

Harrison Neighborhood Association
September 12th 2022
Board Minutes

7:05 PM Meeting called to order by President Elect Tim Davis

Attendance taken by Secretary Dustin Ruff

Board of Directors:

President: Monica Arons

President Elect: Tim Davis

Treasurer/Area 1: Don Ostenson

Secretary/Area 5: Dustin Ruff

Area 1: ~~Open Seat~~

Area 2: Melanie Gatewood, Richard Panzironi

Area 3: Mars Muehleis, ~~Open Seat~~

Area 4: Chomkham Soudaly, ~~Open Seat~~

Area 5: ~~Open Seat~~

Area 6: Gigi Finseth, Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

At-Large: Aaron Goldstein, Dan Justesen

Staff: Nichole Beuhler, Mitchel Hansen

Resident Members:

Eric Elgin, Laura Dickinson, Leslie, John Saliterman

Guests:

Michael Wilson city policy auditor

Review and Approve Agenda

- Motion to amend agenda to start with Michael Wilson addressing HNA
- Unanimous approval. No opposition. No abstentions.

Guest Speaker

Michael Wilson is the city policy auditor acting as a 3rd party for HNA. Briefly described process for audit. He has spoken with Nichole and Monica already. He will be creating a first draft of suggestions for best practices to improve HNA procedures which the board can expect in approx. 1 month. He anticipated likely Board training was needed. The Board will view draft(s) to address any errors and discuss how best to move forward from there. Drafts will be public information.

Review and Approve July Minutes

- Don Motioned to Approve
- Richard 2nds
- Unanimous approval. No opposition. No abstentions.

Treasurer's Report 7:35

Don discussed difficulty in finding and acquiring reports in a timely manner. Our accountant is unable to help at this time due to a health issue. Which would require us to find another accountant for the immediate future and possibly long term. Because of this problem he was unable to provide a monthly financial report.

Don voiced his concerns with the disharmony on the Board and the lack of the current and previous Boards on getting a workable strategic plan done on time. He also reiterated that Board members and staff be mindful and respectful of others and to avoid vilifying anyone.

Regarding the accountant position he pointed to an agreement that was presented to the Board for Robert Thompson Consulting, who Nichole was able to refer to us.

- Don Motioned to Approve hiring Robert Thompson for the next 2 months at least. At which time the Board will discuss permanent options.
- Dustin 2nds
- Unanimous approval. No opposition. No abstentions.

2022 Annual Budget Discussion

Discussion consisted of the necessity to officially approve the budget since it was originally passed as a Cmte of the Whole due to lack of quorum in January '22. Some questions were asked to explain income sources and several other items, which were clarified by Nichole.

- Dan Motioned to Approve 2022 Annual Budget as was brought forward from Jan. Cmte
- Don 2nds
- Motion Passed w/ 11 Yay votes and 1 Nay vote by Aaron Goldstein

- Dustin Motion to re-start hiring process for the Housing Organizer position
- Dan 2nds

Extensive discussion on the current necessity of this position. A signed grant agreement was provided to the Board by Nichole from the Mpls Foundation approving \$50,000 with a period of March 30, 2022 to March 30, 2023 that is to be used towards this position and work. Position was originally allocated by previous Board(s), but is in question with some Board members mainly revolving around rent control work. Also concern due to a lack of an up-to-date strategic plan. Nichole explained the grant for this position and work is in jeopardy of defaulting if it's not fulfilled, and that she is currently filling the ED and Housing Organizer position herself to avoid that consequence. She also re-iterated to the Board that she viewed this as retaliation since the position was only originally halted due to a false document that is still an unresolved whistleblower issue. Discussion also revolved around some members not having enough clarity or not understanding how grant funds work or what the grant is for specifically. As well as suggesting it is completely unrestricted funds not tied to any particular effort.

Mars Muehleis exits meeting during discussion

- Motion Failed with
- 7 Nay votes by Monica, Tim, Don, Aaron, Dan, Richard and Chomkham;
- 4 Yay votes Dustin, Erik, Gigi, and Melanie
- Mars was absent for vote.

- Dan Motioned to re-define the Housing Organizer position in a subcommittee. With the intent of finding the specifics of the funding for this position, finding overlap in what the Board currently wants and what the funders expect of HNA to avoid defaulting.

Subcommittee's findings would be brought to the board to address the Housing Organizer position at October's Board meeting. **Housing Position Research Committee would be chaired by Melanie with Monica and Richard.**

- Dustin 2nds
- Unanimous approval 11-0. No opposition. No abstentions

Aaron Goldstein exits meeting

Executive Director's Report 8:45pm

A written copy of the ED report was submitted to the Board and will be included in the Board packet. Nichole discussed the need to increase the internal and external home improvement grants by \$4,000 and \$6,000 respectively due to the increased demand this year. Funds would be directed from the NRP funding. She also mentioned she has a meeting w/ Councilman Ellison to discuss increased assistance to help fund home repairs.

- Don Motioned to approve additional funds.
- Dan 2nds
- Unanimous approval 10-0. No opposition. No abstentions

Nichole encouraged Board members to attend MNDot's online forum September 24th to discuss safety improvements and the future of Harrison neighborhood's Olson Hwy. The Bring Back 6th campaign we've been involved with has had some success but needs more assistance from the community and our members.

Also encouraged everyone to promote the Harrison Legal Aid clinic.

She discussed the work that our Outreach Director and herself have been doing to assist in tree removal assistance. After speaking with the Forestry Department they discovered more options available to residents who cannot immediately afford to pay for tree removal and/or the special assessment the city can impose.

1. The special assessment can be spread out over several years, or
2. The property owner can defer the cost until the sale of the property

They have also got MPRB (parks/rec) to agree to revise their letters to property owners to include these options and will make the application forms for these programs more accessible on their website. The work will benefit not only Harrison but all of Minneapolis.

Lastly she expressed her disappointment with the continued halting of the Housing position, and the inaction of the Board regarding her Whistleblower complaints.

- Dustin motioned to have a special meeting to come to a conclusion of the whistleblower complaints. A subcommittee will be formed to hire a 3rd party attorney. At which point we will schedule the meeting date. **Attorney Search Cmte is headed by Dustin w/ Dan and Tim.**
- Dan 2nds

- Motion passes 9-1 Nay by Monica

Erik Cedarleaf-Dahl exits meeting

Strategic Planning

- Monica motioned to create a Strategic Planning Cmte that would be tasked with creating a survey and getting it out to the residents of Harrison in some fashion. **Strategic Plan Survey Cmte chaired by Monica w/ Dustin**
- Richard 2nds

Discussion: Dan suggested using 2018 survey info and representatives input. Dustin suggested the least we can do is provide an opportunity for input from the residents.

Melanie Gatewood exits the meeting during discussion.

- Motion passes 6-2 Nays by Dan and Tim
- Monica motioned to allocate \$4,000 to use towards the survey
- Richard 2nds
- Motion failed
- 4 Yays Chomkham, Don, Richard and Monica
- 4 Nays Dan, Dustin, Tim, and Gigi

9:11 Motion to Adjourn by Tim Davis. Richard 2nds Unanimous approval. 8-0