

**Phillips West Neighborhood Organization**  
**Board Meeting was held virtually**  
**Meeting was held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

## **Board Meeting Minutes, Monday, November 23rd 2020**

In attendance: Rebecca Fabunmi, Danette Billups, Ashley Taylor-Gougé, Genna Mastellone

Absent: Patty Phillips

Meeting called to order by Interim Board Chair Rebecca Fabunmi at 6:02 p.m.

Board packet materials included: October 2020 meeting minutes, prospective board member bios, email correspondence with EMC insurance, November financial report, and a draft flyer

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Danette motioned adopting the agenda, Ashley seconded. Agenda approved.  
Danette motioned to approve October meeting minutes, Genna seconded. Minutes approved.

### **Presentations:**

#### Kali Pleigo (crime prevention specialist with the 3rd precinct)

Assigned to 4 neighborhoods that make up what was formerly Phillips. Started in her position about a year and a half ago. Role of crime prevention specialist is to attend community meetings, comment on crime trends and prevention tips. Working to re-energize efforts of “block clubs” modeled after “neighborhood watch”-style groups. She offered to hold trainings for prospective block leaders.

Shared about two crime prevention tips for auto theft and carjacking - two crimes that are pretty high statistically this year. Most auto thefts in the Phillips neighborhood occurred when cars were running with the keys in them. Don't leave your car unattended while. A steering wheel club (locks the steering wheel in place) is another option. It's expensive to get your car stolen and get it out of impound. Carjackings take place during benign questioning (asking for time, bus fare, etc) in an attempt to get people to roll their windows down. Encouraging people to ignore this questioning. Don't idle in cars at the beginning or end of driving trips. Be an attentive driver and aware of surroundings. Encourages scenario planning.

Update on the 3rd precinct - no “home” police station exists right now, they are based at the convention center downtown. Reports that stationing out of the convention center is a

“morale-killer.” Have identified a building to move into - the City of Lakes building downtown (not in the precinct) - that move is happening in January/ early in 2021.

(The next city hearing about the city budget/ police budget is December 2nd.)

Third precinct no longer has access to a CERT team which does street-level intervention on narcotics. Third precinct also lost beat officers which used to be on Lake Street. The reason it is gone is that so many officers have left the department. The number of officers in the precinct is down. When they go below minimum, the sergeant can call for overtime and anyone in the city can come. This means that officers are doing long hours, which is dangerous for several reasons.

Update on the intersection of 24th and 10th where there have been several shootings. Kali has asked the violent crime unit (city-wide) to do a gun detail in the area. Ventura Village resident had mentioned calling a community meeting between residents in Ventura Village, Phillips West, and Midtown Phillips to discuss that intersection. Lots of gunshots, it is more active than it has been for a long time.

Kali can continue to engage with PWNO through our safety committee.

#### Alex Palacios, prospective board member

Alex does member services with the Aliveness Project, is a board member with stonewall DFL, and ran for ward 6 city council seat in the previous election cycle. They learned a lot and grew a lot in that process. Alex really wants to see PWNO be more visible and reinvigorate the organization through engagement and outreach. They have familiarized themselves with the PWNO by-laws, website etc. This particular neighborhood is ripe with opportunity: a residential neighborhood with a mix of businesses and institutions that is unique to the city. They are really excited to be part of that change, whether as a board member or as a volunteer. Pitched the idea of a street outreach team. Has done a lot of research on interpersonal conflict and other forms of interventions and deterrents.

#### Kaamil Danake, prospective board member

Has lived between east and west phillips for 18-19 years. Kaamil was renting in Phillips West for quite some time before recently buying a house in the neighborhood. He owns and operates a private security company and has served as a board member for another organization that does work in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. Kaamil also did doorknocking for several campaigns for elected officials in 2018, and led some of the doorknocking teams.

After some discussion, Danette made a motion to accept Alex Palacios as a board member, Ashley seconded. Motion passed. Danette made a motion to accept Kaamil Dakane as a board member, Genna seconded. Motion passed.

## **Phillips West Business:**

### Updates from previous meeting meeting

- Still in the process of switching banks
- Still in the process of getting community garden added to our insurance

### Scheduling

- We will have to revisit scheduling for our community meetings in 2021
- Keep date for December community meeting on the 3rd for now

### Finance Update

- We are anticipating some reimbursements to help balance our books
- We are running way low on donations recently
- We will talk about money and funding mechanisms during the board retreat

### 2021 Budget

- Our accountant is putting together a budget for board to go over during the December meeting

### \$40,000 crime prevention money

- we just need to send an invoice by the end of 2020 and then we can still spend the money in 2021

### Onboarding

- we need to craft what it means for all of us to onboard together with so many new members
- suggestion from Ashley: "Propel Nonprofits offers some really great trainings for new board members if folks are interested!"

### Flyering / mailer campaign

- accessible to read, many languages
- We could use some of that \$40,000 for interpretation!
- We could do all new branding if we want - more "fresh"
- Ashley has experience with social media
- We will return to this in December

### Miscellaneous items

- Green Crescent steering committee - Rebecca has volunteered!
- We have submitted out request to CURA
- We are closing our insurance file on the midtown safety center

### Need to make a decision moving forward with staffing

- Rebecca wrote up a draft for a bigger job description
- In the past the majority of funding money went to staff

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**Adjourn:** The PWNO Board Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.