EINA Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 PM Grace-Trinity Community Church and via Zoom 1430 W 28th Street MINUTES

Board members present: Julia Edelman, Paula Chesley, Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Ellen Van

Iwaarden (Vice President), Dan Sutton, Cuyler Dinegan (Coordinator), Mike Erlandson (President), Quinton Courts (Secretary), Jonathan

Beck

Board members absent: Debra Altschuler

Guests present: Marion Greene, Hennepin County Commissioner

Danielle Werder, Housing Stability with Hennepin County Leah, Corey Vest, Dwayne, Judy, Eva, Harvey Ettinger, Mark

I. Call to Order at 6:05 PM

II. Commissioner Marion Greene and Danielle Werder

- a. Link to presentation: https://www.eastisles.org/s/Hennepin-Co-PPT.pdf
- b. Federal funding during the pandemic toward homeless support was really good and the county wanted to continue these efforts post-covid relief funding.
- c. Work to focus on housing the individual what they need and want. Highlighted Dennis as a success story.
- d. 96% retention rate for people who have been moved into housing (have not returned to homelessness)
- e. They focus on moving medically vulnerable and seniors into emergency housing first.
- f. Streets to housing teams (purple shirts) are the boots on the ground to make contact with those who are homeless and to encourage them to access services.
 - Question asked re: homeless who deny services (for whatever reason) and the response is that they haven't encountered people who don't want some sort of service (at all) whether it be with addiction, housing, therapy, etc.
 - ii. Question re: immigrants accessing housing and the response was they serve everyone regardless but the county has asked for federal support.
 - iii. Question re: is there enough housing for everyone who is homeless? They're focusing on length of time homeless, medical fragility, etc. But demand outweighs supply.
 - iv. Question re: partnering with mental health services and they try to tap into their insurance, if available, as well as partnering with 1800 Chicago, for example.
- g. Paula shared direct feedback from neighbors about negative experiences that neighbors have had with homeless neighbors including drug use, public urination/defecation, harassment, loitering/trespassing, break-ins, litter, threats, and violence.
 - i. Commissioner said it is true that the systems in place addressing this are overwhelmed. The county is working with the city and Metro Transit to

reach out to homeless individuals but considering the sheer numbers of people suffering from addiction, etc. it appears that we are overwhelmed and indeed we are. She agrees that there has been investment in addressing the homeless crisis in other parts of Minneapolis, but the Hennepin Ave. corridor definitely needs attention as well.

- h. Question re: what can individuals do if they encounter homeless neighbors? Contact the Hennepin shelter hotline at (612) 204-8200 or Streets to Housing team at streets.to.housing@hennepin.us
- i. Question re: what else do you need to address this problem and/or what barriers are stopping you from being successful? Commissioner says if people are on city property and refuse to move, the city has to be the one to address this. There are too many "squiggly" lines of separation. We need millions more in funds and more housing available to address this problem.
- III. Lisa Goodman, City Council Member
 - a. Gap in service for city council begins Friday calls will be rerouted to 311.
 - b. City budget passed.
 - Council voted down funding for the police contract, including incentive pay and retention. Lisa voted for it. This would have come from the \$19M in state funds allocated for public safety.
 - ii. Over 100 police officers will be up for retirement within one year.
 - iii. County's approach for housing the homeless population yas yielded results. The problem is with some current city council members who advocate for keeping homeless encampments in place vs. closing them. The mayor is trying to work with Hennepin County to allow them to accomplish their goals but some council members are working against his efforts.
- IV. Colleen O'Dell and Chad Davison, Minneapolis Parks & Rec Board and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
 - a. Link to presentation: https://www.eastisles.org/s/The-Mall-E-Isles-EINA-presentation-12-12-23.pdf
 - b. Met Council is enlarging the regional sanitary sewer pipe (made of plastic) and structures near Lake of the Isles on the Mall.
 - c. While this is happening, MPRB wanted to get in to complete updates as well. Project from MPRB was delayed because of staffing and the pandemic and negotiations with the Met Council.
 - d. Woonerf is a common space shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and low speed motor vehicles.
 - e. Question re: why are we focusing on building a woonerf when there isn't traffic there?
 - f. Multiple neighbors are concerned about removing 25 parking spaces along eastbound Mall road and also removing the westbound Mall road from James, cutting off access to W Lake of the Isles Pkwy.
 - g. There will be another community feedback session via a survey coming soon.
 - h. This plan was initially approved before the current MPRB's representation.
- V. Consent Agenda
 - a. 2024 Budget with Brian
 - i. Budget for 2024 is \$45,000
 - City will reduce funding in future years.
 - Coordinator fees will go up with inflation and bookkeeper fees will decrease because much was accomplished during 2023.
 - Also used the same amounts for neighborhood events, etc.

- ii. Motion to approve budget as presented and a second was offered. Julia asked for \$300-500 to support community safety efforts for 2024. We will add the amendment for \$500. Motion to approve the 2024 budget with the \$500 community safety amendment. Approved unanimously.
- b. Financials update with Brian
 - i. We received city funding allotment for 2024 from Minneapolis for \$20,000 (same as 2023).
- c. Minutes update we forgot to add that we are adding Lisa Goodman's name to the East Isles honor plaque in Isles Bun & Coffee
- d. Motion to approve the consent agenda for November 2023 minutes and the financials. Approved unanimously.

VI. President's update with Mike

- a. We reached out to Katie Cashman to congratulate her on her election as our new city council member.
- b. EINA has money that could possibly go toward a grant contribution to affordable housing being developed on the old Kmart site. Board members believe we should wait to discuss this as part of NRP fund conversation and also wait to see if they meet their goal.

VII. Coordinator Update

- a. Our Dec. Hill & Lake Press features a brief 2023 impact statement, followed by a donation ask and upcoming events. Daily Facebook/Instagram ad this quarter, which had a reach of 10,000+ and drew 600+ people to our website plan to continue an ongoing ad in 2024 to increase our visibility. The Dec. newsletter went out last week, resent to unopened contacts yesterday, continuing a good trend of engagement.
- b. A quick end-of-year update: our website's engagement has more than doubled in 2023, with ~14,000 visitors and ~26,000 page views to date. Top sections continue to include the Homepage, Super Sale, Board & Staff, and Events Calendar, with our Get Involved and Donate pages rising into the mix due to increased fundraising and communications efforts. And through ongoing posts and paid advertising, our annual audience reach on social media leapt to 19,000+ across Facebook/Instagram (from <1,000 in 2022).</p>
- c. Regarding development, we made about \$160 between Give to the Max and Giving Tuesday.
- d. Cuyler applied for the City's Business District Support grant last month to hopefully cover costs of Hill & Lake Press and potentially other advertising in 2024. And still planning to apply to the State of MN's Senior Community Engagement Program, which provides paid part-time staff we could use to increase our presence in area events and programming, it sounds like EINA would be a good fit as a host site.

VIII. Committee Updates:

- a. Community safety with Julia and Paula
 - i. 5th precinct MPD event (with food donation) on Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 4PM.
 - ii. Friday, Jan. 26 from 6-8PM we have a neighborhood safety meeting in conjunction with Kenwood, Lowry Hill, CIDNA, EINA and invites out to MPD, Katie Cashman, Aileen Johnson
 - iii. North Loop Winter Market on Dec. 16th is hosting a neighborhood safety info table to answer questions about safety walking clubs

- b. Green Team with Ellen
 - i. Free traction grit giveaway from Frattalone's on Dec. 16th, thanks to Henry's efforts!
 - ii. 28 cleanup events in East Isles for 2023.
 - 4,105 gallons of trash. 950 gallons right out of the lake. 27 syringes.
 - iii. Storm drain adoption went from 16% to 34%.
- c. Farmers Market with Dan and Jonathan
 - i. They applied for a \$25,000 grant.
 - ii. Lowry Hill has joined conversations and thrown their support to popup summer farmers markets there should be about 5.
 - iii. Looking for a pro-bono logo or design for the Uptown Farmers Market.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Links

Hennepin County presentation:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f83b1f80a4b4f03efa1cf40/t/6578e5dbeb3505138e89c864/1702421988667/Hennepin+Co+PPT.pdf

Help for Homelessness:

https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/help-for-homelessness

Help for Unsheltered Homelessness:

https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/unsheltered-homelessness

Hennepin Waypoint:

https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/waypoint

Homeless to Housing Program:

https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/homeless-to-housing

MPRB Mall Redo:

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MPRB Mall Park Survey:

https://zanassoc.mysocialpinpoint.com/the-mall-woonerf-2024