





PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES

Payne Phalen District Five Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 6:30 p.m.

722 Payne Ave.

President Al Oertwig called the meeting to order and welcomed District Five directors and guests.

Other directors present were Darlene Adams, Roger Allmendinger, Roy Evans, Suzan Forsberg, Ted Hecht, Kelley Riley, Regina Rippel, Patrick Ruble, Virginia Rybin, Jim Smith, Kerry Stone, David Syers, Sharny Vue Yang and Bill Zajicek. Directors with excused absences included Janice LaFloe, Tou Saiko Lee, Sheldon Schwartz and Laura Torres. Antwan Flowers also was absent. Others attending were Sage Holben, Dayton's Bluff Community Council; Louise Watson, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Sean Gosiewski, Alliance for Sustainability, the Lake Phalen area partner of the Watershed District; JoAnn Ellis, aide to Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough; Cheryl Peterson, District Five Community Planning and Economic Development Committee, and residents Jimmy Gerding and Kyle McDaniel.

WORKSHOPS: Sage Holben of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council discussed upcoming workshops organized by Diane Wanner, St. Paul's district council coordinator. Holben urged District Five directors to consider attending two workshops in particular – Laying the Groundwork for Successful Inclusive Community Involvement on Sept. 29 and Organizing for Positive Community Change on Oct. 12. Noting that a very substantial majority of the board members on St. Paul's district councils are white, she urged District Five directors to actively seek participation by minorities. Holben also said District Council members may tend to ask homeowners to join the councils; she urged strong outreach to renters as well.

REPORT ON RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT: Louise Watson, the district's public information and education coordinator, explained the importance of minimizing runoff from storms and other sources. A

watershed is an area of land from which rain and melting snow drain into a lake, river, wetland or creek. Most of the land in the Ramsey-Washington district is developed; as a result, much of the area is covered with hard surfaces that don't absorb rain. The resulting runoff causes flooding, increases erosion and pollutes surface waters. Rain barrels, trees, deep-rooted plants and rain gardens are among the improvements that minimize runoff. Another technique is use of special, porous materials to produce driveways, sidewalks and patios that allow water to seep through and enter the soil.

Homeowners and businesses can receive reimbursement from the Watershed District for efforts to prevent soil erosion, Watson said. Homeowners get 75 percent of the cost. There is a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$2,500. Businesses also can get 75 percent, with a maximum of \$30,000.

Phosphorus in runoff is a pollutant of lakes, rivers and other waterways. Watson said stores can legally sell fertilizers containing phosphorus, but it is illegal to use them unless a new lawn is being planted. Even then, she said, they may be unnecessary because soil in this area is rich in phosphorus. Watson noted that the University of Minnesota tests soil samples at a minimal cost (about \$10) to determine whether phosphorus is needed.

Watson said injuries to children - and in some cases deaths - related to floods in the Pigs Eye Lake area prompted the establishment of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District in the 1970s. Battle Creek became a raging torrent. Children playing near the creek were swept up when the creek flooded. In one case, a bank collapsed, and a child sank into the mire until the mud was up to his knees.

District Five Directors Roger Allmendinger, Regina Rippel and Bill Zajicek agreed to serve on an ad hoc environmental committee that will work with the Watershed District.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Al Oertwig offered an update on the Payne-Maryland project. County and City action has finalized the purchase of Kendall's ACE Hardware Store in light of the Ramsey County Right of Way project at Payne and Maryland. Oertwig said new construction of the hardware store will be sited at the northeast corner of Payne Avenue and Phalen Boulevard.

Director David Syers made a motion that the board asks the city of St. Paul to include provisions for additional parking at that intersection as development agreements are pursued. He said plans should include parking for Kendall's, as well as any other businesses that may be located at the site. Regina Rippel seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Oertwig, who attended a recent meeting on the I35E-Cayuga interchange, referred board members to his e-mail regarding the session. He said the Visual Quality Advisory Committee for the project will meet one more time on Sept. 22.

Oertwig has served as the District Five Board rep to the Downtown Airports Commission (DAC) and it is time to re-appoint a representative. The Board moved

to re-appoint Al Oertwig to fulfill this role with Cheryl Peterson as alternate. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Oertwig asked for a motion to accept the resignation of District Five Director Danny Garcia Velez. Mr. Garcia Velez has sent a resignation letter noting out-of-town work commitments. David Syers motioned to accept the resignation. Kerry Stone seconded. Motion approved. The board determined to recruit nominees for open Board seats and will fill such positions by ballot at a future Board meeting per the By-Laws. People who ran for the board in April but were not elected will be noticed of the current opening(s). Executive Director Leslie McMurray noted that another board member has had longstanding absences and suggested that this person be contacted to see if they wished to serve or resign. If the individual is no longer interested in board service, an additional seat may be added for the election.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – A detailed written summary of activities and results was distributed to the Board. Leslie McMurray noted very strong community interest in the future new potential uses of the Carnegie Library building currently at 1105 Greenbrier. Plans for Payne Maryland Project include a new library facility that will be housed jointly with a recreational facility. When this occurs, the current library building will no longer house a Library. The building will not likely remain owned by Saint Paul Public Library. Some criteria of public purpose will need to be met by the new user of the building. There is a clear opportunity to make certain that the community's wishes help shape the future use of this key architectural feature of the Payne Phalen area. McMurray recommended that the board request of the Director of the St. Paul Public Library that District Five be engaged to work with community residents to plan future uses of this building and that the community be linked into any associated RFP process. Board Member Bill Zajicek moved that the board send a letter requesting the priority for community involvement in the RFP process to Director Kit Hadley. Virginia Rybin seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

McMurray said that the Outreach & Administrative FTE position is vacated by Haden Bowie who resigned in late August to move closer to her family in South Dakota. Staff has determined in consultation with board members to not immediately fill the past position. She noted two distinct organizational needs that are not typically found in one person or position. A degree of highly skilled, efficient admin clerical support will strengthen the organization's capacity. There is a clear need to commit to reach out more effectively to the growing diverse cultural and linguistic communities in District Five. McMurray is re-evaluating the staffing and finance plans for FY2012 and will work with the Finance Committee to move forward with a sustainable staffing plan to fill these needs.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Treasurer Bill Zajicek presented the financial reports for July. Virginia Rybin moved approval, David Syers seconded and the reports were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Following a motion by Syers seconded by Regina Rippel, the board approved the Consent Agenda.

The meeting was adjourned.

(Draft by Virginia Rybin with edits/contribution from staff).