

Harrison Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 10th 2022  
7pm via Zoom

Community members present: Eric Elgin, Maya Beechum (Phillips Foundation), Ryan Davis, Laura Dickinson. Board members present: Ben Ptacek, Don Ostensom, Aster Nebro, Tim Davis, Chomkham Soudaly, Melanie Gatewood, Dr. Russel Pointer, Sunny Chaunthanouvang, Colin Merrigan, McKenzie Erickson

Don motioned to approve the agenda. Colin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Don motioned to approve the minutes. Colin seconded. Discussion: request that the minutes be amended to clarify that “the 8 residents” refers to the encampment residents. Motion passed with Tim as sole Nay vote.

Treasurer’s report: Nichole provided the report in Kari’s absence. December’s financial report was preliminary due to HNA’s accountant being out sick with covid. Vote to accept the December financials was therefore delayed until January’s board meeting.

Don motioned to approve the 2022 Budget. Melanie made an amendment to add separate line items specifying staff positions and salaries. Discussion: Tim raised concerns regarding Nichole’s decision to hire a new Communications & Community Outreach Director without approval of the board. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report: Nichole reviewed the Call to Action for Eviction Defense of the Near-North camp, the upcoming Bring Back 6th community forum on Jan. 25th, and the new Harrison Legal Aid Clinic opening on Jan. 20th. Tim raised concerns that Nichole made a unilateral decision regarding the Call to Action for the encampment. Nichole clarified that she was acting at the direction of the board—the board decided in February 2021 to oppose eviction of the encampment if the only alternative housing being offered to residents was a homeless shelter hotline. Tim and Don raised concerns that HNA had not yet signed the MOU with Legal Aid. Nichole indicated that she will email the MOU to the board for review. If there are any significant issues with the MOU, HNA will delay opening the clinic until the terms of the MOU are acceptable to HNA, or alternatively, will not go forward with the clinic at all.

Ben asked to delay the committee structure and staff involvement agenda item to the January meeting in order to allow time for the Bylaws Work Group report.

Tim gave the Bylaws Work Group report. Bylaws Work Group’s new meeting day and time will be Mondays at 6pm except for on the 2nd Monday of the month when the HNA board meets.