

**Blackstone Neighborhood Association**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**February 16, 2021 6:30 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**Members Present: 19**

Rhonda Stuberg, president, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. *Thanks to Jim Farho for coordinating the Zoom call.*

**Financial Report & Minutes:** Stuberg stated that the group would review the financials and the minutes at the next meeting.

**Nominating**: Nominating work has begun for the upcoming vote on Association leadership. Members were asked to consider a leadership position. Positions open include: Secretary, Publicity, Beautification, Preservation.

**Blackstone Business Improvement District:** Matthew Oberst, Manager, BBA reported with Jim Farho, President, BBA. The group has added some new board members, Elaine Tucker. And renewing Jay Lund for another term. Farho reported that the BBA budget is about $100,000.00. It focuses on security and marketing, which includes banners and newsletter. The group offered newsletter space for BNA. A mural was installed at Harney & 37th Streets. A ride share parking stall may be slated for 38th Avenue & Harney Streets – allowing for drop off and pick up of guests to the business area. The TukTuk service will resume as the weather improves.

**Midtown Neighborhood Alliance:** Catherine Fogarty reported on MNA. MNA is asking how it may help with area Business Districts. Diana Failla, president, MNA, is seeking to help with public art projects. The group is also working on neighborhood beautification projects, as well.

**Development Project at 40th & Harney Streets**: Ryan Miller of JAT Ventures addressed the group about its upcoming restaurant project. JAT Ventures owns the Dundee Dell and Bärchen in Benson, and more. The new building would have a restaurant (160+ seats), an event space (300 seats), a rooftop terrace and a beer garden.

The restaurant will be located on the corner, the west side. JAT will run the restaurant. Andrew Wilson will be the manager and will turn his attention to this project after he opens the Dundee Dell. The menu has not yet been finalized. The event space will be managed by Abraham Catering, which manages the Pella, just to the West. There is no parking. And no parking agreement with area lots. Abraham Catering does have some agreements with UNMC and their Pella lot. The developers are looking to include a Lyft/Uber parking stall.

The cost of the project is expected at $3.5 Million. The building project is expected to begin April. The lots have been cleared. It will take a year to build.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

**Next General Membership Meetings (zoom):** Tuesday, April 27; 6:30pm. Brian Spencer, UNMC, is expected as guest speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A Maser

Secretary, Blackstone Neighborhood Association