

ViNA Board of Directors
August 5, 2009

Present: Ann Kaari, Diane Spector, Kris Brogan, John Trombley, Matt Massman, Staff-Debbie Nelson

Absent:

The meeting was held at the ViNA office and was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Matt Massman. Two items were added to the agenda. The revised agenda and July 1, 2009 minutes were approved by consensus.

Financial Report - Ann briefly reviewed the budget and financial reports.

Committee Reports – *Debbie*: Handed out her monthly activity report.

Events: Upcoming events are the August movie and the Grand Rounds Bike Tour.

Livability: Had Lt. Sauro at the last meeting, very informative. Kris has drafted a letter regarding the relocated houses on Russell and the Committee recommends approval. **John made and Ann seconded a motion to prepare and send the letter. Motion carried.** Committee made a recommendation to expand the use of the \$2,500 in safety funds to cover school bike safety funds. Will require a plan modification changing language. Debbie will get the proper language to Kris who will present at the next Board meeting. Committee also agreed to supporting the 45 day waiver of notice of house acquisition for demolition. **Board decided not to take any action.**

Environment: 63 participants in the garden tour, raised \$51 in donations. Have a meeting scheduled on August 12 with City staff regarding the Ryan Lake Trail. At the Committee meeting on August 15 will kick off the Community Power grant. Are looking for two more worm wranglers.

Housing: None.

Sustainability: Committee visited several block clubs. Have established a Twitter account and a Facebook page. Still working on the welcome packet.

Business: Committee hasn't met. Are considering a grant request from Emily's for exterior improvements. Are working on a strategy to move 44th/Penn along.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Home Improvement Program – GMHC recommends that the maximum term should be greater than 7 years if the load maximum is \$25,000. **Diane made and Gary seconded a motion to accept all the materials recommendations listed under item 6e in the proposed loan guidelines except the trees. Motion carried. Ann abstained. Diane made and Gary seconded a motion to require that trees removed be replaced. Motion carried. John nay, Ann abstained. Kris made and Ann seconded a motion to accept the Ineligible Improvements in item 7. Motion carried. John made and Kris seconded a motion to reduce the proposed loan amount to \$15,000. Motion carried.**

It was agreed to revise language to read that all projects are encouraged to achieve MN GreenStar certification. Projects that do achieve MN GreenStar certification are eligible for registration cost and partial loan forgiveness as detailed under 6(c).

Diane made and Gary seconded a motion to require all projects including interior improvements must include blower door test and infra-red scan. Action was tabled until additional research could be done.

Ann made and John seconded a motion to delete the radon testing requirement. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Lights – The Board generally discussed the program design. Gary suggested that gift certificates to local businesses might be better than cash. Also, it would be good to limit the number of times a household can win. Business Committee will put together a prize package proposal.

Annual Meeting/Board Elections – September 23 is the annual meeting, need to have the annual report drafted by end of August. Each committee needs to submit a report, John will prepare the Housing Committee report.

August 26 Meeting – Ranked choice voting, hold a mock election

Victory Prairie/Dog Park – Debbie reported that the railroad is trying to take the prairie back with the intention to sell the property. The Park Board has opened the fence and is trying to publicize that the prairie is open. **John made and Kris seconded a motion to send a letter to the Park Board supporting the Prairie and also the use of the eastern part of it as a dog park, and that the park be as regulated as the others managed by the Park Board. Motion carried.**

CAN! Candidates Forum – Debbie reported that it has been suggested that CAN! host a 4th Ward candidate's forum, proposed for October 15. The Board agreed to pursue this, confirming the date, working with the League of Women Voters.

Brochure – Lissa provided a draft of the brochure.

Farmer's Market Intern – ViNA has received a grant of about \$1,000 from the city Health Department to hire a part time, temporary intern to connect with the senior residents in the area to make the farmers market more accessible, or to bring market boxes to them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Spector, Secretary
August 25, 2009