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**TO DO LIST** | **SPECIAL DATES** | **ATTACHMENTS** | **QUESTIONS**

**Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | Polk Co Senior Center + Zoom | 6:30 pm**

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Courtney Ackerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristina Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Anthofer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick Holmberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colin Ashwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spencer Richardson-Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Auge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Rivera	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lori Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Stuyvesant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shannon Coryell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annelise Tarnowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6:34 PM - Board Business Meeting**

- Call to order
- Roll call
  - Introductions of Board Candidates. Welcome!!
    - Ben - he and his wife are at 38th and Cottage. Been there since '93.
- Consent Agenda: – Vote needed
  - April Agenda - Motion: Spencer | 2nd: Lori | Approved
  - March Meeting Minutes (sent out by email 3/14 and updated with addendum about the website domain and email address.) - Motion: Spencer | 2nd: KJ | Approved

**TIME - New Business**

- Welcome Elected Officials --- 3-5 minutes to speak if desired - none
- Candidate:
  - [Danielle Duggan](#): Candidate for House District 34 she wanted to come and introduce herself before she came to talk at next month's meeting.
- Mark McKinney – Update on neighborhood safety
  - Up 20 trips from last month, about 20 more cases, arrests up by 2
    - No real cause for concern, this happens when the weather gets better
  - The homeless encampment near Courtney (continued from last month): there was a break-in at one of the houses, the owner was in town when it happened, he called and pressed charges and there are no campers there now.
  - Drake campus has been looking good, even with all the new stadium traffic
- Drake Report Update – John Smith (VP of Advancement at Drake) and Drake Students
  - John Smith

- Men's + women's basketball teams both went out in the NCAA tournament. New men's basketball coach: [Ben McCollum](#)
  - Celebrating the ~5,300 attendees at the Liz Cheney Bucksbaum Lecture
  - Later this month: Drake Relays - [schedule is here](#) - this is an Olympic year, so expect big crowds + many hopefuls
    - Forest Ave will be closed starting **Wednesday April 24th at noon** - April 28th at 8:00 pm (31st Street to 27th Street)
    - Campus security and DMPS are available for when you need them, they will be planning to be busy but are available for you
    - **Sunday 4/27** - road race, beautiful Bulldog Contest
    - **Monday 4/28** - Pole Vault in the Mall at Jordan Creek
    - **Tuesday 4/29** - Grand Blue Mile
    - **Wednesday 4/30** - Shot Put event, feat. an athlete going for a World Record
    - **Thursday-Saturday** - Relays at the Drake Stadium
    - **Friday** is the student concert night: it will be a loud
- Ali + Ryan from Student Alumni Association
  - Paul Morrison Spruce Up Day - **April 20th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm** at Harkin Institute parking lot (this event is named after Paul Morrison who worked at Drake for decades and always picked up trash on his walk to work)
    - DMARC will have a food van there and will be accepting peanut butter donations and financial donations
    - Volunteers will help clean up the neighborhood
    - Paul's daughter Holly will speak
    - Donuts and coffee provided
- City of Des Moines Parks & Rec - Charles Zanders
  - Passed out the [Spring/Summer 2024 Activities Guide](#)
  - All water will be turned on hopefully by 15th of this month for the splash pads, etc.
  - Summer camp programming: free program for 250 kids throughout the city
    - Drake: April 1 registration: by April 3 we were full and have 28 on the waiting list
    - Columbus (new location): also full by April 3 with 77 on the waiting list
    - Weeks Middle School (new location): also full with 17 on the waiting list
  - Elected officials and the city government provided the funds that have funded this
  - *John Smith*: I sit on the Boy's and Girl's Club board and they need folks, can we redirect the waiting list folks? *Charles Zander*: absolutely (exchanged information)
  - Still hiring for a recreation specialist: \$15+/hour (though they are filling up!). They are more staffed up this year at this point than they were last year at this point.
- John Hansen - Cottage Grove Church
  - They park on Sunday mornings up and down the streets, but they cannot park next to Drake Park. Apparently this is because of drug activity way back when. We would love the ability to park on both sides of 24th Street and around Drake Park and we want to know how the neighborhood and how public safety feels about that. If you don't have any issues, we would hope you could help us work with the City Council. There is limited parking in your neighborhood already.
  - Also, related to Cottage Grove church, we have the property north of the church and we serve hot meals (it's called [Overflow](#), is open and active most nights of the week) out there as well as free clothes and other personal items, household items, pretty much anything. They take donations for that stuff if you have it and things don't last long on the shelves, people do take

advantage of it. Is this causing any issues? If not, please pass on that this resource is available.

Board: no issues.

- *Mark McKinney*: comes down to how wide the road is, but I can look into it. There is not an ordinance for parking around parks in Des Moines. There has not been crime there in a long time.
- *John Hansen*: I would like to come back here more often if that's OK so that I can learn what else the neighborhood needs.

### 7:03 PM - Board Business

- Executive committee update (10 minutes)
  - Treasurer Review of Financials – Lori
    - A lot of activity on the bank account. We had the State Farm insurance payments cleared. We also figured out that drakeneighborhood.org is organized through something that we had a 5 year license for. Figured out what it was, we bought it for another 5 years. We also expanded WildApricot to allow for 500 participants.
    - Had a Business Membership come in.
    - Approved for the Polk County Grant for Art Week - can we use the DNA bank account to put the money in and spend it out: \$3,500.
    - We also got money from businesses for the mailings, will go with the two businesses that we have as of now. If any more businesses donate, they will be on the rest of the run.
  - Policy and Procedure updates started and will be sent to the board when completed by the EC.
    - No update.
  - Nominating committee – update
    - Courtney met with Taylor (candidate for the board), Ben was present at this meeting. We can vote on these people for the board next month.
- Committee Updates and working session:
  - Increase Capacity/Membership Committee (20 Minutes)
    - Committee has not met
    - Membership report (Business and Individual Memberships) - none presented
    - New business memberships in the works, revamped options for businesses
    - Welcome committee –community greetings collaboration update
      - Had a meeting with Community Greetings: Courtney has convinced them if they can't do the basket delivery, then we can have a committee member who can help with that and we can sell our business memberships. Membership for them is \$3/visit to a neighbor per month (to businesses).
      - Our info will be provided in the baskets for free
      - She can also update the list for us as she is going out there
    - Mailings Update - see above (Financial Update)
    - We have some standard things that can go out to members on social media and slot in when we can send something out that are evergreen posts
    - James: Working on increasing our member list
    - James: does this committee host social gatherings? Yes.
    - James: I saw Waveland Neighborhood hanging out at Friedrichs at 7:00 am. Could we think about going to Mars or Freidrichs as like "open office hours"/tabling – they bring a banner and they have their shirts (and it all stayed up all month)

- Courtney: we should all take a sign that tells folks that they can come up and ask you about the Drake Neighborhood Association when you're out at coffee shops and restaurants in the neighborhood.
  - Lori/James: Should we try to post up at Black Cat at some point? Sign up for shifts?
  - Courtney to reach out to Freidrichs about if we can use their bulletin board
- Lori: for Art Week we are doing a workshop at the LSI Farmers Market and she would love us to come be at the Farmers Market – maybe we should do that once a month?
- Goals: \$1,500 for individual and \$2,000 for business
- KJ: Reached out to Jeff Bruning (Lucky Horse + The Library) and HyVee. HyVee we aren't expecting money, we usually do get food (need to ask a few weeks in advance). Bruning has been a financial sponsor and an in-kind donor of food.
- Businesses that are being reached out to:
  - Colin: Heartland Vet – got initial response, but they haven't signed yet
  - Ken: Dave's Barber - will talk to him next week. Starch: didn't hear back. Heard back from Maverick and they thought it was just a donation. When Ken said it wasn't, Maverick is now more interested.
  - Annelise: xBk - gotten sidetracked
  - Lori: King Au - need to ask
  - Courtney: Gursha and Louie's. Nothing from Gursha, need a different contact person for Louie's.
- Communications Committee (20 Minutes)
  - Met last month to discuss plans. Questions:
    - Email and newsletter plan: 2 emails for each meeting (1 before, 1 after that kind of replaces the newsletter.)
    - This after email would have a summary of the meeting with tidbits, minutes, business sponsors, photos, upcoming events. Could include a newsletter-type story, too.
    - Then can do emails that are for other events and as-needed as well.
  - Courtney showed the email open rates:
    - 67% on one from last week
    - March pre-meeting: pretty similar at 78%
    - Many hover around ~70-80%
  - Working out what we should do for business memberships in terms of featuring them in the newsletter/new post-meeting email. Working out frequency and how much of a feature they get. Will it be right when they join? If we update anything, should we let the businesses know.
  - We should open emails to non-members – they would have their own version with an ask on it.
  - James talked with Drake about their Community Engaged Learning and they want students to use the DUGood platform (a way of keeping track of their service learning hours). Now that they are doing more of this, we can try to get on it as an opportunity. Maybe give this to Jason for when he updates the calendar. Lori is the admin, we need to make Jason the admin or Lori can do it.
- Beautification Committee (20 Minutes)
  - Boulevards:

- April clean up
  - Friday April 26th, going to have a big rollaway garbage, they will be ready for Saturday, April 27th along Kingman Boulevard between 25th and 31st. 9:00-11:30 and 1:00-3:30 likely. Is there a rain date? May still do it if not bad. Could do Sunday the 28th. Garbage gets picked up April 29th.
    - Get the volunteer request out there. Courtney will send it out.
- Paul Morrison Day – 4/20 – see above for student update
- Save the date for 515 Day – boulevard planting and/or cleanup - May 15th
  - Courtney has coordinated with Drake University from 9:00-11:30 am.
  - Lori has asked the city if we can pick our flowers up 2 days early so that we can get them in the ground.
  - Courtney sent out an announcement about the event so that people can put it in their calendars. Each event can have their own information in our system. We already have 11 registrations already.
  - After the planting, Lori is trying to figure out if we can coordinate getting free mulch from the city, but there's a lot of logistics since it's in a big pile. No timeline on it.
  - Still need to create the arrangement plan for where to put the flowers that we have gotten in the order.
  - [kingmanblvdvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:kingmanblvdvolunteers@gmail.com) - contact info if you want to get involved in caring for Kingman Boulevard, a neighbor manages that email address and sends out seasonal volunteer opportunities.
- Art Week
  - Courtney: Should we start an event on our Facebook page for the event?
  - Lori:
    - June 14th night parade and night market. 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm (night market) parade is 9:00-9:30 pm. Rain date is June 15th.
    - April we are trying to do the logos, branding, street permits, organizing the talent. We have secured the parking. Cottage Grove Church is giving us their parking. There will be a request for folks to volunteer with either the parade or the night market.
    - May: starting to get the word out to the neighborhood.
    - June: workshops (Hope Elim, Black Cat, Boys and Girls Club, Parks & Rec), people can make light up signs for their yard. The puppet will be getting built. Need set-up help early on the day of and then we run the event.
- Collaboration and social time for the board (20 Minutes)
  - Need some people to cover for Courtney's absences. Lori: May, June. James: July.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:11 PM**