

Tuesday 7/20/2021

Call to Order, 7pm, Welcome!

Tonight's Guest:

- Terese Tomanek, At large City Councilor

Presentation and action on the minutes of the previous meeting

Presentation and action on the treasurer's report

Reading of communications received:

- To Whom It May Concern,

I want to strenuously object to authorizing any event that is likely to draw very large crowds and protesters to Park Point. This area is unique in that we have only one road in and out. If there are emergencies we have no local response team. It is a public safety issue.

We have endured ridiculous inconveniences and safety risks in the past by the city approving things such as political fundraisers for Pete Stauber. These events have resulted in the residents being cut off from the ability to freely come and go from our homes, not to mention visitors being trapped for hours on the Point without access to food, water, sanitary facilities, etc. In the case of the Stauber event all of this with NO warning for either residents or visitors. People were unable to get to work, get home from work, beach goers were unable get their children out of the sun and home for meals.

Now the City has approved an event by a far rightwing group that is VERY likely to draw both supporters and counter protesters to LaFayette Square tonight. This is not a safe place to allow this type of event. Numerous other venues declined to host this far right-wing group in the city. Though I disagree, I do understand the mayor's position about this group's right to free speech, but on Park Point? With one road in and out? With terrible traffic congestion already because it is summer?

This is not safe. The city staff has a responsibility to the residents to consider our safety when approving permits. If it is an event where the vice president will be here and you feel you need to completely block traffic/access the answer should be NO. If it is a politically charged event likely to result in counter protests, on either side of the spectrum, the answer should be NO.

I personally object to renting to the American Experiment at all in the city due to their spreading of misinformation and hate. I also believe it is completely appropriate for the city to take a stand that this type of misinformation and propaganda is not to be tolerated. I am sadly disappointed that the mayor and the city would not take a stand. But separate from this particular event is the issue of permits on Park Point. It is a public safety issue and the city needs to take responsibility. We have been sorely let down by our city in both respects.

Regards,

Deb McLaughlin (She/Her/Hers)

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- D Hoelscher: comment about fire and EMS re: bridge up, island isolation regarding quick access for emergencies, and possible remedies.

Report of the Committees:

- Watch- All of us
- Youth-Kari Speer; new volunteer Britta DeSutter
- Art Fair- Carla Tamburro June 25,26 2022
- Breeze- Alan Dartanyan
- Environmental- Dick Gould
- Hospitality - Diane Gould

- Sunshine- Pam Griggs
- Rummage Sale- June 10,11 2022
- Program- Dave Poulin- next month at the Duluth Rowing club, future guests from Chum

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

- Traffic Safety/Neighborhood Watch-Pat Sterner
- PP Erosion and High Water-Hamilton Smith
- MP-50- Paul Treuer

Discussion and action on unfinished business

- Updates: Waiting on Parks and Rec to reply to questions on park closing times, parking in the field, end times for rentals at Lafayette, who to call when concerns arise
- Dawn, The \$4,000 grants are still available for homes that the City has identified as contributing excess I&I into the sanitary sewer and we have mandated corrective action. What has run out for this year is the \$2,000 grants for “volunteers” that the City has not mandated but have failed or failing lateral lines.

I am not aware of any money available from Federal or State COVID-19 relief that can be applied here.

Andy Swanson and Stephanie Untiedt are both copied on this email to add information in case I missed anything.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Jim

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- Property Taxes on PP: Andy and Molly Goldfine & Andrea met with Brad Bergeron and talked about the next steps to changing the property tax laws/procedures. Brad had started the process with others on London Road but the 'team' disbanded when they got what they wanted from their property taxes. To address the issue, we have to look at it as a community, not an individual. We are in the process (which is unfortunately slow due to everyone's busy schedules) of looking for a leader who DOES have the time to put into this at the moment and both Andrea and Molly volunteered to be co-leaders. If you know anyone that has a strong interest in this issue and plenty of time and energy on their hands, please reach out to Andrea directly. Otherwise, we will keep you updated as we continue the search. Once we have a leader, we will form a citizen's awareness group and start the next steps, which Mr Bergeron has agreed to help guide us.

Discussion and action on new business

- National Night Out @ Lafayette August 3, 5-7pm- everyone invited!
- Meet with Parks & Rec. on rental & permitted events which create more traffic and congestion, J. Peterson ,D. McLaughlin interested in meeting with Councilor Randorf and City leaders for dialogue; also loud party at Lafayette on Saturday, clarification sought on ending times, who to call etc
- Elections

Adjournment