



# Payne-Phalen COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Board of Directors Meeting Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.**

Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne Avenue, St. Paul (Payne and Maryland Avenues)

Board Directors Present:

Valentine Awasom	P	Tara Borton	P	Annie Davidson	P
Charles Dexter	A	Richard Finch Jr.	P	Eric Foster	P
Britt Graupner	P	Athena Hollins	P	Joe Kuzelka	A
Chad Medellin	P	Rebecca Nelson	P	Lynette Pineda Tamayo	E
Lorenzo Pullen	P	Eric Saathoff	P	Maychy Vu	P
Marny Xiong	P	Bill Zajicek	P		

P= Present, L= Late, A= Absent, E = Excused Absence,

**Community Participants & Guests:** Joe Musolf (Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development), MariEtta Wood (Saint Paul Parks & Rec), and community members Barbara Johnson, Marjorie & Lynn Mangine, Karen Kindseth, Bob Wicke, Mark & Patty Meggitt, Les & Mary Coomey, Guy Kight, Theresa & Andrew Livingston, Joy Parizek, Dustin Dimmick, Joseph Tomsche, J. Sackett, Sue Davidson, MaryAnn Bonniwell, Nancy Larson, Regina Rippel, John Schmid, Krishna Raj Natarajan, Mari Hirabayashi, Paul Marshall, Sheila O’Keefe

**Staff:** Lissa Jones-Lofgren, Interim Executive Director

**Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Board President Eric Foster** welcomed board members and community members and reminded board members to consider a position on the executive board.

**Quorum established**

**Agenda Review and Approval –** reviewed the agenda and made one change to include an update on the Maryland Avenue test by Eric Saathoff.

### **Land Use and Zoning**

Joe Musolf from Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development gave a presentation and requested input regarding 656 and 645 Bush. The site may be appropriate for development if owners of other parcels on the block sell. 656 and 645 Bush have three buildings including a 4-plex, and two single family homes which are in a state of disrepair but may have historical significance. One house was likely originally in Swede Hollow and had been moved to the current site. There may be interest in having these homes moved. Input requested was whether the HRA should consider demolishing properties to facilitate interest in development, attempt to find a party interested in moving and preserving the buildings, or do nothing until there is a development plan in place. Eric S asked about

the condition of the 4-plex (poor) and whether demolition could be expected to generate interest (yes). Eric F. expressed that the 4-plex is ugly, but the houses may have historic value. Demolishing them preemptively is a bad idea.

### **Transportation**

Eric Saathoff gave a summary of City Council action regarding the proposed traffic circles on Idaho. The most recent action was to remove them from the plans, however, some Council Members have expressed concern that the decision was made too quickly and the process did not include adequate opportunity for input, including from district council. Eric moved to ask the City Council to put the traffic circles back in the plans. Chad seconded. Lorenzo expressed support for local neighbors who did not want the circles. Tara asked about the cost per home-owner of adding the circles which was not known though neighbors expressed they were paying very high assessments for the project generally. After brief discussion, Eric F tabled the motion until later in the meeting.

Eric S. gave a brief update about the Maryland Ave three lane test. Maryland Ave has been changed to three lanes for a section, and there are two pedestrian safety medians in two places. The test has just begun.

### **Public Comment**

Members of the public had the following comment about the Idaho traffic circles:

- Traffic circles are a pain and they do not want them. Buses going the wrong way make them dangerous and buses will need to be rerouted. How will they plow the streets? The city already doesn't plow adequately and this will make it worse. The city should be more reasonable with tax dollars.
- Contrary to what was claimed, contacted State Patrol. The person there said there is no provision to turn left for large vehicles. Will have to pay to maintain it. Changes character of the neighborhood. This is just for bicyclists.
- Safety is a priority. But this is a low density neighborhood. One block north on Larpenteure already has a dedicated bike lane.
- Works in N Mpls where he drives on Broadway. In Mpls the bikes refuse to use the bike boulevard. They still take the main artery. If you live on the corner, any car that comes through shines lights on your house. The circle on East Shore has a fallen retaining wall that has been untouched for months.
- Has experience in busing. School buses have large mirrors. They create a big blind spot. When child is coming from left, driver turning left, child also moves left and stays in blind spot. Could be dangerous.
- Urban bikeway is great idea in principal. But you end up serving people who aren't residents at the residents' expense. We should favor those folks.
- It is very difficult to do a 360 turn there. How much space will this traffic circle take up. Will we lose front yard. Why not put this on Arlington?
- Has small child. Some cars that go past go very fast. The circle forces them to slow down.
- Cost is \$24,000 (for circles). It is costing each of them a minimum of \$10,000. Council meetings: Snow removal is "Not simply nice to have." Also consider police/fire. One neighbor is a bus driver. This will be a problem for him. Lots of elderly folks there. A ladder truck needs 45 feet, these are 35 feet. Alley behind Duluth and Atlantic are now coming down the alley. Lots of vehicles will start coming down the alley. People are not going to volunteer to take care of the circles. Larpenteur and E Shore would be a good spot. There is a nice old flat railroad

way. That is where they should go.

- How much of this is paid for by bikers?
- Long time Chamber St. resident. There are not traffic accident at the three corners. Worked for consulting engineering in the 80s. They did studies. Recommended roundabouts to cities and communities to keep the flow of traffic. That is what they are designed for. Has anyone considered E Shore Dr and Idaho? It isn't a flat. It is dangerous. You could get hit because you can't see over the crest. Bike way definition is preferential treatment on the road to bikes. But cars pay for the roads.
- Count of others who did not speak who are against the circles: 7. Supportive of circles: 1

#### Maryland Ave

- Regarding Maryland: For the first time, at the light on Arcade, had to sit through an entire cycle of lights. Everyone now has to go slow, including behind a bus. Test has failed.
- Concerned about impact of overflow traffic. Traffic has slowed down. Those folks will overflow into the neighborhood. City should give before and after metrics regarding those surrounding streets.
- The buses will be an issue, but already try to not drive there on Maryland. The crosswalks should have flags. Why didn't they do that? But "I think the Maryland thing is good."

#### Bush Property

- She is from that area. It is great that people are trying to make that area nice. Supports moving the house to preserve it.
- District 2 Council member. Regarding Bush, there are not a lot of development sites, so this one will be developed. It is just a matter of when. If parties are interested in moving those houses, then we are on the way to preparing the site.
- It is desirable, but the railroad is right there. How many people want to live there???

#### Deliberations

Eric briefly responded to public comment regarding the Idaho traffic circles stating that lanes on some roads are intended for recreational bikers/families and those on busier roads are for more experienced bikers. Also stated that the city engineers do not share the safety concerns. Plantings at the traffic circle would be maintained by the city.

Bill noted that the damaged wall of the traffic circle mentioned by a member of the community did not represent a problem, but rather represented that the wall had prevented a worse accident. The circles are an improvement and work elsewhere, however, given the opinion of the neighbors, he will not support it.

Lorenzo said that in this case, there is no need for the circles. They are not supporting improved traffic, only bikers.

Vote: 4 in support of the motion. 6 against. Motion fails.

#### Consent Agenda

Motion Annie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Athena, Motion Passed

## **Executive Director Report**

Lissa provided a written update. She will schedule meetings with new members.

## **President's Report:**

Eric F and Lissa attended CIB meeting. City has a process to get input, rank, then send to mayor. They are reconsidering the process. They provided input on PP's experience with CIB.

## **Executive Session**

Election of Officers and At-Large Executive Committee members took place.

President: Eric Foster nominated and elected.

Vice-President: Britt (declines), Eric S., and Athena nominated. Athena elected.

Treasurer: Annie and Chad nominated. Annie elected.

Secretary: Rebecca, and Tara (declines) nominated. Rebecca elected.

3 At-Large seats: Lorenzo, Chad, Eric, Marny (declines), Tara, Britt, Bill nominated. Britt, Eric S, and Tara elected.

## **Adjourn**

## **Minutes submitted by Tara**