

Logan Park General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 15th, 2020 7pm

Online Meeting via Zoom

7:00

- Introductions - attendees introduced themselves with their address to verify voting qualifications.
- Trevor Martinez from Schafer Richardson gave an update on the development on 14th. The building was delayed due to Covid but will start to see upward movement this month and will finish in October 2021.

7:15

- **LPNA support requested for Reclaim the Block pledge for City Council**
At the June General Meeting, a Logan Park resident asked that the Logan Park community support the efforts of Reclaim the Block regarding the 4 items listed below. Reclaim the Block is a local Advocacy Organization begun in 2018 that organizes around policies that strengthen community-led safety initiatives.

Reclaim the Block asks that the Minneapolis City Council commit to:

1. Never again vote to increase police funding or increase the police department's budget
2. Propose and vote for a \$45 million cut from the MPD's budget as the City responds to projected Covid-19 shortfalls.
3. Protect and expand current investment in community-led health and safety strategies, instead of investing in police.
4. Do everything in their power to compel MPD and all law enforcement agencies to immediately cease enacting violence on community members.

Community Comments:

Rick was concerned the person making the motion wasn't at this meeting. Rick has lived here over 30 years and believes Reclaim the Block to be pejorative. Rick cited a good experience with the police after a break-in and the police came to take a report.

Ashley is against endorsing Reclaim the Block because if the goal is to transform we need to have a different approach. Ashley says Reclaim the Block hasn't changed since 2018. We do need big changes, but they should be different changes. There should be a Black person talking about this.

Heidi feels this is reactionary and it doesn't feel inclusive. Heidi is opposed due to the process. Defunding the police is frightening and makes Heidi nervous.

Max is not a resident of Logan Park, but identifies as a Minneapolis resident. Max has a problem with Reclaim the Block and asks where the data is. Max thinks it's a good idea but you should start from square one by talking to people who it affects.

Nick would not vote for this, says other people are articulating it better. Nick is not sure what the solution is.

Gail thanks Ashley for the ideas of how this should be working and thinks this is jumping the gun.

Alex doesn't think the motion has to solve the problem but can move us closer to a better outcome, we can offer support for the sentiment. Alex doesn't think you need an armed response to take a report. A lot of money is spent on police and could be better spent on other services. In spirit, this resolution is positive, and in effect, it is a good petition.

Jonathan asks what this means if this is passed. Jonathan agrees with sentiment in general, and says if we defund the police, there will still be police but their scope would be narrowed. A month isn't enough time to think about this, seems rushed.

Larry has an issue with the process. Thinks this is a kneejerk response and that the proposal is incomplete. Larry doesn't believe they are telling the whole story, believes a foundation is being missed. Asks why police aren't involved in this conversation, doesn't think that one organization should speak for the entire community.

Lisa wanted to speak in support of the proposal. It may be a knee jerk reaction but it is important to keep context in mind, that this is symbolic, there is a lot of momentum, and would be nice to LPNA join the chorus of those calling for change. Lisa asks the group to consider the voices of those not in the call.

Heidsays on its face the proposal has one huge flaw, when you make a transformation you need more money, not less.

Maureen agrees with Lisa and Alex and thinks there is more to this than 4 bullet points. Reclaim the Block did interviews with Minneapolis residents. Maureen wants it to be more than symbolic, wants it to go further.

Cheryl maintains a great relationship with the 2nd precinct. Cheryl says that the people on the call could have learned about Reclaim the Block and the many other organizations doing this work over the years. Reclaim the Block has been trying to get people to listen and some people on the call are pretending like this is a new thing. We not think we need an armed officer to take a report.

Leslie has appreciated the process LPNA has used in the past and would appreciate more community listening time, could we table the vote longer?

Leslie makes a motion to table the vote. Heidi 2nds it.

Discussion ensues on tabling the vote.

Paula says to be fair we need someone from Reclaim the Block at this meeting. Is it

possible to have folks meet in the park and chat about this in August and reconvene as a group in September?

Alex doesn't support tabling the motion, we had a month to research, make calls, thinks it's fair to have a vote.

Gail suggests we have educational meetings in the park.

Lynn agrees with the educational point. Local government will need more funds for shelters and other services and the police department will need to be sensitive to the financial status of other departments, and maybe give up some funding.

Nick will vote no or to table it, but if we table it it will keep the issue alive.

Ashley is working on an initiative with Max but that it takes time. They are responding to issues in real life, tabling it will keep the issue alive.

Steve says the most important thing is that discussions continue to happen like this and would like to have people talk about the issues more broadly.

24 votes to not table it, 15 votes for tabling, motion fails.

Vote to support Reclaim the Block pledge, 26 vote no, 12 vote yes, motion fails.

Heidi wants ongoing discourse and volunteers to help organize multiple small discussion groups.

Ben makes a motion to pass the June general meeting minutes, Pat seconds, all vote in favor motions passes.

