



## Short North Civic Association Minutes

June 5, 2025

6:00 p.m. Thompson Recreation Center

**Attendees:** Jared Cape, Heather Rice, Jack Decker, Chuck Fairbanks, Betsy Pandora, Bob Stern, Robin Keaffaber, Cathy Croy, Mark Dannemiller, Bobby Thaxton

- **Welcome** – Jack Decker
- **Establishing a New Community Authority** – Short North Alliance (SNA) Executive Director Betsy Pandora
  - The SNA is aiming to address safety and homelessness in the community as the area continues to grow and change.
  - Previously, they addressed parking in the Short North as a strategic and coordinated approach.
  - The SNA currently:
    - Employs an ambassador team to perform engagement and de-escalation
    - Pays for 12 special duty police officers to staff the Short North who are not called away to other areas
    - Supports Project Moonlight (overtime assignment in big park areas at night), Safe Streets (bicycles and motorcycles officers), and additional regular police officers for festivals
    - Pays peer support workers to connect unhoused people to resources and out of homelessness
    - Cleans up trash along building frontages daily in the SNA area
    - Performs beautification programming
    - Provides constituent support
    - Hosts big events such as Hops on High
  - The SNA currently receives funding from grants, events, and special improvement districts (SIDS): ~\$600,000 (High St) and ~\$300,000 (5th Ave & 4th St)
  - With decreases in federal funding sources and increasing needs, the SNA needs to raise funds and they do not want to push rents up by a 400% SIDS contribution increase. Instead, they want to use a new community authority to fund more costly aspects to fund location base needs.
  - Bridge Park has a new community authority to do programs and services in addition to infrastructure.
  - Under the proposal, there will be a 1% fee on business transactions (dining, retail, beverages, private parking, salon services, and hotels) and will increase to 2% from midnight to 3 am. The goal is to capture funding from folks who visit.

- The SNA envisions that the funding will be used to increase policing, add cameras, additional trash cleaning including end of night cleaning, provide daily homeless outreach, provide more public art initiatives, extended free parking benefit (2 hours) during the dinner hour (till 7pm), and implement vital place making programming.
- Attendees were confused about why businesses were not more responsive to cleaning up trash outside of their businesses, supported efforts to address externalities related to homelessness, and appreciated efforts to address vacant and nuisance properties.
- The fee would generate ~\$2.0 million annually as a conservative estimate. The petition allows for an increase up to 5% for adjustment.
- Concerns were shared about bars and other properties no longer contributing to voluntary funding of existing programming.
- Additionally, concerns were shared of the City theoretically decreasing investment in the Short North and that they may use the new funding mechanism as an offset rather than a way to increase neighborhood investment.
- SNA expects 80% of property owners to participate in the new community authority.
- **President's Report** – Jack Decker
  - The SNCA is investing \$1,500 to fix benches along Neil Ave.
  - Lushscapes will be continuing to maintain planters along Neil Ave.
  - The City is hosting a feedback session at Goodale Park about a Recreation and Parks Master Plan.
  - The Short North Yardsale is on Saturday!
- **Adjournment at 7:00 pm**