams portion of the meeting. A few ideas surfaced: Use the "chat" feature in Zoom to allow people to pose questions, ask Rep Willams to speak about what is on her mind, and we'd allow 10-15 minutes for Q&A at the end.

Events

Liz Hinard provided detailed documentation regarding recent and upcoming events. Katie Birmingham asked board members for assistance with the scavenger hunt, specifically if anyone knows of interesting historical spots in Northcenter that could be incorporated into the scavenger hunt, she would welcome the help. Several ideas were tossed out. Also Jim Nathan shared that he would give this some thought and reach out to Katie.

Zoning

Jim Nathan provided detailed updates on the following:

- Hotel proposal on Western & Irving
- 1800 Berenice
- Fifth Third Bank Redevelopment Project

As these have all become high visibility items for zoning, Jim suggested that NNA consider getting into the "community meeting" business. This allows community residents to participate in providing input for key zoning initiatives, in addition it's a way to engage and perhaps recruit new members. It was agreed to continue this discussion regarding the idea.

Action Item: Write up copy that can be part of the NNA newsletter template that includes a link to the zoning committee page on the website and that the committee typically meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, NNA members are welcome to join us. Meeting dates and locations can be found on the NNA [Calendar](#)

Member Engagement:

The committee continues to work on a plan.

Compassion In Action:

Sally Smith made a plea for more board engagement for the monthly "First Wednesday" food drive which CIA sponsors to benefit the Common Pantry. Please consider dropping off a donation of groceries on one of the 6 porches, and spreading the word about it to neighbors and friends. While we are broadly publicizing it - via the NNA newsletter, NNA email, Facebook, Instagram, Neighbor NextDoor, fliers, etc., Marla Espeseth offered to distribute more flyers in her neighborhood to publicize it. Additionally it will now be covered in the Alderman's newsletter. Donations were very strong during March-June, but have dropped off considerably.

Committee Reports

Both Michelle Weber and Sally Smith requested each committee chair commit to submitting committee updates into the monthly agendas 3-5 days prior to the board meeting, rather than the day of the meeting to allow time for board members to review so as not to take valuable time up during the Board Meeting to update the members.