

**Phillips West Neighborhood Organization**  
**Board Meeting was held via Zoom**  
**Meeting was held from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.**

**Board Meeting Minutes, Monday October 26, 2020**

In attendance: Rebecca Fabunmi, Board Chair; Danette Billups, Treasurer; Patty Phillips, Board Member

Absent: None

Meeting called to order by Board Chair Rebecca Fabunmi at 6:00 p.m.

September 28th minutes were in packet for review. Also included were prospective Board Member Ashley Taylor-Gauge's resume, PWNO's September 2020 financial report, and documented email correspondence to provide information and content for discussion items.

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Patty made a motion to adopt the agenda, Danette seconded. Agenda approved.  
Patty made a motion to adopt the September meeting minutes, Danette seconded.  
September meeting minutes were approved.

Rebecca introduced the meeting agenda for the evening, introduced Jamal Osman to take some time in the meeting to speak.

**Presentations**

Councilmember Jamal Osman

Councilmember Jamal Osman is newly elected to represent Ward 6 and a resident of Phillips West. He is about two months into his new job. CM Osman took time to introduce himself and described his time over the last several years working in affordable housing through Common Bond. He also explained some of the reasons that he ran to be a city councilmember. He has also served as a board member for various community initiatives and nonprofits. CM Osman is particularly passionate about housing. Most Ward 6 residents are renters. There is also a lack of affordable housing in the neighborhood. Right now he is focused on building relationships with other city councilmembers and conveying residential messages to his colleagues at City Hall. CM Osman also made a commitment to try to attend PWNO meetings, either himself or his policy aides.

Patty thanked CM Osman for attending the meeting. She expressed a desire for our Ward Councilmember to be more active in the neighborhood.

CM Osman was asked about staying up to date with Ward 6 through a newsletter. Policy Aide Ryan stated that the intention is to send out a newsletter on the 15th of every month. Rebecca spoke to the importance of lighting as a safety issue. She also spoke to other safety issues in the Ward.

CM Osman also spoke to his communication both with MPD and with the Park Board about ongoing safety issues and encampments. He asked Phillips West neighbors to keep using their voices to help him push for more resources in City Hall.

CM Osman also offered help in reaching out to support the East African and immigrant community in Phillips West and encouraging them to run for the PWNO board. Mira offered to reach out to Ryan to follow up with respect to recruitment efforts.

### Prospective Board Members

Genna Mastellone, introduction: Has lived in Minneapolis for two years and in Phillips West for one year. She explained some of her history doing community outreach and managing volunteers both in Minneapolis and in Chicago. She is also an organizer who largely does environmental justice work around Line 3. She is interested in doing hyper-local work, making the lives of people in Phillips West better. She spoke to her experiences getting to know her neighbors and wants to expand those efforts. She also expressed excitement about the new direction that PWNO is taking. She also spoke to her experience helping out at encampments, wanting to assist folks to get the support they need, and an expanded vision of how a board can contribute to the safety and dignity of people in the neighborhood. She is available to start as soon as needed.

Ashley Taylor-Gouche, introduction: Has lived in south Minneapolis for the past eight years, but just moved to Phillips West this summer. They are the program director at the Sexual Violence Center in Minneapolis. She spoke to her relevant administrative experience, looking for a way to get involved in her community. With winter coming and people “hibernating,” they are looking forward to this opportunity to build community. She has worked in nonprofits for over ten years now, and has worked very closely with the board at the Sexual Violence Center. They are available to start as soon as needed.

### Brief Community Discussion

Patty mentioned a desire on doing a neighborhood survey to find out what the neighborhood wants.

Lynn mentioned wanting to be deeply involved with the Board, even though she doesn't personally want to serve.

Travis briefly introduced the issue of broadband and fiber access. He doesn't necessarily have a direct ask, just wants to share the issue and knows that there are other priorities as well. Mentioned that businesses might not want to locate here if they don't have access to high speed internet. It also impacts children learning from home.

## **Phillips West Business**

Financial report - no money has been spent.

New domain purchase: Google Domain approved at \$12/year. Google Workspace also approved, with the plan of only registering Mira as a user for now.

Zoom: decided to stick with Google Meet, no Zoom account

Wells Fargo: Mira will identify the location of the Wells Fargo checks in the office. Rebecca is still unable to access the account. Rebecca is interested in switching to Sunrise, a locally and community-focused bank (Dennis also mentioned this bank as a good option). Patty motioned and Danette seconded. Motion was approved.

Community Garden Insurance: Patty will drop off the check with Rebecca to deposit. Danette will look into the meeting minutes from the past three months to get more information on what insurance we use. Mira will follow up with Steven about next steps on adding the plot to our insurance. Childrens MN was very excited about the community garden and cultivating sponsorships. Mira can follow up.

Broadband access: Travis gave a short spiel in the early part of the board meeting. Xfinity and CenturyLink are both incredibly expensive services.

Board Committees: Rebecca: setting up committees to get actionable work done as we expand the board and as a “smooth machine.” Community engagement, events, garden space, and safety are four important areas. Patty: Once we have more people it might be easier to decide committees. There was agreement that we can decide on the general buckets of areas before divvying up the work to particular board members. Patty moved to establish the four committees, Danette seconded. The motion was passed.

New board members: Danette motioned that both Genna and Ashley be asked to join the board. Patty seconded. New board members were approved. Rebecca will send a follow up email to welcome them to the board.

## **Announcements**

None

## **Adjourn**

The PWNO Board Meeting Adjourned at 7:15p.m.