At UNO Community Engagement Center – main floor Video Conference Room

Present: Dave Schinzel, Adam Langdon, Peter Manhart, Eli McNichols, Eric Kaplan, Wiff Farrell, Rodney Olden, Steven Bloodworth, Jim Mulhall, Emily Moody, Sara Nelson, Fran Teply;

Absent: Tom Craig, Molly Romero, Gary Rosenberg, Ellen Shurson, Mary Green, Raquel Ahlvers, Sara Paesel,

Also attending: Connie Spellman for the Sunken Gardens Project; 2 neighbors on the Buchannan’s BP Station; BJ Reed on the BP Station

President Peter Manhart Called to order – 7:05 pm

Treasurer’s Report: distribution of financial statements was made via email prior to the meeting; Rodney Olden discussed 3 items that occurred over the summer:

* $15,275 payment for the flower baskets
* $4,173 payment for reimbursement to Dan Rock for flower baskets
* $3,40 payment for the Dodge Street overpass informative sign

A motion and second were made to move funds from the friends of the bridge account to the general funds account and to close the friends of the bridge financial account; This motion passed unanimously;

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from prior meeting – no discussion. Minutes were approved and passed with one nay;

BJ Reed discussed the gas station and property encroachment at 50th and Dodge St. 2 neighbors from the area joined him in the discussion. BJ recapped the history of the Lot – and previous zoning challenges by Steve Buchannan to the City. The primary issue is that the lot is not zoned commercial. It cannot be developed or used for commercial purposes. A driveway with access to the commercial property was recently constructed on the lot without permission.

Neighbor 1 concerns:

Steve Buchannan is trying to build a Mega Saver on the lot. The traffic would be too much for the area. 50th and Dodge cannot accommodate more traffic without a left turn light and/or lane. Farnam Street is one way twice daily making traffic flows to the south difficult;

Neighbor 2 concerns:

Neighbors need a say in what happens here. This corner is valuable to the neighborhood but we must understand what is being built;

BJ has asked Omaha Councilman Chris Jerram to keep an eye on it. Encroachment by business and commercial property is the concern; Buchanans has been a good neighbor; BJ is Not sure what the status is;

Adam Langdon agreed to contact Jerram and the Mayor via a letter from DMPA regarding the property and driveway; Also, a letter / note to the zoning questions on the planning board site would be done by Adam;

BJ also reported that he still manages the barricades for the DMPA; He stated that more barricades would be a good investment by our Board; They are heavily used;

Representatives from the Sunken Gardens Project were on hand to provide the board with an update on the project (Peter, Connie, Adam). A game plan was determined for the upcoming neighborhood meeting with Matt Dwyer and Adam G. presenting; Connie Spellman agreed to update the Project Update with Q&A doc for the board.

DMPA’s role was reiterated as maintenance for the gardens;

Rodney Olden expressed a need to provide visualization / a presentation of the gardens to the neighbors;

The project has been scaled back considerably – and the changes were discussed; 16 trees will likely be removed with 3 to 1 new trees being planted;

Fran Teply suggested the group emphasize:

1. Recreation of the Park / Garden
2. Improved safety by cleaning it up
3. Field will be better maintained for football and soccer (perhaps down the line)

The upcoming candidates forum format was discussed with the outcome being the format will stay the same; The forum is in October.

Quarterly meetings were suggested and discussed; The group was receptive to the idea; There seems to be support for moving to 4 meetings a year; October may be a key date to keep for the candidates forum’s.

The neighborhood Facebook page was discussed as Peter is looking for a better way to manage posts; Hate messages have recently caused some challenges;

Sara Nelson suggested not moderating; She then suggested perhaps a full time board member might be assigned the task of being the facebook admin;

A discussion occurred around approving posts – and the board agreed informally to add Eric Kaplan as an administrator, having him help in the approval of posts to the Facebook page;

A motion was made and approved to remit a check for $370 to Mary Zicafoose for restoration of the O! on Dodge St. The work was completed last Spring and Mary has indicated there will be no further work.

Adam Langdon agreed to send her the check and also to work on an accounting of the DCIF funds for reporting to the Douglas County Board;

Fran Teply requested a distribution of funds for the AV Sorenson Library; The DMPA account really is a flow through for donations – so, these are not really DMPA funds; the request for a check was informally approved at $5,699.25; DMPA has a balance of $0 for the library after this distribution;

Steven Bloodworth discussed the light poles being refinished; He submitted a summary of his research which identified 57 poles that need to be refinished; He has found a contractor willing to do the work for $170 per pole or a total cost of $9,690;

He is still looking for funding – primarily through grants; He is interested in applying for the upcoming Mayor’s grant;

Peter Manhart suggested that blocks may be willing to help out via their block captains and donations for flower baskets this year; More work will be done to help shore up a plan for funding the restoration;

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Minutes Captured and distributed by Adam Langdon, Board Member