

NORTH TEUTONIA AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Sept 30, 2020 @4:30 pm on Zoom.

Attendees: Danielle Wehr, Shelia Ngyen, Mary Lopez, Michelle Allison, N. Lynnette McNeely

The meeting began at 4:45p.m. with introductions of the attendees. The meeting concluded at 5:34p.m.

McNeely led the discussion on the following issues:

- The prospect of establishing a Business Improvement District on North Teutonia avenue from Locust Street (south) to Atkinson Ave (north). Wehr, Nguyen and Lopez agreed that a BID would be beneficial to the area.
- The process for establishing a bid and the need to have an existing “business association” prior to working towards the bid. Nguyen had a question about where the finances would come from.
- To start, the business owners should begin to report city owned property that is causing a nuisance. This will help to clean up the area after the road construction completes. Wehr expressed a fear of retaliation for complaining about neighbors and the city owned property. McNeely suggested that complaints could come from the Business Association instead of individual property owners.

Updates were provided to the group on the following:

- Lead service lines can be replaced in the area. The timeline is very short, but contact with Karen Dettmer with DPS could potentially get your property on the list. McNeely provided information on the properties in the area that have been identified as having lead service lines.
- Façade grants are available. McNeely expressed frustration with the process and working with the city. Allison said that she knows people who received the grant and suggested that we learn from them. Allison also explained that Catfish Lounge opted against receiving the façade grand because the process was too complicated for the owner. Nguyen and Wehr expressed interest in receiving the grant.
- Milwaukee Restart program – starts Oct. 1st through Oct. 8th. Details on the program were provided to the attendees. No comment from the attendees.

Wehr, Nguyen, Lopez and Allison agreed that there needs to be a business association in the area, but wanted to see more business owners involved, first.

Issues and concerns brought up during the meeting:

- Getting more participation: Allison suggested that using ZOOM may not be the best approach to get the local business owners onboard. Many business owners are older and not used to all of the technology. Allison suggested that we engage a smaller group of business one-on-one with flyers and socially distant meetings to begin organizing the businesses.
- Contact with the City: Nguyen would like to have a representative from the City to explain the (1) white boxing, and (2) façade grant opportunities within the district.
- Engagement with Alderman: Wehr expressed a desire to have the alderman involved with our group from the beginning so that our intentions have some weight.

Next meeting: Oct. 15, 2020 @ 4:30 ON ZOOM. [MAY BE RESCHEDULED]