

Minutes of the March 13th, 2024

Ventura Village Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Chair Marti Maltby

Present: Elizabeth Ihde, Ray Peterson, Steve Dreyer, Marti Maltby, Thor Adam, Patti Peterson

Unexcused: Rico Morales, Kellen Gustafson

Motion: (R. Peterson/Dreyer) To approve the agenda for the March 13, 2024 meeting. Passed

Motion: (R. Peterson/Dreyer) To approve the minutes for the February 14, 2024 meeting.
Passed

Motion: (R. Peterson/Dreyer) Recommendation 2403-1: To allocate \$500 from Ventura Village's undesignated funds to establish engagement of targeted groups (e.g. purchase of gift cards).
Passed

Motion: (Dreyer/P. Peterson) Recommendation 2403-2: Recommendation for Committee chairs:
Housing and Land Use - co-chairs Thor Adam and Ray Peterson
Crime and Safety – Thor Adam
Community Engagement – co-chairs Steve Dreyer and Rico Morales
Parks – co-chairs Mary Watson and Thor Adam
Wellness and Gardening – co-chairs Steve Dreyer and Rico Morales
Passed

Motion: (R. Peterson/Ihde) Move that the officers of Ventura Village, Inc. be instructed to file a Charitable Organization Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2023 with the Attorney General's Office of Minnesota pursuant to state Laws governing charitable organization soliciting or intending to solicit contributions in excess of \$25,000 or having paid staff or using a professional fundraiser, and that the content of that report, as presented in the draft are approved. Passed

Motion: Process for approval for direct "on-line" payments. For example: Bremer Insurance is asking for direct payment for Directors and Officers Insurance. *There was much discussion. The decision was made to create an ad-hoc committee to deal with online payments.*

Motion: Approval of MOUs for Equitable Engagement Implementation
(R. Peterson/Dreyer) Move approval of MOU with Norway House. Passed - *See below for MOU details*

Motion: Opioid Community Survey. Motion details: (Maltby/Ihde) Ventura Village will disseminate the City's Opioid Community Survey as widely as possible. Passed

Motion: (R. Peterson/Dreyer) Receive and file the financial report. Passed

Adjourned due to time

MOU with Norway House:

Memorandum of Understanding

March 13, 2024

Ventura Village Neighborhood Association
1815 13th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404

The Norwegian American, a newspaper subsidiary of Norway House, a 501(c)(3) corporation
913 E Franklin Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Project: Kids Democracy Center exhibit and activity space

Dates: May 2, 2024 to July 28, 2024

Location: Mondale Gallery at Norway House

Sponsorship:

Ventura Village Neighborhood Association agrees to support the Kids Democracy Center at Norway House, organized by The Norwegian American, in the amount of \$5,000.

Purpose:

The Norwegian American, a newspaper subsidiary of Norway House, is organizing a Democracy Center exhibit and activities targeted toward families with children ages 5 to 12.

The Democracy Center is intended to introduce young people to the the basic principles of democratic participation, inclusion, and equity. They will learn about what the Constitution is, what a nation is, the significance of flags, and the importance of voting.

Because we believe that democracy begins in your own neighborhood, we are inviting the children of the Ventura Village to visit us at Norway House for this project. They will not only learn about democracy in the United States and Norway, but there will also be an emphasis on inclusivity with different nationalities and ethnic and linguistic communities. This would include developing a portion of the exhibit to highlight the importance of democratic participation at the neighborhood level, and creating age-appropriate activities to learn about neighborhood engagement.

We are partnering with Ventura Village to incorporate a special focus on active civic engagement that begins with participating at a neighborhood level.

Funds provided by Ventura Village would be used to purchase materials for the children's activities, which include:

- Storytelling - recorded stories and videos about the founding of the United States and Norway
 - Democracy Wall - Write a word related to the theme of democracy, freedom, or peace in a "thought bubble" to be posted on a wall
 - Coloring: A selection of motifs relevant to the Democracy Center theme ●
 - What's out of place? An "I Spy" activity
 - Voting Booth: cast a ballot on an issue relevant to children's lives
 - Make your own sløyfe patriotic ribbon
 - Find the red, white, and blue: Look around the room to count tiny Norwegian and U.S. flags hidden there
 - Make/send a greeting postcard from the Democracy center
 - Mapping your heritage: mark where your forebears come from on a map ●
- Songs to celebrate freedom: listen and sing along

There will be a number of take-away materials, including ribbons, flags. The content of the exhibit will to a large exhibit will also be available online to be made use of at home and to be shared with others.

There will be learning materials provided that transcend borders and engage with young minds regardless of their backgrounds. We will provide translation of some materials, particularly a neighborhood email signup sheet for parents and interesting age-appropriate activities into languages relevant to the Ventura Village community. These languages may include English, Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Norwegian, Ojibwe, and Dakota.

The exhibit will be open during Norway House operating hours. It will be staffed with volunteers, including some opportunities for multilingual support. Group visits may be accommodated by appointment with special staffing.

Lori Ann Reinhall, Editor-in-Chief
The Norwegian American