

Midtown Neighborhood Association (MNA)

April 7, 2016

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Angela - (Chair), Matthew Piner (Immediate Past-Chair), Danny Yost (Vice Chair), Bill Rothwell (Treasurer) and Betsy Rothwell (Secretary). Ed Donaghy, Nancy Finch, Esteban Heredia, Caitlyn Maple, Jessica Sorenson, Marshall Stenson, Natalee Vicencia, and Aaron Ward.

Absent: Excused - Tim Schmelzer, Alicia Doktor.

Meeting called to order by Angela at 6:05pm, and brief introductions were completed.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

- Minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting were **Approved as Corrected**.
- **Sacramento Police Department Updates:** Lieutenant Bassett was absent, no report provided.

- **Council Updates District 4:**

Jameson reported that the street lighting masterplan will be on the web soon and the city is looking at block grants to improve street lighting in middle and low income neighborhoods. The first area for street light improvement will focus on 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Street from J Street to I Street.

District 4 formed a subcommittee to strategize and come up with ideas for improving the Homeless Issues that exist in Midtown. The committee has been working for three months gathering ideas and strategies to help the problem. Moving forward they will research leveraging more money through grants, and look at ways to improve communication between the city and county government. To achieve this goal they will invite two city council and two county members to join the committee, to ensure that wrap around services are not being duplicated.

- **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Bill Rothwell reported that total income year-to-date stands at \$4,632.59 including the \$1,738.62 Previous Treasury Balance and donations of \$1,620. The balance of income is from membership dues. Paid expenses year-to-date stand at \$817.40 with the largest expenditures consisting of \$209.35 for awards, \$224.50 for promotion (consisting of ½ of the cost for the photo booth at the farmers' market) and \$305.01 for snacks & refreshments. Balance on Hand as of April 7, 2016 is \$3,815.19.

- **Chair's Report:**

- Angela announced MNA has 600 "likes" on Facebook
- The farmer's market was a big success, the photo booth was a fan favorite

- The recent school board meeting set dates for public input meetings re: adaptive reuse options for the vacant Marshall and Jefferson School sites, the meetings are scheduled for 4/5 for Marshall and Jefferson on 4/28
- MNA and MBA are working together to address alley/graffiti problems facing Midtown neighborhoods

A motion was made by Angela for MNA to write a statement to the Sacramento City Unified School District to encourage them to fulfill their obligation to follow minimum standards of maintenance on the Jefferson School site. **Motion Approved.**

## DISCUSSIONS

- **Elections:** The chair reported that the election of board officers was the next order of business and that nominations were open to any of the newly elected board members.

Bill made a motion to elect the entire interim board as officers for the current year. **Motion approved.** The newly elected MNA board of Directors is: Angela Tillotson-Chair, Danny Yost-Vice Chair, Bill Rothwell-Treasurer, Betsy Rothwell-Secretary, and Matt Piner- Immediate Past Chair.

Matt gave a brief oral history of the founding of the MNA.

- **Tree Ordinances:** Nancy Finch will be the Association's lead on any tree issues. Nancy pointed out that trees are such an integral part of city living and her goal is to make the tree ordinance easier to read and less technical than in the past. The ordinance was updated, but the urban plan does not follow the 1994 plan. As an example she shared that when a tree is targeted for removal the city must post a notice within 20 feet, but that notice is never posted on the internet or any other mode of communication other than within 20 feet of the tree. Not a very useful requirement for notifying the public.

Nancy is working to get a strike/underscore file of the proposed ordinance text and will keep us informed how the changes affect Sacramento's Trees. The draft ordinance goes to city council on May 10 just before our next board meeting.

- **MNA Priorities and Team leads:** Per the meeting agenda, MNA's priorities will be Bylaws, Roberts Rules, strategic plan, clean and safe neighborhood, parking/traffic, web/social media, fundraising, community events, and trees.
  - **Caitlyn Maple** has volunteered to take the lead of MNA's communication team. She will set up the SLACK messaging/collaboration tool for the group and it will be available on the web and as a mobile app.
  - **Nancy Finch** will lead MNA's tree committee.
- **Future Meeting schedule:** Angela suggested that since both the Management and Planning Academies are scheduled every Wednesday night during the months of February-May, the board might consider continuing to hold our meetings on Thursday nights during those months in case any board members want to participate in the academies. Then from June-January

MNA could hold the meetings on Wednesday evenings. Natalie suggested and the board agreed to rearrange our agenda items to allow the public to attend the first portion of the meeting from 6-7 to hear police, council business and any guest speakers and then have the choice to leave during the second portion of the meeting while board business is conducted from 7-8 or stay if they desire.

#### **FUTURE ITEMS & UPDATES**

- Angela shared the following dates to remember:
  - Jefferson School Meeting-4/28/16 @ 5:30 Washington School
  - MBA Cats in Space Event-5/4/16 Freemont Park
  - Mayoral Forum-5/7/16 County Board Room
  - Annual National night out-8/2/16 Capitol Ave/L Street
- The Bylaws state that we need to have a budget in place sometime in June
- Board contact list needs to be developed
- The original food/snack budget was over extended, therefore, we needed to look at alternative solutions. It was suggested that each meeting have three rotating hosts (board members) donate snacks. May volunteers are: Natalie, Esteban, and Jessica.

**Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.**