

Friends of Midtown Board Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

Present: Molly Haragan, President; Nate Lotze, Vice President; Eileen Carson, Treasurer; Hannah Witwer, Secretary; Terri Smith; Annie Hughes; Ben Hinnenkamp; Jodi Sanger; Katie Talada; Lina Echavarria; Linda Comeau; Mikell Simpson; Priscilla Morales; Puja Gellerman; 908-619-7338 called in.

Absent: Rhiannon Jacobs , Autumn Anderson

1. **Board Member Nomination:** Lindsey Sansoni, Hannah Witwer presented the nominating committee's recommendation. Eileen Carson moved, Nate Lotze seconded. Motion carried for Lindsey Sansoni to become the Beautification Committee Co-Chair.
2. **Mission Moment: Nominating Committee**
Hannah Witwer shared the new direction of the nominating committee, Cate Rowe is stepping down and Hannah is taking over as chair of the committee. Called more board members to join the committee to help lessen the time burden of interviews. Would also like to establish a 3 member panel with pre-planned and assigned questions.
3. **Treasurer's Report from June was presented by Eileen Carson.**
The Treasurer's report was recreated in Google Docs. Eileen Carson asked if the board would like education on the Treasurer's report, Puja Gellerman recommended spending 2 - 3 minutes every meeting to explain a component of the budget to help people understand what they're looking at. Molly Haragan suggested a lunch and learn/drinks and learn type event with Eileen Carson and the board. It was moved by Linda Comeau and seconded by Ben Hinnenkamp to accept the June Treasury Report. Motion carried.
4. **Membership Report was shared via the Google Doc.**
 - a. 180 Total Members (net-2)
 - i. 75 individual members (+2)
 - ii. 74 household members (net -2)
 - iii. 22 business members (net -2)
 - iv. 9 sustaining members
5. **Board Business**
 - a. June meeting minutes were approved for public release, Nate Lotze motioned and Puja Gellerman seconded. Molly will work with Annie Hughes to get the minutes up on the Wix site.
 - b. Discussion on virtual or in-person board meetings.
 - i. Priscilla Morales mentioned getting out of work at 6pm and in-person meetings would mean they would arrive late.
 - ii. Terri Smith requested that if we do meet in person to have a virtual component, a hybrid approach, Eileen Carson agreed with this comment
 - c. Public monthly meetings have not been well attended, nobody joined. Molly Haragan asked the board about their thoughts on continuing public meetings.

- i. Ben Hinnenkamp said that there's no reason not to, as a non-profit we should be transparent. What is involved in getting the stream up and running?
- ii. Nate Lotze agreed with Ben, it doesn't cost us much to do even if nobody attends. It's about the optics of being a transparent organization.
- iii. Eileen Carson agreed with Nate and Ben on transparency
- iv. Jodi Sanger brought up practicality, people might want meeting minutes versus to join the live session. Suggested having a searchable word document with the key elements of the meeting. If we ever go back to in-person meetings it would be harder to maintain public meetings.
- v. Executive committee and Nominating Committee will discuss
- vi. Vote - one open to the public meeting per quarter. Eileen Carson moved, Lina Echavarria seconded. Motion carried.

6. Board Discussion Items

- a. 2021-2022 HHA sponsorship renewal
 - i. Linda Comeau moved to renew sponsorship, Nate Lotze seconded. Motion carried
- b. 2021-2022 The Burg sponsorship renewal
 - i. Ben Hinnenkamp moved to renew sponsorship, Priscilla Morales seconded. Motion carried.

7. Board Updates

- a. Molly Haragan presented the events google spreadsheet listing event information and resource needs. Requested that each committee input events through the rest of the year to make sure we have the resources, volunteers, and board members to attend everything we have planned.
- b. Molly Haragan would like to set up meetings with the executive committee and each committee to see how everyone is feeling, if they need anything, how the exec committee can be prepared to support you.
- c. If the board has not received a t-shirt or tank top yet, contact Molly Haragan or Hannah Witwer to pick up.
- d. A few board members don't have headshots on the website, Molly Haragan will follow up with them about getting a headshot in a FOM t-shirt.
- e. Molly Haragan requested that board members upload all documents to Google Drive.

8. Friends of Midtown Board Committee Updates

- a. **At-Large Members:** Puja Gellerman thanked board members for participation in the Lending Library and donation drive project with The Neighborhood Center. Heartshine is planning a "Rubble Rouse" to get the interior and exterior space ready, conversations will happen with Events and Beautification to participate in this.
- b. **Beautification Committee:** Lina Echevarria presented the updates for Beautification. The committee mulched and weeded Pocket Park on 7/17, there are a lot of wood chips leftover that the city donated, so Lina asked for ideas on nearby parks or gardens that need mulching. The next step for Pocket Park is to

get the rain barrel set up, which is a collaboration with Sprocket Mural Works. Expertise on rain barrels would be appreciated. The committee is getting ready to apply for trees for the fall planting. Be on the lookout for empty tree pits and the committee will work out to homeowners. Lastly, the community garden on third street is in need of weeding (the person directing has had some health issues). The Beautification Committee would like to gather volunteers to help out at the garden. Lina also plugged the Trash Tuesday event, the next event is August 3rd. Eileen Carson mentioned that there is money in the Tree Revitalize account for tree planting, there is close to \$1,600 in that account due to Rachel Reese applying for grants and receiving donations

- c. **Business Committee:** Katie Talada presented. Annual business report is being finalized and will be sent to the Exec Committee for additional eyes and then will be sent to business members. The committee is continuing to do outreach, and asked the board members to let them know of any businesses that would be interested in a business membership. There is a potential collaboration with Chad Frey and Midtown Makers, Chad shared about STEM related events happening with the Foundry and how FOM can participate in the future. September is Small Business Month and the Committee is talking about doing another OneMidtown campaign.
- d. **Communications Committee:** Linda Comeau thanked the board for sharing posts and stories on Facebook and Instagram. Priscilla will be on vacation July 28 to August 8, so all requests should go to Linda. The committee reminded the board to get newsletter items to them by 7/23 for the 7/28 newsletter. Molly suggested an idea for getting live content on Instagram, give volunteers access to share straight from events versus the committee having to reshare if they are not present.
- e. **Community Building Committee:** Mikell Simpson presented. Planning sessions are beginning on Home Ownership, Financial Literacy, and DEI workshops. Good Brothas as a venue is being considered. Molly Haragan requested that Puja Gellerman, board member at large, be available to help with this effort.
- f. **Dog Park Committee:** Jodi Sanger presented. The committee is drafting a timeline for the closure of the dog park, which they hope to announce on August 1st alongside a feedback survey for park attendees. They are also planning a last hurrah at the park for the end of September. Woofstock is 9/26, the committee is deciding between doing both events, or doing a last hurrah instead of Woofstock. Additional fundraising is needed for the park to bring it to a close. The committee will need volunteers to help with the tear down of the park.
- g. **Events Committee:** Hannah Witwer presented the upcoming events through the end of August, which can be found below. The biggest asks from this committee are for volunteer help, which board members can sign up to help via the volunteer spreadsheet.
- h. **Safety Committee:** Ben Hinnenkamp presented. The next safety walk is on Thursday and will end at the midtown movie to help set up and hang out before the movie. The last walk this month will be a walk and safety meeting. The

committee would like to invite people from the public to discuss safety concerns while walking. Next month's dates are 8/3, 8/11, 8/20, 8/26, and 8/31. A big request from the internal survey sent out were a baby parade, dog walks, and family friday, which will start with next month's 3rd in the Burg. A public survey was sent out today and has already received 13 responses. Molly Haragan mentioned Ralph Rodriguez's email about adopting a park (which would be a collab between Beautification and Safety), Molly will follow up with the Committees on that.

9. Adjournment at 7:22 PM. Katie Talada moved to adjourn the meeting. Lindsey Sansoni seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Witwer, Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Monday, August 16th at 6:00pm. Meeting is virtual through Zoom.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, 7/16: Midtown Walks – Third in the Burg
- Thursday, 7/22: [Summer Outdoor Movie](#) - The Birdcage @ Midtown Cinema
- Thursday, 7/22: Midtown Walks – Thirsty Thursday
- Tuesday, 7/27: Midtown Walks & Safety Meeting
- Saturday, 7/31: [Summer Outdoor Movie](#) - The Muppet Movie @ Midtown Cinema
- Tuesday, 8/3: 2021 HPD National Night Out @ Camp Curtain Academy Football Field
- Saturday, 8/7: [FOM & MAC Yard Sale](#)
- Saturday, 8/21: FOM Rubble Rousing @ Heartshine
- Saturday, 8/28: [Back to School Block Party & Summer Outdoor Movie](#) - The Lego Movie @ Midtown Cinema