**LDA Meeting Minutes**

**April 17, 2023**

**Meeting Via Zoom**

Board Members Attending: Jonathan Evans, Lorie Mata, Dorothy Okamoto, Vincent Phua, and Joanne Wong-Lam Board Members Absent: Toshia Thompson, Jain Williams, Zinzi Zareef

Executive Director: Daniel Swafford

**Call to Order**: Treasurer Dorothy Okamoto

Welcome and Introductions

Review of Agenda

Approve March Minutes: Motion made to approve by Joanne; seconded by Dorothy, all in favor.

1. **D4 Councilmember Janani Ramachandram** and Constituent Liaison Iris Merriouns

* Pothole blitz – report potholes 311
* Public Safety Meeting – with OPD, CPRA, etc., well attended with ‘eyes on public safety’ safety ambassador program.
* Ramping up Budget Town Halls – priorities noted including public safety, traffic calming, and getting projects moving through DOT and public works.
* Eviction Moratorium ramp down – In past, issue has usually only addressed tenants but not small property owners. Tomorrow’s discussion is on ‘just cause’ eviction.
* Food Truck discussion to clarify ordinance—Is it allowed, blocking traffic (i.e. exiting out of Planet Fitness), etc.?

2. **LDA Business**:

* Ambassador 1) Stop Waste - Foodware Grant – making product to serve restaurants, in consult with Michelle at Communite Table.
* Ambassador Funding Grant – No update – Daniel brought it up to Nicki Bass and will bring it to Mayor Sheng Thao’s attention.
* CIP – SLOW Laurel traffic – Brought it up with Joni and her staff. No scoring yet with DOT. Important as recently, there was a pedestrian fatality on 35th and Mac due to jaywalking and speeding car.
* Trash cans – Down to the last three cans.
* BID Renewal – Renewal starts early 2025, to be in effect 2026. Can consider: 1) longer period so can borrow money to do capital improvement projects and matching grants; 2) rate increase up to 5%; 3) Boundary change – enlarge and differentiate tiers of service levels. Next: Choose consultant and outreach to owners.
* LPR Camera installed at 35th on LaFranchi’s.
* Pedestrian Lighting – Received grant for $4,700 from City. Add lights along sidewalk, string between overhead poles and trees. Both decorative and safety purposes. Daniel to work with lighting contractor and will also see if other owners/businesses are interested on their buildings.

**3.Laurel Security**

* Maybelle – New RV – will relay to Ofc. Johnson.
* Prostitution behind Manos Building seems currently resolved.
* Annette of Berkeley Driving School, appreciative of LDA support – letter submitted to judge about Justin Martin who is in jail.

4**. Events and Promotions:**

* ‘Live in the Laurel 2023’ Last Saturdays with kickoff in May. Will have marketing to promote May 19th.
* Marketing: Merchant Profiles: Family owned and operated businesses in April and AAPI businesses in May.

**5.Business Attraction and Land Use Updates**

* Homestead Apothacary – hopeful of some tenant activity with paper on windows.

**6. Open forum**

Next meeting Monday, May 15, 2023, 6-8 PM via Zoom