



MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2022, 7:00 PM (Via Zoom) (30 participants)

Welcome – Vice President Drew Alexander (filling in for President Amy Allgeyer)

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.
- Drew is covering for President Amy Allgeyer, who is out of the country

Roll Call – Julie Varin, Secretary

- **Present:** Vice President Drew Alexander, Secretary Julie Varin, Treasurer Nola Walker, Director Autumn Street, Director Julie Madsen, Director Sitka Koloski, Director Carlos Coto, Director Sarah Foregger, Director Daniel Foregger.
- **Absent:** President Amy Allgeyer

Approve November Minutes & Secretary's Report – Julie Varin, Secretary

- Motion to Approve January Meeting Minutes by Julie Varin, Second by Autumn Street. Motion carried.
- Secretary/Director Julie Varin summarized recent board actions as set forth in [Board Actions Without a Meeting](#).

Financial Report – Chelle Nystrom

- Chelle was asked to provide additional detail on the financials for the past three years.
- Chelle asked whether anyone had any questions.
- Q&A –
 - \$8,000 discrepancy between the Balance Sheet and the P&L Statement.
 - Legal Invoices – difference between amount recorded and the month-by-month P&L Statement. Is there an explanation for that? Answer: Chelle has all the invoices and the transactions in her report.
 - Director Julie Madsen thanked Chelle for being the constant for NENA for the past 20 years.

Treasurer's Report – Nola Walker, Treasurer

- Nola presented the Treasurer's Report outlining the expenditures, as well as the amounts remaining in the NENA accounts.
- Chelle assisted with the Balance Sheet and P&L Statement, which are posted on the website.
- We had mostly administrative charges over the past month, such as Zoom and accounting fee, and paid additional \$150 for the audit performed by Chelle.
- Q&A –
 - Have you done a projection of cash-flow demand over the past month given the low cash reserves? Answer: Yes, we created a Budget that we shared last month. Drew

noted that the healthy next step is to take a hard look to see where any pitfalls might occur.

- What is happening with the Newsletter ads? Answer: the Newsletter is in the final stages of editing with the editor, and we plan to have three issues this year. Things are in the works, but they are a little slower than previous years. Daniel Foregger volunteered to step up and sell ads.
- HSPF – by June of last year, we had \$48,000 for booth fees, and we have reason to expect that the same will occur this year. We also have \$55,000 in the fund that can cover the costs.
- Chelle noted that the application fees are non-refundable, and these fees can be used to cover costs if we do not have a HPSF.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Streets Committee – Cynthia Gibson

- At last Streets Captain meeting, we discussed about how ACHD could see us as a neighborhood instead of a collection of streets. Director Julie Madsen proposed a Transportation Summit. Saturday, May 14, 2022 is the proposed date. It will involve the City and ACHD and will be educational and family friendly. They will need volunteers.
- Drew suggested that we have a space on the website. Thank you for keeping us updated.

Historic Preservation Committee – Kate Henwood, Co-Chair

- The agenda was heavy this month for the HPC meeting. Some meetings were deferred to this month, and we hope there is nothing too controversial.
- We have a new Historic Planner at the City, which has been vacant. Nathan Hallam is the individual taking this position. Kate has heard positive reviews and will get to meet him soon.
- Does Nathan Hallam have a background in historic preservation? Answer: Kate is not sure if he has historic preservation credentials.
- Director Carlos Coto asked whether this was a permanent position? Answer: Yes. And they did not do the rotation idea.
- We are going to get a new City Planner from Atlanta. Would the committee please reach out to him? Answer: Drew clarified that he was talking about the new director of Planning and Zoning Services. This position was vacant for two years. Kate said this was a fantastic idea, and they will make sure to have time with this new Director. Drew further clarified that the City is in the middle of some important meetings, and these could be some good opportunities to meet with the new Director.
- Tim Keen is the new-hired Director and he is in from Atlanta. Neighbor noted that there was 90-minute meeting that provided background on Mr. Keen, and the Zoning Re-Write, which was similar to Atlanta's. The NAs in Atlanta defeated it there. There will be a forum put together for all NAs to attend, so all NAs can be briefed on the impact of the new changes.

P&Z Committee Update – Erik Hagen, Chair (erik@erikhagen.com)

- Erik noted that NENA will have excellent representation on the Zoning Re-Write.
- City replacing the light fixture on Harrison. This was a maintenance replacement project, and the City did not have to go through approvals. They are taking down light poles that are

structurally unsound. The City describes these new poles as “historic poles.” The new bulbs should have the same light power and temperature. Erik will continue to interface with City on this issue.

- Applications have been light recently. There was someone on Harrison who was cited for doing a conversion on their garage for an office. After months of fighting, a homeowner did get his variance.
- On the other side, the City approved the Alturas project despite pleas from neighbor to consider other alternatives.
- Discussion/Q&A
 - Question re Alturas project – does it make sense to see if any feasible to anticipate similar properties to add lots or properties to Historic District? Answer: This is excellent feedback and anything is worth looking into. These districts were established decades ago. There was an intent to create a line of delineation between Historic and Foothills, and these lines are somewhat arbitrary.
 - Drew notes that there are a handful of parcels in the NE, but this Historic Overlay does not cover the entire NE as you head west. The Zoning Re-Write Committee does not have much of a map component. Drew put in the Chat a suggested conversion map. Also, in the chat are some of the modules, and NENA will have some feedback from that sub-committee.
 - Erik noted that there will be a neighborhood presentation meeting on April 6, 2022.
 - Erik also noted that the biggest discrepancy between the Zoning Re-Write and Neighborhood Plan is that the City is heading toward higher density. Answer: Drew says yes and no. The City is proposing more mixed uses than currently allowed. The subcommittee intends to hone in on these issues, but it is a huge document, and it is a tremendous amount to digest.

Steps to Move NENA Forward – Drew Alexander, Vice President; Dallas Gudgell, Director; Erik Hagen, P&Z Chair

- Introduction (published on website). This includes protocols for the meeting and Drew will read the report.
- Erik noted the all committee members had diverse viewpoints. Noted that the pandemic affected the decision-making process, and the Review Committee does not believe that any of this would have happened without the pandemic. We ask that you adhere to the following protocol as outlined by Dallas.
- Dallas thanked everyone involved in this effort.
- Purpose
 - Fairly review the events of 2020 and 2021
 - Determine improvements that can be made.
 - The Committee is reporting back its findings and will present a list of recommendation, and members will be able to have three-minutes to respond. Please be kind and respectful.
 - After feedback, the Board will discuss proposed recommendations. Dallas is timing.
- Drew read the Report Recommendations.
- Q&A
 - Vice President Drew Alexander called on neighborhood members for three-minute comments. All neighbors wishing to speak were heard.

- Some neighbors questioned how certain proposals in the report might be implemented, and others expressed disappointment that the report did not do more to recognize the March 2021 membership vote to remove certain directors and to answer certain questions that remain unanswered. Other neighbors expressed some frustration that many people were not spoken to regarding their experiences.
- Treasurer Nola Walker thanked people on the Committee for what was a difficult job and reminded neighbors that the intent was to move forward and not to rehash what happened.
- Neighbor and former NENA President Chris Wagener noted that it was a difficult time for him on top of the pandemic, and he felt he and others were unfairly impugned during a difficult time.
- Outreach Committee Chair Sheri Edmond asked for volunteers to help with engagement.
- HPC Committee Co-Chair Suzanne Yehle noted that they do their very best to engage with neighbors, but the timing of NENA meetings with respect to the Historic Commission meetings makes it difficult, and she requested that additional requirements not be imposed on them. The committee does the best they can, and she requested help. Drew thanked her for everything she and the HPC does in engaging and speaking with neighbors.
- Drew concluded the comments by expressing thanks to all neighbors for sharing their ideas, thoughts, comments, and concerns and noting that everyone's comments were heard and would be taken into consideration by the Board and committees as we move forward.

MOTION TO ADJOURN, by Secretary Julie Varin, and seconded by Carlos Coto. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJORNED at 9:15 PM