



# South Uptown Neighborhood Association (SUNA) Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

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## Board Attendees

- ★ Jerome Chateau, Jenna Egan, Phil Qualy, Joel Chechik, Gretchen Sieger, Alex Bissen
- ★ Absent: Katy Briggs, Haakon Gisvold & Rachel Starcher

## Introductions/ Announcements, Jerome Chateau

- Welcome and introductions

## Approve Agenda & 4/18 Minutes, Jerome Chateau (Vote)

- Motion to approve 4/18/23 minutes
  - Approved
- Motion to approve 5/16/23 agenda
  - Approved

## Community Forum, Jerome Chateau (Discussion)

- South Uptown received a notice about a new restaurant at the NE corner of Girard & Lake - Rumba (Caribbean)
- Target is leaving despite >1200 community members giving feedback

## Bryant Square Park, Jason Green (Update)

- Flag football has begun with several teams
  - Twins glove giveaway at BSP 5/24 from 5-6Pm, 1600 gloves are being dropped off

- Concerts are booked and they start June 13
  - June 29 will be karaoke instead of a concert
  - SUNA will be distributing flyers in the neighborhood with the concert schedule
- Fall registration was open on May 1 for ages >=11
- Lots of one day, fun arts and crafts programming coming up for summer
- Pool will be open after Memorial Day
- Lots of safety concerns-
  - Jason is the chair of the safety committee for the Park Board recreation staff
  - Twice a week frequency with events of concern
  - Parks are still very safe (backed by numbers)
  - Goal remains to bring as many families to the park as possible, and this is important to maintain safety
- BSP hosts kids through the Step Up program
  - The Park Board does a great job of supporting youth through jobs

## 5th Precinct Crime Report (Discussion)

- Inspector Katie Blackwell was unable to join to provide an update about crime in the area, so Sergeant McGee provided an update on her behalf.
- There is currently a huge issue with juvenile crime, which is widespread throughout the city and metro.
- Hennepin County is struggling to prosecute juveniles who end up repeating their crimes.
  - Kia and Hyundai – are experiencing car thefts
    - Became popular through TikTok and Instagram videos, and is a nationwide issue (Milwaukee, Chicago and Minneapolis)
    - The Kia Boys are mostly juveniles (11-15 yo)
  - Individuals who own a Kia and/or Hyundai can pick up free steering wheel lock (the Club)
- 11 auto thefts; 7 thefts from vehicles last month in South Uptown
  - 85% of thefts from auto have possessions in plain view
- Chasing cars -
  - Tough to find a balance between pursuing the culprits and putting the community in danger
- Concern from a community member about 2 SUVs with kids with masks terrorizing the neighborhood
  - Encourage people to call the police. The police are short staffed but the sergeant is giving overtime to help.
- The Violence Interrupters can be requested, and they go where the need is most needed.
  - Operation endeavor is a new initiative announced by the Police Chief to address crime this summer in collaboration with Hennepin County, and MN.

- Colfax and Dupont - 5 car windows smashed Sunday in broad daylight
  - Why aren't there more officers on bikes in the neighborhood? Is it possible?
  - Priority is 911 calls; Police are not doing anything proactive
  - 5th precinct used to have 20 cops on roll call and now it is 5-6
- REPORT CRIME!!
  - The more calls the more allocation of resources.

## South Uptown Committees, All (Update)

### Development Committee

- The next meeting is May 22 and the group will discuss progress on soliciting concert sponsors.

### Livability and Engagement

- The committee is sponsoring a Personal Safety Workshop on May 20 in collaboration with East B'de Maka Ska Neighborhood Association.
- The Garden Tour is coming up on June 24 & 26.

### Land Use & Transportation Committee

- Earlier this month, Graves Hospitality sent an email stating that they were unwilling to engage further about the noise coming from the Moxy Hotel HVAC. Katy Briggs sent a response recently expressing disappointment with their decision and a request to reconsider.

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI),

- Rachel met with a representative from Allied Folk to discuss consulting related to a future renter focus group and a draft contract was available. South Uptown had budgeted \$1,500 for this item, but the contract was \$2,200 exceeding that amount.
- Motion, seconded to approve a contract with Allied Folk at an amount not to exceed \$1,500. Approved.

## Treasurer's Report, Joel Checkik

### Bank Accounts & Financial Report (Update)

- Activity
  - Net revenue = \$4,572
- Financial position
  - Total assets = \$64,424
- Budget v. Actual
  - Total revenue = -\$2,513.87

### Emerald Ash borer Treatment Contract w/ Vineland Tree Care (Vote)

- SUNA received an estimate from Vineland Tree Care to inoculate seven trees at Bryant Square Park from the Emerald Ash Borer.
- South Uptown has contracted with tree care companies every other year over the last decade to protect large ash trees within the park.
- The Livability Committee is recommending moving forward with the inoculations later this spring ensuring the trees remain for at least the next few years.
- There was discussion about seeking another bid for the EAB inoculations, and Engel will look into other tree care companies.
- Motion to approve
  - Approved

### South Uptown Home Loan Program (Update)

- South Uptown continues to offer a low interest (1.9%) home improvement loan program administered by the Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) using Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. Loans are available to make a wide range of exterior improvements for all types of properties from 1- 10 dwelling units.
- Participation in the program has increased recently as interest rates rise and the size of the loans are getting larger. This means that the loan pool is getting smaller and is expected to drop from around \$120k to \$20k in the coming months. The SUNA Board will need to decide whether to reallocate funding to replenish the pool or whether to phase out the loan program later this year.
- The program is “revolving” with loan payments coming back as program income. In 2022 South Uptown reallocated \$187k of program income to fund administrative costs for the organization over the next 3-5 years because the City has significantly cut support to neighborhood associations. Program income from the loans could be used to fund more loans, be reallocated to admin, directed to specific programming or a combination.

### Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn at 8:30PM.
  - Approved

## Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events

- Bryant Square Park Concert Series Kick Off: Tuesday, June 13, 6:30PM at BSP
- South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 7PM at 3501 Aldrich Ave S./ Zoom
- Development Committee: Monday, May 22, 6PM via Zoom
- Land Use & Transportation Committee: Wednesday, June 7, 7PM at 3501 Aldrich Ave S./ Zoom
- Livability & Engagement: Wednesday, June 14, 6:30PM 3501 Aldrich Ave S.