

# Fernwood Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

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**November 8, 2023, 6pm @ Right Brain Brewery**

We were happy to welcome a total of 17 folks to the table! A testament to the success of the social event on 10/26.

Greg Wolffe led the group in Sam's absence.

**NOTE:** Hearing and understanding one another was challenging due to the noise of the pub. The decision was made to **change the regular meeting day to the second Monday of the month at 6pm** allowing us to use the back room of Right Brain at no charge.

Introductions followed, during which some new ideas arose and older recommendations were reinforced.

## **Communications**

Monica Hackney was introduced as our new webmaster; Lisa Thornton will assist with communications by creating a Facebook group. Monica will also create a graphic to email out a call for logo design submissions.

The suggestion was made to make information more inclusive as not all are on Facebook. We'll need some ideas on how to make this happen.

## **Core Values**

A recommendation was made to create a set of core values for the association. The following ideas were proposed:

- Connection/community
- Investment in people
- 14th Street planning & development
- Neighbor engagement & outreach: including lost and found animals, neighbors in need

(Some development is needed as there is some overlap.)

Along with core values, a marketing "tagline" needs development.

## **Association Structure**

Legal structure as a 501C3 seems logical. Becky will approach Sam to assist.

Bylaws are necessary, but don't need to be complicated, per city commissioner Mitch Treadwell. We have examples of bylaws of other associations and need a volunteer to draft ours.

Officers- traditional positions include: chair, co-chair, secretary, treasurer.  
Volunteers/nominations needed for each.

### **Committees**

Discussion ensued about the following committee options:

- **Communications**- web & social media (Monica & Lisa)
- **Fun**- Greg Wolffe, chair
- **History**- Greg Walter, chair
- **Policy/City Engagement**
- **Neighbor Engagement & Outreach** (those in need, the elderly, new to the area, etc)
- **Neighborhood Resources** (handyperson services, plowing, yard services, etc)

Committee chairs and members needed. More discussion in December.

### **Next Social Event**

A block party will be planned for spring 2024.

Throughout the winter, a social gathering will follow the monthly meetings beginning approximately 7pm. Folks are invited to either one or both options.

### **NEXT MEETING, MONDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 6PM, RIGHT BRAIN BACKROOM**

#### **Action Items:**

- Becky to type notes & send with calendar invite for December meeting/social time
- Monica to work on website and graphic call for logo submissions
- Lisa to create Facebook group
- Becky to meet with Sam re: 501C3 formation
- Revisit action items from October's meeting in December

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### **October 11, 2023, 6pm @ Right Brain Brewery**

There was one new attendee and five returning members.

After introductions, Greg handed out flyers for the October 26 gathering at Right Brain. The group discussed the following plan for distribution:

- Chelsea will distribute on 14th west of Cass, north/south on Union and Pine
- Beth will distribute on 14th east of Cass and include homes on Lake Ridge Dr
- Mitch & Gretchen will distribute on the entire lengths of 15th and 16th
- Greg will distribute on Arnold Ct. and 17th
- Camille will distribute on Boughey, Fairlane, and 19th

If anyone has extra flyers, needs more, or needs help finishing their distribution goal, they can email the group to help re-allocate.

### **Plans for October 26 Event @ Right Brain, 6-8pm:**

Rough agenda:

- 6-6:30, arrive and mingle, name tags provided by Chelsea
- 6:30-6:45, remarks from Sam and Becky
  - Goals of organizing
  - History of the name Fernwood
  - Encourage individuals to attend November 8 meeting - see [website](#) for information on meetings and how to get involved
- 6:45-8:00, mingle/meet the neighbors/recruit more members

### **Discussion on formally establishing the association:**

The group collectively decided to pause voting on boundaries and determining bylaws until the November 8 meeting. This will provide the opportunity to inform a broader audience and give others a chance to participate in the decision-making process. The goal will be to have boundaries, bylaws, and governance structure determined by the end of 2023 and request acknowledgment by the City Commission at the first meeting of 2024.

November or December's meeting will include a discussion of meeting frequency. Most other associations meet quarterly; might offer the opportunity for more to attend and commit to a leadership role.

### **Action items/next steps:**

- Type up notes and distribute to group - Chelsea
- Create association gmail account, share with Greg to put on website - Chelsea
- Send November calendar appointment - Becky
- Distribute flyers - see details above
- Talk to Right Brain about "reserving" a small section for the 26th - Greg

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### **September 13, 2023, 6pm @ Right Brain Brewery**

There were five new folks in attendance, and four "repeaters".

After introductions, conversation began regarding association boundaries; the city map provided by Sean was referenced.

### **What's our name going to be?**

- The area is platted as Fernwood; let's stick with that and focus on a fabulous logo

**Discussion points regarding association boundaries included:**

- North/south from 14th Street to the city limits; east/west from Boardman Lake to either Veterans Drive or Division
  - Thoughts about including possible business partners were poignant
    - Perhaps connect with the businesses to see if they align and are interested?
  - Ideas were tossed about possibly absorbing/partnering the HOA on the lake.
  - The possibility of no participation from renters on the west side of Veterans was mentioned.
- Ultimately the group decided that starting smaller was best; east/west will be Boardman Lake to the east side of Veterans Drive.

**Brief discussion about “official” organizing-** what kind of organization do we want to be? Sam to research other TC neighborhood associations.

**Discussion regarding “junk yards” and folks accumulating “stuff”** in alleys and yards along 14th, 15th & 16th

- The city has been contacted a few times re a particular yard on 15th with no enforcement of local ordinance.
- Is there power in numbers? Create an association letterhead and have all sign? Send numerous emails? Does the squeaky wheel get the grease?
- As neighbors, ought we approach one another with compassion and a list of possible resources?
- No group resolution- to reconsider at another time

**Discussion regarding possible block party/neighborhood gathering**

- It's getting a little late in the year to plan outdoors- perhaps inside Right Brain?
- Greg volunteered to organize; will reach out for assistance- Matt has some ideas!
- End of October/Halloween time got a big thumbs up

**How do we get the word out** about the budding neighborhood association AND the gathering?

- A resounding “NO” to the NextDoor app
- Facebook group?
- OG flyers- Greg will design

**Action items:**

- Compile notes, add folks to calendar invite- Becky
- Research bylaws of other associations in TC- Sam
- Draw proposed boundaries- Camille

**Next steps/next meeting (Wednesday Oct 11, 6pm @ Right Brain):**

- Discuss organizational design, bylaws
- Support for gathering the end of October

The meeting broke & socializing commenced at ~7:15pm

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## **August 8, 2023, 6pm @ The Whiskey Co.**

Folks were convened by Sam LaSusa with the intention of starting a conversation regarding a neighborhood association in the 14th Street/Cass corridor. Ten neighbors were in attendance.

[Contact information was collected.](#)

### **Questions asked:**

- What do we want?
  - See “why’s” below
- What’s the advantage of a neighborhood association?
  - From the city’s viewpoint, they are a source of information and opinion
- What’s the structure of a neighborhood association and how do we create it?
  - If we want to collect dues to pay for things, then we should create a non-profit
- What are the physical boundaries?
  - We can decide
- What should our name be?
  - SOFO?
  - Originally platted as “Fernwood”

### **Other relevant details:**

- The Fourteenth Street corridor is included on the city’s master plan
  - This includes Glenn Loomis and Thirby Stadium and the dirt field just south

### **Why a create a neighborhood association?**

- Collaboration
- Community/belonging/connection
- Advocate for sidewalks, crosswalks
- Social interaction
- Clean up some of the “messes”, ie dirt field near stadium; parking issues esp during football season
- Have a collective voice
- City commission wants to hear more voices, to know what’s happening here

### **Next steps:**

- The decision was made to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is **Sept 13 at 6pm @ Right Brain Brewery**
- Define neighborhood boundaries
- Organize block party

- Shawn will send neighborhood info from the city