

Milwood Neighborhood Association Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

Attendees: Kate Paul, Scott Stokes, Austin Slater, Dave Buskirk, Michelle Momotiuk, Leo Goddeyne, Jax Anger-Pipe, Amber Gille, Sarah Abbott, Jennifer Nardi

Absent: Megan Meier, Ethan Seguin

Recorded by: Jennifer Nardi

Discussion:

Leo Goddeyne attended the meeting to answer board member questions. Jennifer asked about legal responsibilities for board members. Leo noted differences in responsibility for board members vs. those who hold board officer positions. Leo indicated board members need to act in a reasonable and prudent manner and have a duty to act with reasonable care, ie use information to make informed decisions. Leo indicated we could add language to limit liability for volunteers for the association in bylaws.

Jennifer asked if the association should have liability insurance; Leo advised it would be prudent to look into insurance - often called Director and Officer Insurance. General agreement something to look into; Dave reported in his previous experience cost should be reasonable.

Jennifer asked if there are any liabilities regarding potential future staff that the board should consider when developing bylaws/policies. Leo reported personal liability can apply in cases of non payment of payroll taxes. Recommended robust process for vetting candidates. Advised board consult an accountant. Brian Kroll at Seber Tans is someone Leo has worked with. Directors expressed interest in looking for someone in the neighborhood.

Board had robust discussion regarding open/closed meetings. Strong feelings expressed on both sides. Dave indicated the need for a board President in order to have open comment period. Dave suggested having a facilitator to guide discussions.

Board discussed developing trust from community/neighborhood residents. General agreement there should be redundancy, especially for financial roles/responsibilities. General agreement there should be multiple signatories. Dave suggested having 5 board officers, including Recording Secretary. Board members requested to discuss which positions/position responsibilities and board member experience/position interest before voting.

Board members went around the room and shared non-profit experience and interest in board positions.

Kate: First office job at chamber of commerce. Dad was the mayor of south haven. Wants to give back and get involved. Interested in a position but not committed

Scott: Military. Board of drug trafficking. Commander for military helicopter unit. Experience in emergency operations unit. Commander in Katrina. Public Affairs/Media background. PTO board for Milwood. Would like to be a support element - in the travel industry (trip leader). Teaches at KVCC (landscape design/horticulture).

Austin: First board but in and around nonprofits. Grew up overseas. Volunteers with immigrant assistance center. Supporting role. Excited to help out and care about people. Wife is a social worker. Speaks a little french/swahili/rukiga

Dave: Previous county commissioner. Served on many nonprofit boards, currently serving on Airport Authority Board. Past President for IEW. Would prefer not to be treasurer but will serve in other positions as needed. Wants to see neighborhood association work with city.

Michelle: Always been involved in organizations and leadership. Currently serving on another community board and actively involved in concert band. Previously supported non-profit ED/worked in non-profits. Wants to be a connector/community organizer for the neighborhood; tool library, time swap, neighborhood night out. Web development experience.

Jax: Admins the milwood neighborhood page on FB. Works from home, 4 kids, ranging from 22 to 18 months. DEI, grant writing, editing skills. Paralegal degree/experience with nonprofit legalities. Would prefer to have a supporting role. Speaks French, Swedish, Japanese, Objibway language.

Amber: Father leader of nonprofit. PTO. Volunteer for unhoused. Owns own business.

Sarah: Served on PTOs for multiple schools, board member for Kalamazoo Husky Club and serves on fundraising committee. Wants to be in a support role.

Jennifer: Serves PTOs/committees for KPS/served on previous nonprofit boards/lead co-op board. 10 years in nonprofit leadership/mission advancement; previously in quality/compliance for pharm/biopharm. Currently FD director at local nonprofit. Grant writing, budgeting, fd appeal and campaign experience. Restorative practices and mental health first aid cert, DEI focused, Leader Academy graduate. Will serve as needed.

Board discussed meeting location going forward. Would like to explore additional options; interest expressed in Heritage Community. Michele has tried to contact. Will continue to try to reach out. Dave indicated he can reserve IEW and that Milwood Methodist Church would host. Dave will reserve airport board room for next meeting. Board will continue to explore options.

Dave asked if board members will be ready to vote at next meeting. Some members are comfortable voting now, and some members indicated would prefer to wait to vote once positions/responsibilities have been discussed and decided. Dave stressed importance of getting officers in place to move forward.

Jax suggested having general interim bylaws and term limits put in place so we can move forward and then working together to revise. Members expressed support. Jax volunteered to send out example by-laws; Michele will also share examples she has.

Action Items

Jax - share example by-laws from Vine Neighborhood Association

Michele - share example by laws

Dave - schedule Airport board room (4th Tuesday) for next meeting

Jax/Austin - sent up discord server for board

Michele - notify association mailing list of next meeting

Jax - share info on next meeting on FB page

Jennifer - send out meeting notes/minutes

All board members - review example by-laws and be ready to discuss at next meeting

Parking Log

Meeting location

Meeting frequency

Which officer positions should board have (5)?

What are the responsibilities for each officer position?

Keep adding to website

Bank Account

PO Box