



BRYN MAWR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
6:30– 8:00 PM

[Google Meet/Virtual Meeting](#)

Board and Staff

Kevin Thompson – President
Brian Treece – Vice President
James Dietrich - Treasurer
Jessica Wiley – Secretary
Dave Holets – Area 1 Rep
Karen Frederickson - Area 2 Co-Rep
Sue Verrett – Area 2 Co -Rep
Dennie Juillerat - Area 3 Rep
Chris Etz – Area 4 Co-Rep
Colleen Dhennin - Area 5 Co-Rep

Beth Turnbull Area 5 - Co-Rep
Jay Peterson - Area 6 Co-Rep
Rod Miller - Area 6 Co-Rep
Barry Schade – Area 6 Co-Rep
Stephen Harvey – Area 7 Co-Rep
Kate Knuth – Area 7 Co-Rep
Jeremy Staffeld - Webmaster
McKenzie Erickson – Event Coordinator
JoEllyn Jolstad – Bugle Editor
Lynda Shaheen – Communication/Fundraising Coordinator

Guests:

Lisa Goodman – Minneapolis City Councilperson
Rowena Holmes -MPD
John Davenport - Area 1
Richard Bauer - Area 3
Allison Fruen - Area 3
Marjorie Fedyszyn – Area 4
Jack Swift - Area 4
Mark Dhennin - 5
Adrian Lewis - Area 6
Paul Pentel - Area 6
Chelsey Bills
Sheri Erickson
Jen Schmitz
Paul Nelson
Anthony Ramirez
Allison Mondlak

1. Call to Order at 6:35 PM.
2. Agenda approval moved, seconded. Motion carried.
3. Minutes from August moved, seconded. Motion carried.
4. City of Minneapolis -Councilmember Lisa Goodman. Working hard to get back to Lunch with Lisa and the field trip to

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Dayton's. Newsletter will give sign-up information. Planning Robert Lilligren presentation. Board of Adjustment approved a variance for a garage at 420 Penn. The SW LRT required annual meeting to discuss safety issues during construction is set for Wednesday, September 30; it will be a virtual meeting. Continue to fill Boards and Committees (24 boards and 97 openings). Opening for Public Health Advisory. Dr. Paul Pentel has been serving in that position, Karen Soderberg before that. Was able to pass a ban on menthol cigarettes and raise age to buy cigarettes. Thanked him for his work. September is National Preparedness Month, for disaster related planning. Temporary \$300/week benefit for those unemployed due to CoVid. General election ballots will be mailed starting September 18 for no-excuse absentee voting. Also early voting locations provided in addition to voting in person on November 3. National Night Out has been moved to September 15. Restrictions in place for social distancing, masks, and sharing food. Neighborhood 2020 plan has extended public comments to September 30. Neighbors are receiving a postcard to give feedback during a 45-day review for the Built Form guidance in the 2040 plan, which describes height, set-backs, impervious surface etc. No changes for Interior 1 and Interior 2, which includes Bryn Mawr. Answered questions about the city council stance on the future of the police department and charter change. Hard to tell where this is going, no concrete plans. Have not formally reduced the number of police officers, but the force is less because of retirements and leaves of absence. We are in a period of unemployment, homelessness, and hopelessness, and there is a pattern of youth committing robbery and stealing cars. Charter change might come up next year. Need to determine what police officers should be doing, what kinds of calls should they be answering. Who else has a place in public safety? Getting recommendations from Michelle Gross, Communities Against Police Brutality. Need a culture change at the police department. City Council colleagues working on a community engagement process.

5. Crime Prevention Specialist—Rowena Holmes. There has been an uptick in crime in the city. There have been 57 murders to date; 48 in all of 2019. 4th Precinct working hard to deter criminal activity. Down several officers due to leaves, attrition, and retirements. Officers are showing up as quickly and as often as they can. Requested that officers drive Bryn Mawr streets and around the park during down time. Asks that we support the police department in any way we can. Two robberies at Cuppa Java this summer. Caught two suspects; they are in the juvenile justice center. Met earlier with neighbors about the homeless encampment in the Meadows which has been moved. Met with Adrian Lewis, Area 6, and a group of neighbors about forming a walking patrol. The non-confrontational presence of neighbors walking the streets and alleys makes lawbreakers uncomfortable. Adrian will work with Rowena to form a watch group; she has heard from about a dozen people who want to participate. Contact Adrian for more information-612-670-2587/alewis51@gmail.com. MPD will hold a Personal Safety Presentation for those who want to participate. There was some discussion about ensuring that our actions are positive and we continue to be a welcoming neighborhood. Safety tips- leave your lights on, park in your garage, walk the neighborhood and parks, use the park as much as possible. Encourage participation in National Night Out. Watch for vehicles without license plates and report to 911. Images captured by neighbors of license plates and faces is helpful to the police.
6. Downtown Bryn Mawr Security – Kevin Thompson. Have had crimes of opportunity in the past. Suspect in Market robbery is in Federal custody. Some items were stolen from Rolaynes in another incident. Need to be downtown more, continue to support and increase traffic at our businesses. Discussed cameras being used downtown. The Market is interested in security cameras that would capture a broader part of downtown; looking for funds from other businesses and their Go Fund Me dollars. Wondering about the possibility of using dollars from the BMNA safety allocation this spring or community projects funds. Questions about alternatives to calling 911 when it's not an emergency. The safety page on the bmna.org website has resources to contact other than 911. COPE is a Hennepin County mental health resource-612-596-1223. Discussed the fine line of being safe and vigilant and still being welcoming to those who don't live in the neighborhood.
7. Treasurer Report – JD Dietrich. Reports are online. \$13,340 in checking. \$118,000 in savings. Cleaning up small recurring expenses for services not used. Continue to work on PASS accounts. Have moved PayPal dollars into our account. Taxes are filed. Looking at a Village Bank 1% CD. Discussed specific expenses and record keeping for garden committee.
8. Neighborhoods 2020 – Kevin Thompson. Comments on the plan are due by September 30. Kevin expressed a concern about the formula being proposed and a possible conflict with the group proposing changes benefitting financially from the formula change. He feels the base for all neighborhoods should be at least \$20,000. CPP is a large financial commitment from the city and they are facing budget challenges. The Racial Justice committee will review the recommendations at their September 17 meeting through the Issue Review Process lens. Kevin will re-send the final 2020 report and the response from a group of different neighborhoods.
9. Communications and Fundraising Report - Lynda Shaheen. Member Night on September 24 at Utepils has generated interest from neighbors wanting to know if they are members and have donated. Going to send emails to those who have given in the past and encourage them to come. Laura Glass has volunteered and redesigned our T-shirt. Communication has focused on

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voting, the census, crime reports. Archiving all our neighborhood communication email newsletters on our website which will help those wanting to go back to an issue and find the link to more information. Proposed that National Night Out be at the Meadows, encourage people to do a walking loop.

10. Event Report – McKenzie Erickson. Successful summer yoga series-14 to 22 people each time. Anti-Racist Bryn Mawr Workshop Series starting on September 28. Need 12 or more participants, virtual, facilitated by Rie Gilsdorf. Member Night coming up, participating in citywide Litter Be Gone, encouraging neighborhood clean-up. Working on getting racial justice books in the Free Little Libraries. Hopes for a Sip and Stroll and Saturnalia.
11. Bugle - JoEllyn Jolstad. The deadline for articles/ads is the 20th, as always. Sue has an article. Got press releases from neighborhood businesses. New tenant going into the corner store, hope to get advertising.
12. Webmaster – Jeremy Stafford. Archive page for past email newsletters is linked, located at <https://www.bmna.org/newsletter-archive/> There is also a link on the home page. Media Library has been rearranged. Working on accessibility for those who are vision impaired, will enable text to speech. Building registration form for the Anti-Racist Workshops.
13. Committee Reports
 - Communications - Jay Peterson. No report.
 - Community Projects - Jessica Wiley. Will be soliciting ideas in October, November, December. Recommendations made at the February 2021 Board meeting.
 - Events – Brian Treece. See McKenzie’s report.
 - Finance/Membership – JD Dietrich. Met on August 24. Discussed defining bookkeeping and treasurer roles. As an additional responsibility, Lynda will handle income transactions, treasurer will be responsible for all expenses, payments, bank reconciliations, audits, and CPP. Thanks to Dennis Fazio, former treasurer, for his support. Working on getting our PayPal account set up with new account info.
 - Gardens – Dennie Juillerat. As a fundraiser, will be potting up all the container plants in downtown and selling them at Membership Night on September 24, and other events if the weather holds.
 - Gateway Project – Karen Frederickson/Dennis Juillerat/JD Dietrich. No plantings this fall due to CoVid.
 - Elections – Brian Treece. Working on how to vote for Board members at the annual meeting. Scheduling a meeting for the Elections committee, recruiting new members. Discussing orientation for new board members. Looking at whether we need to change the annual meeting date on November 11 as it falls on Veteran’s Day. President, Secretary, and 2, 4, and 6 are all up for re-election and we are accepting additional nominations. Have two new nominations for Area 4 and 3 Reps.
 - Racial Justice – Kate Knuth/McKenzie Erickson/Jessica Wiley. Jessica moved, Kate seconded that the Issue Review Process and the Issue Review Process Request be adopted by the board as the lens through which we will examine requests for support. Discussed. Do not anticipate that using this process will significantly change the way the board hears from neighbors, developers, other neighborhood associations, city and park employees, or elected officials. Currently, when someone wants to gain the Board's support through either a statement or letter, they contact the President or another Board member to pitch their proposal, or they come to a board meeting to be heard. This will continue. The change will be in the information the Board gathers to better understand the issue and in a focus on equity. The questions on the IRP request are meant to ensure that the policies and practices of the BMNA consider those who may be underrepresented in decisions that affect them. Motion passed. The committee will be meeting the third Thursday of the month.
 - Safety/Traffic – Chris Etz. The speed sign we purchased is no longer on Penn. It’s been confiscated by the city and relocated to another neighborhood. Exploring what authority the city has to take possession of the sign. Will discontinue the insurance policy we had on the sign. Discussed what role the BMNA might play in the creation of ambassadors/watch groups in the neighborhood. Our position has been that this type of activity should be supported by the MPD crime prevention office.
 - Schools – Lynda Shaheen. Working with Racial Justice Committee. Connecting families who have kindergartners at Bryn Mawr Elementary this year. The school had an in-person open house in the parking lot for Back-To-School Night.

Discussion Items, New Business, Updates and Announcements

Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Upcoming Events: Member Night, Utepils, September 24
Anti-Racist Bryn Mawr Workshop Series, Virtual, September 28

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