

Niwot Local Improvement District Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Present: Scott Firle, Eric Bergeson, Bruce Rabeler, Mary Coonce, Cornelia Sawle, Lisa Rivard, Keith Waters

Guests: Riki Frea, Pat Longseth, Biff Warren, Chuck Klueber

Staff: Mark Ruzzin

Call to Order:

Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The advisory committee considered the May 3, 2022 and June 7, 2022 meeting minutes:

ACTION: On a motion from Keith, seconded by Cornelia, the committee voted unanimously to approve the May 3, 2022 meeting minutes, as presented.

ACTION: On a motion from Mary, seconded by Lisa, the committee voted unanimously to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes, as presented (Keith abstaining, as he was not in attendance at the meeting).

Treasurer's Report:

Bruce provided the monthly Treasurer's Report, walking the committee through the materials he prepared for the meeting. Bruce noted that through April 2022, the LID is up 16.8% over 2021 collections year-to-date, having collected over \$88,000 over the first four months of 2022. Remote sales tax collections are \$2,200 above 2021 collections year-to-date. Collections from the Food Service and Accommodations continue to increase and are approaching pre-pandemic amounts.

Year-to-date, the committee has approved nearly \$134,000 in funding requests, or about 78% of the annual budget of \$170,000, leaving about \$37,000 remaining in the 2022 budget to be allocated. Bruce noted that if the three funding requests under consideration at tonight's meeting are approved, 92% of the 2022 budget will have been committed. Approximately \$68,000 in historic requests remain outstanding.

In respect to reimbursement requests, Bruce pointed out that the payment has been made to Porchfront Homes for the installation of the solar lighting at the parking lot, so with that expense now accounted for, it looks like the project has been paid for and has come in under budget. Mark noted that he will work to get a final accounting of parking lot expenses. Bruce reminded the committee that coming into 2022, the LID's reserve was about \$307,000.

Funding Requests:

The advisory committee considered the following funding requests:

1. Niwot Business Association/Niwot Community Arts Association: Tree Sculpture Repairs - \$4,000.00

Chuck Klueber presented the funding request on behalf of the NBA. Chuck described the September 2020 funding request that saw the LID approve a \$4,000 request to support repairs to the Spear Lodge Man tree sculpture. Chuck described the steps that were taken to repair the sculpture, and noted that once the restoration work began, it became clear that the project was more complicated than initially thought. At that point the project was put on hold until clear next steps could be determined.

Chuck and the NBA team worked with Dustin Wolf, Eddie Running Wolf's son, an accomplished wood carver in his own right, to develop a new plan for restoring the sculpture. Dustin will be using his father's teachings and tools to recreate and repair the sculpture. Chuck described in detail the process that Dustin is using to repair the sculpture, referencing the photos that he had emailed to committee members. Dustin is currently working about 20 hours per week on the sculpture, and the project may take six to nine months to complete. Once the repair is completed, the sculpture will be attached to and displayed on a stone base.

Chuck noted that the LID funding request is for \$4,000 of a total project cost of \$21,600. The NBA and NCAA will be working to fund the rest of the project, through fundraising and other efforts.

The committee spent some time discussing components of the project, including where the repaired sculpture will be placed, how the sculpture can be protected from the elements, the height of the sculpture with base, how the base will be designed, the need to eventually repair the other two tree sculptures, and other aspects of the proposal, including future efforts to restore all three tree sculptures.

ACTION: Mary moved, seconded by Cornelia, to approve the funding request for \$4,000.00. **The advisory committee unanimously APPROVED the motion.**

2. Niwot Youth Sports: Monarch improvement Project - \$15,000.00

Riki Frea and Pat Longseth presented the funding request on behalf of Niwot Youth Sports (NYS). After describing the mission of NYS and the programming that it offers the community, Riki provided detail on the project to construct a 1,300 square foot building on the Monarch ballfield site to meet the growing needs of the baseball and softball programs. The permanent structure will replace existing temporary storage units and a shed and provide space for equipment storage, concessions, a meeting room, and bathrooms. The total cost of the project is estimated at about \$500,000. As of the NLIDAC meeting date, NYS has raised over \$250,000 towards the project. Riki noted the other strategies that NYS is employing to raise the additional monies needed for the project, including the \$15,000 funding request from the Niwot LID.

Riki noted the number of people that visit the Monarch fields every day of the week, and the benefit these visits provide to the LID business district. Riki added that with the field improvements, NYS expects to be able to provide additional programming at Monarch, which should result in an increase in the number of visitors to the business district.

Pat spoke to the role that NYS plays in the Niwot community, providing an opportunity for the youth of Niwot to gather and grow and become the future leaders that the Niwot community needs.

The committee discussed opportunities for businesses to advertise at the fields, opportunities for sponsorship, specifics regarding the Monarch field site, additional strategies for fundraising, ways the request matches the values and goals included in the NLIDAC's strategic plan, inclusion of an information kiosk or some other tool for sharing details on town activities, construction timeline, and other aspects of the project.

ACTION: Bruce moved, seconded by Eric, to approve the funding request for \$15,000.00. **The advisory committee unanimously APPROVED the motion.** Mary recused herself from the vote, as Porchfront Homes is the contractor for the project.

3. Niwot Business Association: Honey Bee Festival - \$4,000.00

Eric presented the funding request on behalf of the NBA. The team that organized the inaugural Honey Bee Festival in 2021, led by Deb Fowler, will be organizing the event again in 2022. The event will be held on Sat., August 27, and will follow a format very similar to the 2021 event. Activities will be taking place at the Grange, with musicians placed around the district, and a horse and carriage to bring people between Old Town and Cottonwood Square. The funding request will cover approximately two-thirds of the expected event cost.

The committee discussed possibilities for the event to become more financially sustainable in the future, including pursuing grants or other funds from organizations that support pollinator health. The committee also discussed opportunities for ensuring the event is more environmentally sustainable and practicing the goals of the event itself, e.g. by not handing out disposable and plastic products such as balloons.

ACTION: Keith moved, seconded by Mary, to approve the funding request for \$4,000.00. **The advisory committee unanimously APPROVED the motion.**

New Business:

No new business items were discussed.

Old Business:

Mark updated the committee on the Murray Street Parking Lot, noting that Boulder County has signed off on the final inspection report, and the parking lot is now complete. Chuck Klueber and Mary are working through an issue with one of the two charging stations, as it is not working properly. The NBA is discussing the possibility of scheduling a “grand opening” event for the parking lot.

Eric updated the committee on the discussion from the June meeting regarding pop-up vendors and food trucks in the business district. He is working on developing a policy that can be considered by property owners. Eric mentioned that it would be helpful to understand what requirements, if any, are in place to regulate pop-up vendors and food trucks on public property.

Public Comment:

No members of the public spoke during public comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.