**LDA Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2023**

**Meeting Via Zoom**

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

Board Member Absent: Toshia Thompson

Guests: Alysia Gritz of Marquardt Property Management and Martinique Petty of Compound Strength and Conditioning

Executive Director: Daniel Swafford

**Call to Order**: Treasurer Jain Williams

Welcome and Introductions

Review of Agenda

Approve April Minutes: Motion made to approve by Jain; seconded by Vincent, all in favor.

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

* Town Hall on 5/17/23 with Zoom option – Budget discussion. Daniel to attend, open to others. Re-iterate LDA priority of permit streamlining and processing.’ Finance Director will be there.
* Safety – high priority, including retail theft and auto burglaries/break-ins. Legislation with OPD to deal with sideshows – will go after organizers to deter.
* Justin Johnston is the new City Administrator, formerly from Atlanta.

2. **LDA Business:**

* Board Election **– Formation of Nominations Committee – ACTION** –
* Committee Nominees: Jain, Joanne, and Alysia
* Motion to approve Nominations Committee Nominees – Dorothy; Jonathan seconds motion, all in favor.
* Board members: 1) Alysia will nominate self to Board; 2) Zinzi is renewing term on Board; 3) Jonathan stepping off Board – expression of thanks for his creative energy and deep commitment to community on the Board and in the Laurel Community.
* LDA is taking applications and will review/approve ballot in June.
* Ambassador – Bringing on new team member for Foodware. Seeking funds through City to get security and support services.
* CIP MacArthur – still watching budget process
* Trash cans – Three remaining to be installed with two extra cans.
* **BID Assessment Increase – ACTION**: Jain makes a motion for 5% increase in BID for 2023-24 assessment cycle, Lori Seconds motion. All in favor. Daniel to keep us updated on which property tax increase will appear.
* BID Renewal 2025 – BID Renewal Committee: Jain, Joanne, Dorothy, and Alysia. Near future need to choose consultant, either New City America or other recommendations with outreach to owners starting sooner to highlight LDA benefits.
* LPR Camera installed at 35th on LaFranchi’s – camera to be operational next week.
* Pedestrian Lighting – Reviewed proposed locations and to test area where Cornerstone mural got tagged.

**3.Laurel Security**

* RV’s and abandoned vehicle on Maybelle – Blue RV moves back and forth so can’t tag to move. Daniel and Alysia to report stolen car abandoned on Maybelle and Masterson – DOT is managing abandoned vehicles now.

4**. Events and Promotions:**

* ‘Live in the Laurel 2023’ Last Saturdays with kickoff in May 19th, 5-7 PM at Vetiver.
* Marketing: Merchant Profiles: AAPI businesses in May.
* 22nd Annual Laurel Street Fair – Saturday, August 12th, 11 AM – 7 PM.

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

* Homestead Apothecary - Daniel made contact with owner Harlan Woo and will give options to re-tenant.
* Activate former African Braids spot with a possible wine shop. Cornerstone is the owner.

**6. Open forum: June meeting moved to June 26th in honor of Juneteenth.**

Next meeting Monday, June 26, 2023, 6-8 PM via Zoom