



EAST MT. AIRY NEIGHBORS

EMAN Board Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021 Hosted via Zoom Meetings

Attendees: Janet Amato, John Autin, Charlie Baltimore, Althea Banks, Linda Bell Michael Burrell, Krystal Marie Caraballo, Tonyelle Cook-Artis, Kristin Crandall, Brian Cullin, Nina Curlet Elizabeth Dalianis, Sam Duplessis, Michael Galvan, Kendra Gudgeon, Jeffrey Hayes, Effie Heimann, Dutch Klugmann, Renee Mills, Kelly O'Day, Teri Ranieri, Jimmie Reed, Brandon Ritter, Margaret Salamon, Susannah Stayter, Tiffany Thurman, Barbara Twiggs, Vearnessa Whigham

Absent: Cherese Akers, Solomon Silber, Amy Tanner

Excused:

Community attendance: C. Gladstone, C. Bell, A. Banks, Senator Art Haywood

General Session

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Tonyelle began by welcoming everybody and wishing everyone a happy new year.

Ice Breaker:

Tonyelle began the meeting with an ice breaker, asking individuals this time for their favorite hobby.

Brian indicated that running was his favorite hobby, while Teri stated her favorite hobby was walks in the Wissahickon. Krystal's favorite hobby is traveling and experiencing new sights and sounds.

Minutes:

Brian made a motion to accept December's minutes, with Krystal seconding the motion.

Before minutes were approved, Christopher asked if minutes from prior meetings were available to the public. Natalia noted that all meeting minutes were available online (link: <https://www.eastmountairy.org/event/eman-board-meeting-1-21>)

On the vote, ayes carried and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Dutch began his Treasurer's report noting that EMAN ran a \$15,000 deficit last year, with income down 50% from 2019 to 2020. Also worth noting is that EMAN usually receives a dividend from the Eagles Worker's Compensation Fund (EWCF) in the last week of December. This payment is running behind this year because of COVID.

Additionally, there's an understanding that the dividend will be dropping from \$17,000 to \$9,000 this year.

Tonyelle and Dutch both brought up good news - EMAN will have the Wells Fargo 2025 grant restored this year. The Board recognized the great work from co-chairs Brandon and Kristin.

Brian wanted to know that when EMAN runs a deficit, where do the funds come from? Do they get pulled from the Rainy Day Fund? Dutch noted that in this case, he's using leftover funds from the 2025 grant that went unspent last year.

Renee then made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, with Brian seconding the motion.

The ayes carried - the Treasurer's report was accepted for audit.

Fiscal year 2021 Budget Proposal (see attached slides):

Next, John presented a proposed budget for FY21 for EMAN. The goal was to approve guidelines and goals for Board to reach in 2021. He mentioned that the numbers were used as an estimate of income and expenses and could adjust. John also recommended a quarterly review of income and expenses.

John noted that tonight, the Board would not be presented with a balanced budget, given COVID impacts on organizations. The projected income for FY21 was \$55,950, with projected expenses at \$68,795, leaving EMAN with a projected deficit of \$12,845. This deficit could likely be cut in half with various cost-saving measures.

Brian had a series of questions regarding expenses, including the \$1,000 email line item for committee chairs, \$1,000 expense for phone, and rent for an office. Specifically, with rent and phone, Brian was interested in seeing if there were alternative options available (ie: using a PO Box and having the ED work from home).

Tonyelle noted that Natalia is likely leaving for maternity leave in the fall, she wants to keep options open for a separate phone line, just in case. Jimmie also noted the need for Natalia to have an "off" space, and also the need for access to the separate board room. Additionally, Jimmie mentioned the community specifically requested EMAN have an office presence on the Avenue.

Charlie echoed a question from Brian and asked if it was possible to use office space in a church or library? There was an initial concern that we may be paying \$3,000 a month in rent. This was clarified that EMAN is paying \$3,000 a year, not per month, for rent.

John used this opportunity to note that if we approved the proposed budget, we could always return quarterly to evaluate expenses and needs throughout the year. Jimmie agreed with John that we should meet quarterly and be able to make decisions as they arise.

Tonyelle concluded the conversation by noting that all nonprofits are readjusting right now with budgets. EMAN can revisit this conversation in a couple of months to see if we're getting back into a sense of normalcy. Tonyelle stated that the goal is to have a budget that still allows us to give back to the community.

Linda then made a motion to accept the 2021 budget with the intention of revisiting it quarterly. Renee seconded the motion. The ayes carried and the FY21 budget was accepted.

Senator Haywood Presentation:

Senator Haywood then joined EMAN to give a presentation about his work for the District. He began by noting the effort to ensure Senator Brewster was seated in the General Assembly. Additionally he mentioned his efforts to renew the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Standards for solar and wind energy in PA, mentioning the legislation is job creating. Further, Sen. Haywood is working on an initiative to create retirement savings plans for future retirees. Currently in PA, there are over 2 million people working in a place that doesn't offer a retirement plan. The solution is to offer a plan similar to the 529 plan for college savings, where there's an automatic payroll deduction, with the state managing funds to save on administrative fees.

Next, Sen. Haywood discussed the effort to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This does not have bipartisan support, despite 75% of PA residents supporting a raise in the minimum wage. There will be an upcoming public hearing to raise awareness of the issue in partnership with 40 organizations across the Commonwealth.

On January 30th, Sen. Haywood will be hosting a mentoring event.

For more information about any of the projects, visit senatorhaywood.com!

Public Safety and Placemaking:

Next, Kristin provided an update on the work of the Safety and Placemaking committee. In the fall, EMAN had 8 individuals pilot the block safety survey. The committee will need around 30 volunteers the weekends of March 20th and 27th to finish the last parts of the block survey. Kristin noted that they will be calling out to the broader community and also the EMAN Board for volunteer support. Additionally, there's a need for more board members to join the committee as a whole. Please reach out to Kristin by January 22nd to indicate your interest in helping.

Tonyelle then requested Natalia compile a list of individuals indicating volunteer interest in the chat to be sent to Brandon and Kristin.

President's Report:

Tonyelle began her President's report by mentioning that she's been having conversations with WMAN about ways we can continue to work together.

Finally, Tonyelle issued a reminder that if you're unable to make a board meeting, please let Natalia and Tonyelle know if you're unable to make it. There were 2 board members who had to be terminated because of unexcused absences recently.

Executive Director's Report:

Natalia's ED report began with a reminder that there will be a senior safety event on the 21st of January. We need all to please sign-up and share to ensure we hit 50 registrations.

Natalia is also working on a grant for free yard tree distributions through Tree Philly.

For the WMAN partnership with Anuj Gupta's Breaking Bread initiative, there will be 90 individuals chosen through an application process. Kathryn from WMAN and Natalia have been establishing an application and budget. Natalia will share the application with the Board before it's finalized, likely the week of January 15th.

Additionally, Natalia brought up that we made \$293 for the tree recycling event with WMAN after all expenses were paid (\$300 for tree shredding company).

Tiffany requested that the Aging in Place info be posted in Slack. Tonyelle said there should be a weekly plug on social media and in newspapers to reach our seniors. Tonyelle also wanted to know how else we're doing outreach to seniors? Natalia has sent this information to the Mt. Airy Local, and the Marketing Committee is continuing to consider how we do outreach to seniors.

Grants:

Margaret's brief update was used to thank individuals for participating in the Grant Survey and a reminder that the next meeting of the Grants Committee is Jan. 28th at 7:30 PM.

Additional Comments:

Tiffany issued a reminder to committee chairs that they need to review December's minutes. She further mentioned that somebody from the Anti-Racism Committee should be reaching out individual committee chairs to discuss implementation of recommendations.

Susannah wanted to know if there would be strategic planning as part of the retreat? Or is there a strategic plan for the board? The organization has some big decisions to make and having a set of priorities and strategic goals would make it easier to funnel and decide on where to use our limited resources. Tonyelle responded that the Board did have a retreat back in January of 2019 to begin the groundwork for strategic planning and the upcoming retreat would include strategic planning.

Kendra issued a statement to new Board members that they should be hearing from either her or Brandon about their experience so far, and to hear other thoughts they may have.

Linda brought up the discussion of Liability Insurance again and asked where we were in the process of executing this? Natalia mentioned that there was some confusion on the necessity of Liability Insurance, and that she had reached out to the Crosstown Coalition to get more clarity. Natalia does have quotes, but wants to be conscious of the budget. Linda noted that the Board has already deemed this a necessity and that we should not wait further, especially for those individuals on the Zoning Committee that are not currently Board members. Tonyelle requested the quotes be sent to the Executive Committee for further review.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM