

MLPA Board Meeting Minutes August 8, 2016

Sally Bayless called the meeting to order and welcomed all who attended.

Board members present: Sally Bayless, Kirk Rich, Chase Horner, Marti Breen, Kevin McGlynn, Alex Munoz, Bob Silvia, Sonny Jones, Phyllis Wingo, Charlie Nalbone and Bill Long.

Board Members not present: John Ayers and Amanda Strawser

June and July meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck reported that revenues are up 47% over last year largely due to the increase in memberships.

Zoning

V-16-192 2015 Rockledge Rd NE-Applicant seeks two variances. 1) reduce the required ten-foot wide sidewalk to five feet, and 2) to allow for a landscaped supplemental zone instead of the required hardscaped supplemental zone conditioned that zone be landscaped.

Motion was made and seconded to allow for the landscaped supplemental zone instead of the hardscaped supplemental zone conditioned that it be landscaped based on site plan dated 7/20/16. Motion passed 12-0.

Motion was made and seconded to deny the reduction of the sidewalk from 10 ft. to 5 ft. based on site plan dated 7/20/16. Motion did not pass 3-9.

Motion was made and seconded to allow the reduction of the sidewalk from 10 ft. to 5 ft. based on site plan dated 7/20/16. Motion passed 9-3.

V-16-201 1414 N Morningside Dr, NE-Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the western side yard setback from 7 ft. to 2.5 ft. for a second story addition. Motion was made and seconded to approve the variance and passed 12-0 based on site plan amended 8/8/16 and conditioned on applicant bringing amended site plan and approval letters from his neighbors to the NPU meeting next week.

Traffic

The city will have the first of three public meetings regarding the Monroe Road Diet (MRD) on August 23rd from 6-8 pm at Grady High School. Everyone is encouraged to attend and efforts will be made by the Board to get the word out to the neighborhood, including a dedicated email to MLPA members.

It is possible that the City will do another traffic count. That would be helpful as there is some concern that traffic volume has increased since the last count was done.

In anticipation of the approval of the MRD project, the MLPA Board has already come up with some ideas of how to limit cut through traffic on Morningside streets as cut through traffic is a likely consequence of slowing traffic on Monroe Road. It was noted that the app, WAZE, has fundamentally changed traffic patterns in our neighborhood and that this app will make it more difficult to manage cut

through traffic. Before suggesting changes to the City, the Board agreed that we will need to know whether the neighbors on the affected streets support the suggested changes. Several methods were suggested for seeking input including survey monkey, signed petitions by street, and a presentation at Morningside Elementary School. Charlie Nalbome offered to send Board members a link to the article about traffic calming efforts in Ansley Park over the last 10 years and noted that this effort required significant funding and volunteer time.

The Board also plans to host a second traffic forum intended to surface neighbors' concerns and questions about the project so that the Board better represent the neighborhood when speaking with the city.

Membership

Bill Long confirmed that membership numbers are up significantly over last year. We are still losing a significant number of members when it comes time to renew. Bill noted that, given that many people may simply forget to renew, it might be helpful to have an automatic renewal option. Bill will investigate further and report back to the Board on ways that we might make this service available.

Bill also raised the issue that we need new signs for the Morningside Security Patrol members. He suggested that, perhaps, every MLPA member should have a yard sign and we should add a sticker or other easy to see designation to that sign to indicate membership in the security patrol. Bill will bring more ideas back to the Board for review.

Smith Park

Sally Bayless reported that, due to the City's unexpected additions to the project, the ribbon cutting ceremony originally scheduled for 8/20/16 will be postponed. We still expect to complete the fountain by the date specified in the Park Pride grant (9/8/16), but will wait to set a date for the ribbon cutting ceremony until the fountain is completed.

Meeting was adjourned.