

Eken Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2019

Submitted by EPNA Secretary, Ben Shannon

Welcome and Introduction

Approval of Minutes

- Maggie made a motion to approve minutes
- Syed second

Discussion: No discussion

**Vote: Unanimous approval**

Dexter's Remodel

Subject:

Nick Zabel, the owner of Dexter's Pub, spoke to the EPNA about plans to remodel the business. Beginning in April, the building space will be reconfigured. The interior will feature an improved kitchen, a redesigned bar, and a larger dining area. The exterior space will be extensively redesigned to include a 475sq/ft outdoor lounge area, along with a grassy area for lawn games. Nick envisions this space to offer a relaxed, beer-garden-like atmosphere. An indoor bar would serve the outdoor lounge through a large retractable door. Finally, the store front will be redesigned to be more aesthetically pleasing. The project is scheduled to be completed in September, with the business remaining open for all but two weeks of the remodeling process.

Discussion:

- Several people expressed thanks to Nick and the Dexter's crew for all that they do for the neighborhood and the Neighborhood Association.

Candidate Forum

Subject:

On January 27, the EPNA and EENA hosted a forum for candidates running for District 12 Alder. Neighbors were able to hear candidates answer questions and speak about their position on a number of issues. Audio of the event is available to the public on the EPNA website (<http://www.ekenpark.org/>).

## Update on EPNA Account at Heritage Credit Union (HCU)

### Subject:

Zach provided an update on the ongoing effort to shift the EPNA's finances to Heritage Credit Union. He said that he, Catie, and Erich opened the account, but they are still waiting for HCU to finish their final audit. Once the audit is completed, Ben will close the Associated Bank account and move the funds to HCU. Zach also mentioned that the new account will have a debit card, which he believes will make it easier to purchase items for the Association (e.g. for EP Festival).

### Discussion:

- Syed wanted to know how the debit card will affect financial practices. In the past, two signatures (treasurer and one co-chair) were needed to write checks for the EPNA.
- Ben expressed further reservations about the debit card. He felt it is important to maintain the transparency offered by the two-signature system, which both protects the EPNA organization from the misappropriation of funds and protects the treasurer from the accusation of misappropriation.
- Sue asked if the by-laws cover this subject.

## Festival Committee Update

### Subject:

Tom gave an update on the status of Eken Park Festival 2019. He said that certain planning aspects have been made easier by changes to the City of Madison festival regulations. One example is that the committee no longer needs to obtain signatures from residents on Mayer Avenue. Financially, Tom believes that the EP Fest has made enough from the first two years to cover a rain out. He also asked that the EPNA allocate \$500.00 from the 2018 Festival funds to non-profits Operation Fresh Start and East Side Community Center, both of which serve our neighborhood. He believes that donating this money would be a signal to potential donors that the EPNA is financially committed to giving back part of the Festival funds to charity.

### Discussion:

- Catie pointed out that the officers are currently working with a financial planner to sort through the EPNA finances and create a budget and that we should hold off on allocating donations until after that process is complete. She also pointed out that donors are usually brought to the EP Fest, not because of the EPNA's charitable donations, but because of advertising (donor logos appear on EP Fest posters, etc.)
- Chris suggested that it might be a better idea to tell potential donors that the EPNA would donate a percentage of the profits to charities, rather than a dollar amount.

- Syed agreed with Chris, saying that a percentage is better for the EPNA because if the Festival has a successful year, the EPNA could donate more than \$500, but if the Festival has a bad year, the EPNA would not be committed to donating more than it can afford.
- Ben said that he liked the idea of giving to local non-profits, but he would like to see the EP Fest funds going toward improvements that more directly affect the neighborhood, and suggested that donors should be informed of all the benefits the EPNA and the EP Fest can bring to the neighborhood.
- Maggie agreed that she would like to see the EP Fest tell donors about the EPNA's improvements in the neighborhood, in addition to any other charitable donations.
- Sue said that it is important that we resolve this question quickly in order to get donors on board.
- Erich and Catie resolved the matter by saying that the officers will come up with a financial plan, complete with suggested donation amount, and the EPNA will approve the donations at the March meeting.

#### Open Discussion

- Sue suggested that the EPNA invite the Madison Water Utility to an upcoming meeting to discuss water quality in the neighborhood, especially in light of recent studies indicating contaminants in local wells.
- Maggie reminded everyone that the spring primary is on February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Tom commended Zach, Catie, and the organizers of the candidate forum on a job well done

#### By-Laws Update

- Erich gave an update on the revisions to the by-laws. He explained once again that the primary purpose of the proposed changes was to update the purpose statement (making it more active than reactive) and adding language about committee formation. He also announced that the update involved shifting some sections in order to gain greater clarity. He explained that both he and Ben went through the by-laws together and their revised copy will be available to the membership within the next week. Members should read through the revised copy of the by-laws, compare it to the existing copy (available on the EPNA website) and come prepared to discuss the changes at the March meeting.

#### Motion to adjourn

Catie moved to adjourn

Zach seconded