



Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, January 8th, Polk County Center, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Lori Calhoun, Jason Stuyvesant, Mark Schneider, Thomas Biedenfeld, Nichole Aksamit Purcell, Jessica Crawford, Alec David, Eldon 'Mac' McAfee, Carl McPherson, Matt Moore, Eddie Robinson, Jr, Jennifer Sayers, John Smith
Not in Attendance: Richie Allen, Kristina Johnson

6:30 Board Business

Lori called the meeting to order at 6:36.

Lori updated the agenda to include the Drake report by John. Jennifer motioned for the approval of the agenda for the meeting, Mark seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer motioned for the approval of the December meeting. Nichole seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Financials – Mark

Checking - \$989.94

Saving - \$16,051.46

Membership Committee update – Matt

Matt had no update to share, but did share his plans to step down as the committee chair in 2020.

Replacement chair will be discussed further at the Board Retreat on Saturday. One new member was added on the website and a couple joined via the paper forms.

Marketing update—Nichole

Nichole has updated the website with new board members and their contact information, as well as updating the committee listing and dates for the meetings. She also shared these dates on Facebook and Nextdoor.

The “Making Spirits Bright” Committee is discussing plans for bringing them down and looking for space to store approximately two Rubbermaid totes for future years’ use. The event and the lights were very successful and the Association will revisit the idea for the Holiday Season 2020.

Feb. 6 @ 4, 7 @ 4, 8 @ 3 and 9 @ 11 – Home & Garden Show @ HyVee Hall – Eddie presenting small plot gardening, vegetable gardening, container gardening, and small container gardens for apartments

7:00 Neighborhood Updates

Eddie Robinson shared that he will be presenting a class at the Home & Garden Show at HyVee Hall on February 6, 7, 8, and 9. The class will cover small plot gardening, vegetable gardening, container gardening, and small container gardening for apartments. The class will be at 4 pm on February 6 and 7, 3 pm on February 8, and 11 am on February 9.

Lori began the public session of the meeting by welcoming new board members, Jessica and Alec, and thanking past president, Jennifer, for her service the past years.

Revitalization Committee Update – Lori/Jen

Lori and Jennifer shared copies of the Special Investment District Revitalization plan from July 2019.

Digital copies of the plan can be accessed here ([ADD LINK](#)). The city has tabbed four areas as pilots for revitalization, with Drake Neighborhood being one. Within the Drake Neighborhood, a special district was created for specific attention for revitalization. This area's boundaries are 235 and University Avenue, MLK Avenue and 35th Street. The project is a combination of private and public resources to build out the city's middle level neighborhoods.

InvestDSM is a new non-profit to help be the driving force for carrying out the revitalization plan, in addition to the neighborhood associations. The organization will fund projects relating to the neighborhood and provide incentives for property owners in the neighborhood. The plan was created and worked with city staff and consultants and 10 members of the neighborhood. The committee met monthly with homework assignments, discussed housing stock, positives, negatives, businesses, what they imagine for the neighborhood in order to create a plan for the next 10 years. The results for the plan can be found on page 32 and 33 of the report.

Board members were encouraged to read the report in preparation for Saturday's board retreat.

To date, here's the current investments and plans for investments that the board is aware of: \$15,000 to invest into the neighborhood, the committee submitted several ideas to beautify and support the neighborhood. The idea that stuck was the Cottage Grove Triangle to sustainable garden to make it a point of pride and continue it's life as a memorial garden. In addition to revitalizing the triangle, additions of signage and sculpture to make it a more welcoming entry to the neighborhood. A public hearing will take place over the next couple of weeks to present the idea.

Jen worked with another group of committee members to focus on the businesses throughout the neighborhood and establish a neighborhood business resource team. This committee is made up of 10-12 people who have a vested interest in the business community. The ultimate hope is that InvestDSM will create incentives within the Special Investment District and Opportunity Zone district to create economic development. We already have examples of projects taking advantage of incentives in the Nelson Hotel and Merge Development.

The committee members have been notified of a meeting on February 18th to identify incentives, then this group will begin thinking about how to promote the incentives throughout the neighborhood to get the entire district engaged.

Annual Board Retreat, January 11th from 9:00am – 1:00 pm @ the Drake Student Alumni Center

Reminder of the board retreat. Board members encouraged to review the agenda and revitalization plan.

Any additions or changes for the agenda? None.

Free Flicks Registration

Jennifer has registered the DNA to host at Witmer Park to show off all the work that has been done there over the past few months. We will likely know a date in the next month or two and Jennifer is looking for a new host of the event after a couple years of service.

Drake Report

John shared the Drake University update, as Ryan is representing the University at another forum. January term has started now, with a few students returning to campus and others taking part in the J-Term by going overseas or participating in other opportunities throughout the country. The University will be hosting CNN Democratic Presidential Candidate debate on Tuesday, January 14th at Sheslow Auditorum. Neighbors should be seeing trucks and other happenings as they prepare for the event.

Later this month, the Knapp Center will be hosting MLK Prayer Breakfast on Martin Luther King Day. Tonight is the final public forum for the Des Moines Public School and Drake University Stadium Project. Drake sees it as benefit and value to DMPS, University, and Community. February 4th is the day when the school board votes on the project and if approved is scheduled to open on Summer of 2021.

As basketball season gets going, the neighborhood is reminded of the Community Events Pass which gets access to Men and Women's basketball at the Knapp Center in addition to other events at the University.

Merge Development's timeline is currently to break ground in around 8 months.

NBSD: Mark McKinney

700 calls for service in December, should be less but with the warm weather and mild winter people are more active.

On December 26th, 2019, a call to 2843 Cottage Grove was domestic turned into shots fired. The individual is in custody, but Mark encouraged neighbors to call no matter what. Even if you think it's fireworks, let the police figure out and it's not inconvenient to them to look into it.

23 burglaries, but video cameras has led to a decrease in porch-pirates – as well as people who work from home looking out for their neighbors. WatchDSM is still a program to register your camera to share video with investigators if you choose.

Mark closed by encouraging the neighbors to always call regarding suspicious activity, "9/10 if it looks wrong, it probably is".

Eric Barker

Mac asked what needed to be done to make sure that we were receiving reports from Eric. He emphasized that the reports are valuable information to the neighborhood and we need

the reports. Lori will follow-up with Eric to give him some additional options on reporting to the board. Mac will also follow-up with to ensure the board and neighborhood is receiving this valuable information.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34.