



LEWELLING NDA MINUTES

January 10, 2024

Hybrid Meeting at Kairos Church of Christ and via Zoom

Attending: Chair Camden McKone; Vice-Chair Stephan Lashbrook; Secretary Lisa Lashbrook; Treasurer Howie Oakes; Dave Stratton; Tony Campos; Ellen Campos; Virginia Seitz; Don Seitz; Maitri Dirmeyer; Mary Barteaux; Laura Pitzel (and her daughter)

Guests: Police Chief Luke Strait; MHS mom Jamie

Camden opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were completed. Tony moved, Virginia seconded, to accept the December minutes without correction. Motion passed without dissent.

Chief Strait spoke at some length about the recent situation where a young man died while being transported from Providence Milwaukie hospital to Unity Behavioral Health. Doctors at the hospital had determined that Mr. Deschamps was medically stable, shortly before he died. The two Milwaukie officers did their best to revive him with CPR, but he clearly did need further medical attention that police officers are not able to provide. The Chief also said that it was somewhat unusual for police to use their body-cameras while in a hospital because of privacy concerns. However, in this case, it showed that Milwaukie's officers did everything they could do. After investigation, the Multnomah County District Attorney determined that no criminal charges will be filed.

The Chief described a crackdown on drunk drivers completed on New Years Eve, saying that Milwaukie PD officers had joined police from multiple jurisdictions in Lake Oswego, leading to more than 100 DUI arrests.

Chief Strait spoke briefly about Milwaukie's recent recruitments and the new officers on patrol. Lisa said that she and Stephan were eating dinner at the Thai restaurant at Freeman Road and Highway 224 recently, when the fatal car crash happened there. She stressed that the response times by Milwaukie PD



and the Fire District were incredibly quick. The Chief responded by pointing out that having a small, but well-staffed, dispatch center (serving only Milwaukie, Lake Oswego and West Linn) was one reason for rapid emergency responses.

Jamie presented the grant request to help fund the annual graduation party for students of Milwaukie High School and Milwaukie Academy of the Arts (MAA). The request is for any amount between \$500 and \$1500. She said that she understood that the request would be considered at the February meeting. Given that Lewelling has a long history of supporting these applications, there were no questions for Jamie.

Stephan reported that PSAC had not met in November or December. The next PSAC meeting will be in late January.

Howie reported that the NDA checking account now has \$6,346, which should put the NDA in a good position to fund our summer concerts. Camden reported that his recent grant request to the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition had been approved and an additional \$1,000 will be available for concerts. Lisa thanked Camden for taking that on and suggested that we thank Greg Hemer for making us aware of that opportunity.

In Nick's absence, Stephan reported that Philip is continuing to recover from recent open-heart surgery, but he is finding it to be a long process. Stephan said that the City had still not received an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) from the County for additional transportation improvements on the east side of the Lewelling Neighborhood. Also, ODOT has delayed the release of the grant request for Safe Routes projects, but it is now expected to be released in February, with a deadline at the end of March. Stephan added that Nick has already prepared a draft application and we will have no trouble meeting the State's deadline to apply. The City Council authorized the application and approved a letter of support at their January 2nd meeting.



Howie reported on the funds raised at the annual Winter Solstice event, held on December 16 (see attached financial summary). By past standards, it was a very successful event. Lisa suggested that “thank you” letters or cards should go to the vendors who donated things (Great American Video & Espresso, Starbucks, Laughing Planet), and also to the National Honor Society volunteers . Stephan made a point of thanking Mary for her cookie donation, given that all of the cookies were sold. Stephan recommended that we tally the total number of volunteers and volunteer hours to notify council.

Camden let everyone know that Councilor Nicodemus had resigned, so the City Council will soon be appointing a replacement.

Lisa reported that three Milwaukie parks (Balfour, Bowman-Brae and Scott) are finally about to be improved. A groundbreaking event will be held at Balfour Park, date to be determined. Ellen reported on the recycling station at Milwaukie Floral, operated by the local Environmental Stewards every Tuesday. It has now been in operation for a year. Maitri reviewed the various public involvement opportunities listed in Jason Wachs' recent Friday memo from City Hall.

Camden and Stephan talked about the fact that Clackamas County has given the school district 180 days to vacate the premises of the Wichita Center. It is doubtful that the school district has the funds available in the current budget to buy the property back from the County. Much discussion followed about the importance of the multiple public services being provided there.

Stephan moved, Howie seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Camden adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The next regular NDA meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024, at Kairos United Church of Christ.