

MorningSide General Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 11, 2023

- Meeting was called to order by the President (Eric) at 6:41pm and started with prayer done by Adrian Green. Nominations will be conducted tonight for the Board of Directors, and Zelda, the Elections Committee Chairperson, will explain everything. Eric reiterated for everyone to sign in and explained the bylaws - must attend three meetings in order to vote in May, or to run for office, which is why we keep track of attendance. Zoom counts as a meeting. Anyone with questions can see the Secretary.
- **Minutes:** Taken by Secretary (Sharon)
- **Zoom:** Nic Hall and Jeff Lewis

- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
 - Tonight is the last Zoom meeting
 - Starting in May, we will have in-person meetings
 - The summer meetings will be outside
 - The Fall meetings will return to Bethany

- **REGINALD SCOTT, CFO OF LANDBANK AUTHORITY:**
 - Started in April 2016 in the Sales Department
 - The Detroit Landbank is the largest landbank. Had 100,000 properties
 - Over 20-30 years, people have been moving out of the City and vacancies increased
 - As a result, Detroit has a number of vacant properties – either salvageable or not
 - Those that were not salvageable were scheduled to be demolished
 - Nearly 17,000 have been demolished
 - 15,000 have been sold or restructured
 - The structures that are salvageable goes to the Landbank.
 - The Landbank does not foreclose on any of them
 - The program is to alleviate blight
 - Want to make them available through an auction
 - Once you win the property eligibility is checked
 - Check for blight tickets or blight that needs to be removed
 - Check for residency – foreclosures
 - There are very few properties that are eligible to be lived in as soon as you win
 - Not trying to sell at the market value because of the work that will need to be done
 - Vacant lots and side lots are also owned by the Landbank that are available for purchase
 - The goal is to sell these lots to neighbors
 - The neighbors do not have to pre qualify
 - The properties are focused to sell to Detroiters

- Another challenge is occupied structure – owned by the Landbank but can't be sold because they're occupied
 - The homes are not habitable and should not be occupied
 - Six years ago a lot of individuals were renting but were duped because the landlord lost the property
 - The program allows those individuals who are connected to the property to be given the opportunity to buy the property
 - It captured 1100 people to buy homes. It's an effective program but does not capture everyone
 - The Landbank partners with U Snap Bac and Fifth Third Bank
 - Programs are designed to get those properties into the hands of Detroiters and those residents that are connected to the homes
 - When the property is purchased from Landbank, a deed is signed to that person
 - In the event, the person does not comply with the agreement, the property goes back to the Landbank
 - The policy was established to sell neighborhood lots to neighbors that live nearby
 - Website is buildingdetroit.org – you can see every side lot that is available
 - Nuisance Abatement Program – designed to get the owner to comply to get the home up to code and habitable
 - When acquiring about a property to the Landbank, have a specific address
 - MorningSide has 2 oversize lots, 315 neighborhood lots, 90 side lots that are listed
 - If a lot is not listed, it's because that lot is not eligible yet, for instance after demolition
 - You can apply for that lot through the City application
 - That property will come to the board to review the lot and see why it's not listed
 - The Landbank gets the property through the Wayne County Treasurer office when properties are foreclosed on
- **COUNCILMEMBER LATISHA JOHNSON:**
 - 25,000 down payment assistance program to current renters
 - Focus is on lower income renters - \$40,000 a year maximum
 - Must have been a renter for at least 12 months in Detroit
 - 100 2-unit townhouses in District 4 is being developed
 - Families are being identified through U Snap Bac, ECN, and Meca
 - ECN – breakfast, coffee hour
 - April 22nd, earth day, hazardous waste drop off – paint and things of that nature at WCCC 10-2
- **OFFICER SOL:**
 - 2 bike rides planned

- May 3 9:30 at Clark Elementary School
 - EEV May 17 11:00
 - DEA takeback – old medication – April 22nd 10-2 at 3500 Connor the Precinct, and also 5555 Connor, no needles or liquid
 - May 15 – 19 is police week – community groups can feed the precinct
 - Candlelight vigil will be held on the 19th
 - 596-5911 is the number to call for problems
 - Call 911 when a problem is happening in real time
 - Have started late night patrol from 11pm – 7am on Wednesdays
- **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – ZELDA ANDERSON:**
 - The members of the Election Committee are Zelda, Adrian, and Scotty
 - Election is going to be paper ballot
 - Absentee voting – request a ballot, send an email to morningsideelection2023@gmail.com
 - May 2nd by 5pm is the deadline
 - Return ballot by May 9th by 5pm
 - The elections will be at Bethany Lutheran on May 9th
 - Email info for a bio to morningsidecommunity2@gmail.com
 - Will be posted by April 25th
 - Eligible voters will get an email with the process information
 - Today is the last meeting to become eligible
 - Nominations:
 - At Large – Sharon Davis Cawthorne – accepted, Vance Thornton, Nic Hall, Ulysses Jones, Kimberly Canty, Charon Nogues, Josinda Feldstein – declined, Alex
 - President, Secretary, 2nd Vice President – Eric Dueke, Sharon Gray, Jeff Lewis
- **OTHER:**
 - Motorcity makeover is May 13th
 - April 29th – Emerald Isles will clean the median of E. Outer Drive from Mack to Chandler Park
 - Next Chapter Bookstore has secured a location on E. Warren – vote at hatchdetroit.com so they make the final four
 - Brilliant Detroit left flyers:
 - April 19th, 5:30-6:30pm – Zoom presentation by two doctors from Children’s Hospital regarding various allergies
 - Friday’s from April 21 to June 2, Brilliant House will host Nature Explorers by Belle Isle Nature Center
 - Weekly meetings are held on Thursdays, 12pm-1:30pm at Brilliant House for The Golden Hour – grandparents raising grandchildren

- Opportunity available to distribute information throughout the neighborhood – see Charon Nogues
- Most of the homes in MorningSide are no longer on the foreclosure list
- Mihaf has been extended to April 20th – contact U Snap Bac and Councilmember Johnson's office for more info

- **TREASURER REPORT – ADRIAN GREEN:**
 - Beginning balance 16,778.31. With expenses and deposits, the ending balance is \$16,934.10
 - Kroger Community Reward Program - MorningSide participates
 - Link your card to MorningSide
 - Kroger.com, link card, search MorningSide, save
 - All purchases made will make a donation to MorningSide
 - Contact info for Adrian is 313-399-8014, agreensr@comcast.net for questions

The next meeting will be at Bethany Lutheran Church on May 9, 2023
Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm by Eric