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## Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 on Zoom

In attendance: Courtney Ackerson, Colin Ashwood, Ken Auge, Stephanie Brennan, Colleen Briscoe, Lori Calhoun, KJ, Carl McPherson, Jason Stuyvesant, Annelise Tarnowski

### 6:33 pm - Board Business

- Good news: Destinee won the Capital City Pride Person of the Year award! A few Drake neighbors are a part of the new Forty under 40 cohort!
- Approval of the March Agenda and January and February Minutes
  - Motion: Stephanie, Second: Colin – motion carries
- Welcome Elected Officials: 3-5 minutes to speak if desired
  - Connie: in the city budget there is about \$1000 for some neighborhood associations (with some criteria) so that we can work on marketing materials and other needs.
    - And if we are doing any printing material – Polk county in the main building had a print shop that prints reasonably, and they handle nonprofits for a good price.
- Old Business
  - Review of February Financial Activities: KJ
    - Had a membership come in for \$20 checking: \$2775.16, no change in Savings
    - Only major expenditure was the insurance payment
  - Drake Triangle Next Steps - Lori
    - The Sign
      - A big obstacle is getting city approval. Planning and Zoning is clear, should be in front of City Council soon
      - Lowrise brick entrance sign, and an about the Drake Memorial Garden (some money from Polk County on the Memorial Garden Sign)
      - Working with Invest DSM to build these—we have engaged a second vendor for designs as the first was not delivering. Second vendor did the Woodland signs.
      - Looking for ways to reduce the cost, have some funding from Invest DSM. Have applied for a Prairie Meadows grant in February so we will hear about that soon hopefully to construct in summer.
      - Initial estimate for brick signage: \$22k. \$10k from Invest DSM. Would like to get the remaining \$10k from Prairie Meadows.
      - Hopefully Lori will have diagrams for the next meeting.
      - Do we still have a pile of bricks that we can sell to put their name on as a fundraiser (family names, etc.). Looking to see if we can use those bricks in the sign itself. Can help pay for maintenance.
      - **Folks who know how this may run: look into how to start this?**
- New Business
  - **In future months, add in the Executive Committee Update**
  - Communications Committee Update

- We did give out the new membership from the giveaway.
  - Grab your shirts!
  - Cottage Grove Post with no interactions yet
- Increase Capacity/Membership Committee Update
  - Still working on our first social
  - Pop Up Event with Pie Bird Pies and Wren and Willow Farm?
    - Do a Relays pop up for makers and vintage folks somewhere around the neighborhood in a parking lot—maybe on Forest Ave or in the Holiday Inn Express lot? Getting a group together to get going on a pop-up fair? With the mural artist.
- Safe and Inclusive Neighborhood Committee Update
  - Have done some footwork on the 150th Cottage Grove. Ryan connected us w Cowles to start scanning the book. The printer has already cut the spines and is getting it ready. Paper is getting more expensive. Applied for a Polk County Grant to help defray the cost. Asked for some funding to help with the party planning before they consider that we need to use the Triangle money, though.
  - Approached by the [ILK HAUS \(art community house on 39th\)](#) March 16th event they are doing (a cleanup and then a poetry reading). Would love us to join and promote them.
  - Art Festival: promote within the Drake neighborhood. They will have a meeting in the next couple of weeks to brainstorm it. Maybe along Cottage Grove or music/porch/art crawl. **Who is interested in jumping on that call? Tell Lori you would like to be on that as well**
  - **We should be sharing stuff on social media from DNA on our personal pages and into groups when it applies.**
- Squatters served eviction notice, someone new moved in. The owner is not going to pursue legal action against these people. She is just going to not pay the mortgage, then foreclosure, then the bank will have to deal with it. Could take months or years.
- **Colleen is going to start on the newsletter. Email or text articles to Colleen.** (email: [colleengbriscoe@gmail.com](mailto:colleengbriscoe@gmail.com), phone number: ). We should start considering whether to make this a paid position. Courtney can continue to help find content.

## 7:22 pm - Neighborhood Updates

- Introductions - skipped
- NBSD ([NEIGHBORHOOD BASED SERVICE DELIVERY](#)) Updates
  - Mark McKinney (Sgt., DM Police Department): could not attend: but things look good
  - Eric Barker (Des Moines Neighborhood Inspector): could not attend
- Parks and Recreation Update: Laura Murphy (Parks and Recreation Superintendent)
  - [Free Summer Camp program](#) is getting great traction! Getting close to full. [They are in a big need for staff in all areas](#). She has some fliers and some tools to pass on. About 350 positions to fill.
  - [Parks and Rec trivia tomorrow!](#)
- Introduction to [Mary Wells \(Polk County Treasurer\)](#) and Sarah Bol
  - Mary Wells: She has 30 years of experience in executive management, has her own non-profit helping young people to go to college (Drake helps as well), she does a lot with fiscal management, Army National Guard Veteran, PWA 7102, [marywellspolkcountytreasurer.com](http://marywellspolkcountytreasurer.com).
  - "Right now, doing the best we can for our people. COVID is making transacting new business a challenge. We're working overtime to keep up with the residents who want to

do transactions with us. They are the folks that collect money (property taxes, renewals), there is an investment segment before it gets appropriated back out for the county. Doing a better job with seeing people, [updated the website to make it more usable](#) (and can see what your wait time would be or can set an appointment for license plates, tax and tags). Without the appointment, you could be waiting a few hours. Can do tax and tags online for \$.30 if you are paying with a bank.

- Elderly property tax credit: this is for citizens over 65 with income restraints, so that we can share it around with property owners.
- She is up for election this year.
- [Grace United Methodist Survey](#) – Binnie Lehew and Laura Sands
  - [Been at 37th and Cottage since 1926](#) - diverse and welcoming community. [Free medical clinic](#) on Tuesdays. Also has a free meal. Once a month has a [free legal immigration clinic](#) with the [Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice](#). [Renowned preschool](#).
  - Church did some new visioning and strategic planning. More social justice and advocacy services. Doing a church-wide survey that should really be community-wide. [Free mental health care will also \\*hopefully\\* be coming back](#) to the free medical clinic soon
    - Mental health is done in coordination with Broadlawns and the Des Moines Pastoral Care and Counseling Center. DMPCC has counselors of multiple faith and no faith - therapy is not faith based but can be depending on the needs the people. In the past, counseling has been provided by students that are working on their hours towards licensing and are overseen by a social worker/therapist
  - [gracedesmoines.org/churchsociety](#) – open til the end of April (30th)
- Drake Report Update – Ryan Arnold (Drake University Director of Community Engagement)
  - Spring Break next week
  - Biggest thing coming up is of course is the [Drake Relays](#). Starts with a [road race](#) on Sunday April 24th. Main events Thurs-Sat. Forest Ave is a major disruption. It has been closed in past years from 27th to 29th. With a soft close 25th-30th (streets). Trying to get buses to go south on 27th and out on forest
  - Anticipating it being the highest attended in recent history. There are a lot of reunions, there will be a lot of people there. Significant traffic in the neighborhood. Jim Duncan invitational before. After relays in May there will be a higher attendance with Iowa high school track and field event plus commencement.
  - There will be a concert. SAB won't announce it until closer to the event.
  - Is the [Legal Clinic](#) back open – it is fully operational and open again
- Drake Student Update – Lesly/Alisha (Drake University Student Alumni Association)
  - Marguerite Stoffel: passing it on to the new students
  - [All-In Giving](#) challenge has happened most recently. SAAs role in that is for students to donate to the [Catalyst Fund](#) or any other fund. At the end, over 1200 donors over 5000 donors.
  - Coming up: [Emmenecker Challenge](#) coming up in Parents Hall on the 11th. Paul Morrison clean-up day (April 23rd 10-12 pm). Starting at the Harkin Institute.
- General Neighborhood Updates
  - Another garage for Planning and Zoning, the other one was approved after a little redesign.
  - When do people feel comfortable moving to in-person meetings? Let's move forward with a hybrid option. Who will figure out the tech? Jason will bring a laptop and camera as a start. Let's meet in one spot for a while as we build momentum and then start looking for a rotating schedule of places to go. Options: Drake Park Community Center eventually. Grace? Hope? Maybe hosting at a church would be too religious for a community

organization. Harkin Institute? Would be a great spot, they are JUST now starting to open to outside groups. Ryan is checking in with them to see what they are looking at events-wise in general. What of the Newman Center? St Catherine Student Center? Laura will let us know when Drake Park opens.

- KJ said we were up for an award? Or we won? KJ will be sending it. Michelson awards?
- As far as National Night Out – we will talk in April. Everyone should think about this for us to make a decision in April as well as choosing a date. Plus how many block parties we do (if we do Rock the Block, eg), we need to partner up with existing orgs to avoid burning out our board members.

**Meeting Adjourned - 8:11 pm**