

MINUTES of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

Location: Emerson Community Meeting Room (Hybrid meeting)

Participation Details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

Date: Thursday, May 16 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

NUFAC members in attendance:

Julie Irish (President)

Kathaleen Brearley (Secretary)

Jay Werb (Treasurer)

Jack Neville

Paula Kelleher

Matt Lai

Guests

Betsy Hewitt: Winter St

AGENDA DETAILS

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

a. Approval of Minutes from April Meeting

Jack Neville motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April. Julie Irish seconded this motion. All members of the Area Council voted in favor of accepting the minutes as amended.

b. Treasurer's Report

II. PUBLIC COMMENT /QUESTIONS?

\$1100 was spent on Steps along the river but Jay Werb secured informal contributions from NUFAC, CDC and Northland and Friends of the Greenway.

The Treasurer addressed the issue of having to pay for a dedicated Zoom account for the Area Council after an unsuccessful query to the City on whether there were funds for this purpose.

Paula Kelleher motioned to spend \$250 to set up an official Zoom account for NUFAC and Julie Irish seconded this motion. All voted in favor to spend the money for this purpose.

Betsy Hewitt asked if NUFAC could formally request removal of poison ivy on the Greenway. Julie Irish researched some options for alleviating this problem throughout the City. Julie Irish agreed that it would be a good idea to formally request available options to prevent the poison ivy from taking over the Greenway. Paula Kelleher is part of a City registered walking group on the Greenway and thought this would be an important request to make formally. Betsy Hewitt also reported seeing a large standing water puddle on Northland's property and she agreed to send over a picture of it for documentation.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Braceland Park funding**

Ruth Balsler had earmarked 50K for a design plan for the Braceland field renovation. Jack Neville said he would check with Buzz Dunker of CPC (Community Preservation Committee) and let us know when there are any developments on this design.

b. **Hosting State Representative candidate debates** (3 candidates for Ruth Balsler's position and 2 candidates for Kay Khan's position). Councilors Humphrey, Lipoff and Schwartz are running for these State seats. Jay Werb proposed that there was enough interest in being involved in hosting these debates, and the Councilors present agreed and voted unanimously to inquire with interest.

Julie Irish proposed that NUFAC has expressed interest in being involved and Jay Werb asked that as

part of the inquiry that she find out whether they are asking for any financial contribution. Betsy Hewitt added that the Election is coming up quickly on September 3rd and therefore the debates should be scheduled for the end of July at the latest. Julie Irish will respond to Jennifer Bentley (Pres Newtonville Area Council) to communicate that we are interested and find out the specifics of what they need.

c. City Council Working Group – Community Conversations. Julie Irish explained that this working group of the city council led by Councilor John Oliver. Julie Irish will keep the others posted on any developments of this group.

d. Village Day planning & volunteers

Subcommittee for Village Day- Julie Irish, Kathaleen Brearley and Matt Lai agreed to help with the planning. Jay Werb confirmed that he will need some planning and promotional materials to present to potential donors/contributors.

e. Dog waste containers

Julie Irish did get a response from Derek Mahon regarding the request for 3 dog waste containers. Betsy Hewitt pointed out that there is a map on the City's website with the information about Dog Parks and licensing information through the Clerk's Office. Newton TV has a dumpster on their property which would be a good location for another dog waste container since there is currently only one down near the picnic tables at Neville Park.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. Pettee Square improvement ideas: All agreed that there should be more prominent artwork that identifies the historic nature of Upper Falls. Jack Neville agreed that the utility box put on the historic corner in front of the Depot was not on the designs shared with NUFAC and needs to be moved.

b. Northland Transportation Fund- Jay Werb proposed that he and Julie Irish will send this out by June 3 to NUFAC and Northland and he Friday June 14 and will send out by June 20th.

c. 2024 Ken Newcomb Book Award There were no applications/nominations as of May 16th

d. Eagle Scout project update- steps have been completed. When the Boy Scouts installed the steps they noted that apparently a beaver had gnawed on the lowest riverside step. The lower step was covered by sheet metal before significant damage occurred.

V. GENERAL UPPER FALLS NEWS

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT none

VII. ADJOURN The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided.

to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504

Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253.