

Union Square Neighborhood Council - Meeting December 19, 2018

Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Ben Baldwin, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Pennie Taylor, Rachel Weil, Michèle Hansen, Jacob Kramer, Tori Antonino, Ben Bradlow, Afruza Akther, Ganesh Uprety

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Neighborhood Resident Members: 6 total

Co-Facilitators: Bill Cavellini

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Bill opened the meeting and led introductions
 - b. Rachel made delicious cookies
2. Public Comment
 - a. Election timeline and bylaws- January 5 suggested for referendum. Should be long enough for people who have to work to attend.
 - b. Deadline for candidates Jan 12, forum the following week for a February 3 election
 - c. List of previous voters is held by a few people and will need to be addressed.
 - d. Malicious software has been inserted into the software controlling our web site, which has resulted in our site being shut down by the hosting company that manages the server we use. We have been informed that we need a "professional cleaning."

We have to look at possible ways to provide information about the upcoming election during the outage period, which is likely to last at least a week, during the holiday period.

 - i. Fundraising plan to raise money to pay for the cleaning would have to cover a few other things as well
 - ii. We will put a message on Facebook letting people know about election matters
 - iii. We will put important news and documents on an easy wordpress site or something
3. Approval of 11/8, 12/1, and 12/5 minutes
 - a. November 8
 - i. Ben Bradlow moves to vote:
 - ii. Vote: 8 in favor, 3 abstentions
 - iii. Minutes adopted
 - b. December 1
 - i. Vote: 9 in favor, 2 abstentions
 - ii. Minutes adopted
 - c. December 5
 - i. Board members have not had a chance to read the minutes, approval postponed until next meeting

4. Discussion of significance of new information on Union Square's designation as an Opportunity Zone (coming off revelations surfaced at [12/11 BOA Finance Committee meeting](#))
 - a. Recap of discussions from December 11 BOA Finance Committee Meeting
 - b. Union Square was known to be a designated Opportunity Zone when USAA was added as an investor to the US2 project.
 - c. Board of Aldermen was kept out of the loop on the entire OZ discussion
 - d. New investments will have zero capital gains tax.
 - e. D1 and D7 are not included in the OZ
5. Confirmation of date for referendum on Permanent Bylaws
 - a. Ben Bradlow- motion to have the referendum on January 5
 - b. Michèle- second
 - c. Discussion: Ballot box with up or down vote ballot. Voters had to sign in as eligible members. Must pass a $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold. 10am-6pm
 - d. Vote: 11 in favor
 - e. Motion passes
 - f. Volunteers to staff the ballot box- 6 or so volunteers
 - i. There is a list of people who have signed up to volunteer for things like this
6. Discussion & preliminary decision on dates for lead up to Board election
 - a. Ben Bradlow- Motion to have the board election February 2 (Saturday)
 - b. Jacob- Second
 - c. Discussion-
 - i. Last year's election many people came in on multiple days.
 - ii. Second voting day on the 4th (Monday)
 - iii. Election committee has been made aware of the timeline. There is a need for more capacity on the committee.
 - iv. Vote: 11 in favor, 0 abstain, 0 no
 - v. Motion passes.
 - d. Also need to plan a deadline for candidacy and candidate forum
 - i. Roughly January 12 is deadline to declare candidacy, submit statement
 - ii. Roughly January 19 candidate forum
 1. Election committee to bottom line
 - iii. Ben Bradlow- Motion to use the same materials for candidate submission with changes for new bylaws and dates and times
 - iv. Pennie seconds
 - v. Vote: 10 yes, 1 abstention
7. Discussion of City-Wide Zoning proposal and USNC letter
 - a. Summary of BEC letter on topic areas for zoning.
 - b. BEC will continue to meet Mondays, attend all Land Use Committee meetings
 - c. Last day for the BOA to vote on this is some time in March
 - d. There is an opportunity to put a Opportunity Zone Overlay Districts into the zoning
8. Report on current list of members of the election committee
 - a. Election committee still needs more volunteers and someone to bottom line things.
 - b. Election committee will determine voting hours for candidate election.
 - c. Election committee will determine date and time for candidate forum

9. Public Comment

- a. Affordable Housing Organizing Committee is making recommendations to the BOA on zoning. Fred Berman wrote them up and they can be distributed.
- b. Jacob- Motion on previous year's voting list- candidates should get certified and can then be given the voting list by the Election Committee. It should not be widely circulated. Possibly have to sign something saying they will use the list for campaigning this election
 - i. Second- Pennie
 - ii. Discussion
 - iii. Vote: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention
- c. Somervision 2040 is being rolled out- important for zoning, and notably green space.
- d. 65 Bow Street- Contact Tori to join a group working on this.
- e. Our Revolution electoral committee on endorsements - to be put on a future agenda

10. Executive Session to discuss strategy and tactics for further negotiations

- a. Michèle- motion to move into executive session
 - i. Pennie- seconds
 - ii. Unanimous yes