

# Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Pinney Library

## I. Welcome (6:30-6:45)

### a. Call to order (Dan) - 6:35pm

i. Present: Dan, Alice, Kristy, Jacob, Andrew, Dylan. Absent: Pete, Bob, CJ, Kim.

### a. Approval of the agenda (All) - Approved as written.

### b. Word on the Street (All) - Rue Bourre & The Curious Crafter have opened in the Cottage Grove Rd shopping center.

## II. Reports (6:45 – 7:00)

### a. Secretary's report (Kristy) - We haven't yet received any submissions for our Helper List; will promote the list on Facebook.

### b. Treasurer's report (Jacob) - see below

### c. Echo report (Dan)

i. The last regular invoice Jacob received from Thyse had the same invoice # as our advance postage invoice, making it difficult to pay. We're not sure of our balance with Thyse. Alice will check on our invoice & advance postage status.

ii. For future reference, Thyse is pronounced "Tie-eeese."

### d. Extra report (Pete) - Extra went out. Typical number of opens; the helper list was the most clicked link. Next Extra will go out October 25th to crank up the energy for the bonfire list.

## III. New Business (7:00 – 7:30)

### a. Neighborhood Grant planning (Pete & Dylan)

i. We discussed adding lighting (solar or otherwise) to the signs.

ii. Pete to provide clarification on if we have to spend grant money by end-of-year, or if we can still make purchases in 2024 for reimbursement under this grant.

### b. Neighborhood Survey next steps

i. Last follow-up request was sent out; survey is closed with 305 responses.

ii. Dan will provide preliminary data for us to discuss at November meeting.

### c. Garden Sign Committee (Dylan & Kristy)

i. **Mums & Pumpkins for \$100 from Amy?** We voted to veto this expenditure for this year, as the signs are being repainted/repared during the first half of October. We'll revisit pumpkins & seasonal decor with the Garden Guild next year.

### d. Welcome Committee latest (Jacob)

i. Board members signed 'welcome' cards for new neighbors.

ii. Kristy will get the LVM magnets to Jacob for distribution with the cards.

**e. Design refresh? (Dan)**

- i. Newsletter was last redesigned in 2019; logo was redesigned in 2014. Our current logo only exists in a rectangular form; would be nice to have one also in a square shape (to better fit Facebook profile picture, for example.)
- ii. We'll revisit this in later winter meetings. Dan will reach out to see if any neighbors are graphic designers who could volunteer some effort for this.

**IV. Upcoming Events (7:30-8:30)**

**a. Halloween Bonfires, October 31 (Pete)** - Pete to post form on Facebook next week and plug it weekly.

**b. Turkey Trot, November 23 (Pete, Alice, & Dylan)**

- i. Pete will test alternate routes next week.
- ii. CJ to send Pete his contact for port-a-potty rental.
- iii. We'll plan to have 2 tables at the event - 1 for registration; 1 for donations (the one table got crowded last year).
- iv. Signage suggestions:
  1. Alice & Dylan suggested getting new signage made for the route.
  2. We would also like to have either an ENA sign made for the registration table (could be re-used for other events) or have a balloon arch to draw attention to the table.
  3. We should have a sign with our ENA Venmo code for registration.

**c. Holiday in the Park, December 9 (Dan & Kristy)**

- i. **Horse & Carriage** - based on neighbor feedback, we didn't feel we could cancel the carriage this year.
  1. **Venue change?** The carriage is very removed from the rest of the festivities at Elvehjem Park; we discussed moving the event to another park where the carriage would be more visible. Dan to check with the carriage company on the feasibility of Acewood or Droster parks.
  2. **Donations?** Because the carriage is a significant line item in the event budget, but not everyone will be able to get a ride, we discussed asking for optional donations to help offset costs.
  3. **Photo opps?** We discussed pausing rides mid-way through the event, and letting people take photos with Santa on the carriage. (So even if you don't get a ride, you can still interact with the horse & carriage.)
  4. **Sign-ups:** We will not do advanced registration this year; we will ask neighbors to sign up for a time slot when they arrive at the event.

ii. **Santa** - rather than building a workshop/throne for Santa in the shelter, we decided to have Santa sit on an adirondack chair by the bonfire. Neighbors can take their own pictures with Santa.

iii. **Other party elements:**

1. Light-up / glow-in-the-dark games
2. Carolers (Yahara River Chorus)
3. Holiday movie playing on outdoor screen (captions; no audio)
4. Hanukkah menorah
5. Food truck? (CJ - do you have any contacts?)
6. Heat lamps? (Dylan has a small lamp.)

d. **Holiday Lights Showcase? (Pete & Bob)**

- i. Suggestion to ask a neighbor if they want to own this project. Alice has a neighbor who might be interested.

**V. Adjournment**

**Announcements**

- The Elvehjem Extra will publish Friday, October 27th
- The next ENA Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 1st from 6:30-8:30 pm at **Pinney Library**
- The next Echo Newsletter deadline is November 1st for the \*Winter\* Echo
  - Hard deadline of November 15th in Thyse's hands