

Minutes of the General Membership of the PCO – September 21, 2022

A quorum having been established, President John Lydon convened the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Brief time was spent for neighbors to greet and get to know each other better.

President Lydon reminded those gathered that National Hispanic Heritage Month is underway, and asked everyone to keep in mind the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the country.

A presentation was given by Alderman Anthony Beale to respond to collected community inquiries, with a brief summary of community-centric points of interest detailed as follows:

- a hotel is planned to be built across the street from Culvers;
- a Veteran Roasters is planned to go in across the street from the police station;
- the Alderman's normal office hours are 9:00AM-5:00PM Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM-1:00PM Friday;
- new bike accessibility is happening in conjunction with infrastructure improvements to roads;
- a mural is planned to be painted on the viaduct at 109th and Cottage Grove;
- given available resources, more frequent pickup of community trash cans is unfortunately impossible, but the Alderman's office is open to community feedback regarding targeted areas for trash cans;
- the fastest and easiest way to get an alleyway repaved is to have residents on both sides of an alley in question petition for a '50/50' with the City, in which residents provide partial funding for the project;
- speed humps remain problematic deterrents for speeding, but traffic circles are also effective and can be petitioned for via the above-mentioned '50/50' arrangement;
- sidewalk replacements can be requested via the Alderman's office, and for specific addresses;
- cutbacks of the embankment flanking the raised train tracks along Cottage Grove are in the works;
- anticipated grocery option development for the area is a Save A Lot planned for 130th and Eberhart;
- residents wanting to stay up-to-date on 9th Ward activities are encouraged to come to PCO meetings and/or sign up for Ward 9's e-newsletter via its website;
- rainblockers on the street are intended to slow the pouring of rainwater into the sewers, hence the standing water often seen on streets after heavy rainfall;
- the Alderman is currently working to ensure the Red Line Extension project is fully Federally-funded, rather than making use of TIF money;
- public access to Lake Calumet remains to be determined, with further updates hopefully forthcoming;
- the Alderman's office will investigate as to why GPS systems are still navigating trucks into the neighborhood;
- residents are reminded that the Pullman Community Center is a rental-based facility, and will be entering its busiest seasons shortly; and
- the Alderman cannot commit to attending more PCO meetings, but is always available via the PCO President.

The annual PCO Budget was presented to the Membership, with subsequent discussion held but no changes proposed.

Motion to adopt the annual PCO Budget as presented. [M/S/P John Cwenkala, Pat Brannon]

The President reminded those gathered of the following upcoming events:

- National Public Lands community cleanup – Saturday, September 24
- Pullman/Roseland Bike Ride – Saturday, October 1
- Companion Animal Blessing – Sunday, October 2
- House Tour – Saturday & Sunday, October 8 & 9

The President also referred the Membership to the Draft September Executive Board minutes for recent Committee reports.

Secretary reported that the Draft August General Membership and September Executive minutes had been posted in advance online; there being a request to correct the August General Membership minutes to reflect that the Communication Committee provided its information at that meeting as a report.

Motion: To adopt the August General Membership minutes, pending correction. [M/S/P Lorraine Brochu, Lynne Collins]

Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$33,738.56 and a closing balance of \$32,555.16 for the month of August. The report will be filed for audit.

Additionally, the Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$29,767.14 and a closing balance of \$28,459.77 for the month of August for the House Tour Fund.

Education Committee reported that it is attempting to get the project managers working at Pullman Elementary to come to a PCO meeting and update the community on progress on the school.

Communication Committee reported that there are nine members on the Committee currently, and that its meetings are the Thursday before the second Wednesday of the month.

House Tour Committee announced that volunteers are needed for both days of the Tour, and noted that the reception will take place at 605 E. 111th St.

Beman Committee reminded those gathered that the House Tour funds its Façade Reimbursement Program, and announced that the Application period for the program will once again be November 1-December 31.

Hospitality Committee asked for any willing donations of bags of candy for the upcoming Trunk or Treat event.

Community Improvement Committee announced that a request has been put in to get the white vehicle near the Greenstone Church removed in time for House Tour.

NPS reported that the National Public Lands Day cleanup event will be Saturday, September 24 from 9:30AM-12:00PM. The NPS also asked if it would be possible for the PCO to sponsor its two annual community cleanups.

Motion for the PCO to co-sponsor the National Park Service's two annual community cleanups next year. [M/S/P Lorraine Brochu, Rachel Kovarsky]

Further, the NPS announced that the next and final Yoga In the Park events for the year will be October 8 and 15; and a newsletter regarding the General Management Plan will be circulating beginning November 3, with public workshops subsequently taking place the week of November 13, and all documents related thereto being made available also starting at that time.

President Lydon announced that a block party 'how to' has been created and is available to anyone interested in hosting a block party.

For Announcements/New Business/Open Forum:

- on the midterm election ballot is a financial allocation item for Forest Preserves, for consideration;
- gun shots heard on the 113th block of St. Lawrence were located by ShotSpotter to be from 11407 Forrestville;
- everyone's welcome to attend the Companion Animal Blessing, even if without a pet; and
- Block Captain vacancies exist on the 113th block of Forrestville, east, and the 112th block of Champlain, west.

Motion to adjourn at 9:13 (M/S/P Lynne Collins, Susan Schoephoester)

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary