Minutes for the Community Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda **6:00 pm**

The Payne-Phalen District Plan: 6:10 pm

Present

System Actors: Michael Corbett (MnDOT), Mai Xiong (MnDOT), Joy Miciano (Zan Associates), Chad Seaman (MnDOT), Jay (MnDOT), Sheelue Yang (Zan Associates), Jaylen Lyles (Zan Associates), Winona Yang (Ramsey County)

Community Members: Geeta Lacrab, Gabbi Menomin, Sue Banovetz, Caley Vicker

Board Members: Rebecca Nelson, Reier Erickson, Sidney Stuart, Anna-Marie Foster, Julia LaCroix-Martin, Ramona Burks, Julia Wilcox, Lynette Harris, May yer Thao, Marci Exsted, Jessica Haley, Damian Schaab, Ishmail Thomas, Seanne Thomas

PPCC Staff: Jack Byers (executive director)

1. Arcade Street Redesign: Review and Discussion of Aesthetic Design Guidelines, Michael Corbett and Mai Xiong, MnDOT

   ● Mai: Construction to begin Spring 2025. Have had public meetings - related to pedestrians, biking, accessibility, motorist concerns, transit, and business access (see slides).
   ● Michael: detailed the Raise grant funding this project - particularly visual quality.
   ● Shee: Visual committee had 8 meetings, detailed pattern development (to be shared)
   ● Michael: detailed Payne Phalen input on the VQAC, Dayton's Bluff input as well.
   ● Mai: everything highlighted in blue on PPT is on Arcade street - provided an overview
   ● Justine: question - what's the plan for lights?
      ○ Michael - large part of the Raise grant is going toward the pedestrian scale lighting, will implement throughout the entirety of the corridor. Hopefully more tamper-proof to prevent theft of the copper wiring.
   ● May yer: did have maintenance questions they answered but if MnDOT is responsible 2-3 years after, how do they make sure that the conversations need to be picked up by the community?
      ○ Michael: this is some ongoing homework for this group.
   ● Sue: kinda surprised with level of involvement the watershed districts would play with grant opportunities (e.g. planting grants). Has experience with public art grants. One thing the committee discussed was how to best maximize the raised money and

augmenting the money through a grant elsewhere. Issue is that MnDOT's timing and alternate bids.
- ○ Michael: that's why we have a few different scenarios
- Michael: detailed RAISE items, including looking at adding trash receptacles, bike racks, ect.
  - ○ Lynette: regarding water fountains - have you thought about adding a UV water purifier to these?
  - ○ Michael: great idea, water fountains would be the kind with a water bottle filler
- Mai: noted a mistake on the Maryland Ave slide - Walgreens corner will <u>not</u> have wrapped shelter
- Michael: detailed next steps from this year into 2027. This summer they plan move community events & business outreach. Should have block by block details closer to 2025 & start of construction. 2025 is largely Arcade, 2026 will be West 7th, 2027 will be larger landscaping project.

All attendees were placed into two breakout groups to review the layouts, provide feedback, & ask questions.

- One-word Ending Feedback/Reflection: cool, pedestrians, streets, stops, (hard) work, productive work, harmonization, corridor, complex, food desert, hopeful, opportunity building, local businesses, optimistic, community, functionally beautiful, cleaner air, reimagining
- Mai re: Ongoing - We (PPCC & Community) need to get together w/St. Paul to get together a maintenance partnership, see maintenance slides. Any lingering questions?
- Would be good to know important feedback prior to 2025 (e.g. we don't want raised planters)
- Jack: bottom-lined the process from 18 months ago when we were first engaged around this project. None of these things (planters, lighting, bump outs) were in the plans until more money and community input was demanded. Level 1 is what MnDOT will pay for but level 2 or 3 means we will need to find money & find people who will maintain it. We know philanthropic orgs investing in the Eastside, we can push elected officials. We need to take ownership.
- Seanne: detailed community partners & youth we could tap for maintenance
- Community member: we need to make sure businesses are taken care of & their voices should be included. If I had a business and I had a planter, I would take care of it. Talked about reciprocal nature of having these pieces and collab w/businesses.
- May yer: we don't need to make a decision right now?
- Chad: we will move forward with what we see here…we have discussed alternative bids.
- Sue: I thought we discussed alternative bids which would allow us time for maintenance.
- Michael: not familiar with how alternative bidding works…
- Sue: you have multiple plans and bids come in on each plan
- Geeta: watershed grant - if you select plan that goes to bid, these are the ones we apply to go to watershed - then the spot would be a dirt plot?
- Chad: yes.
- Sue: I would be strongly objecting to being a bid as a level 1
- Chad: we are bidding out levels 2 and 3 but let us know if these can't be maintained. We're currently planning level 3.
- Caley: do you provide any training for maintenance?

- Sue: the watersheds do
- Jack: we should all call Urban Roots. We need everyone who wants to do this to do it.
- Damian: can we create a task force to focus on this?
- May yer: agree. W/the timeline I hate piece-milling this. Would like to be clear about what we're doing. If we all go out individually, this may not be as clear. Needs to be coordinated.
- Geeta: you say we have to find maintenance people before it goes to bid?
- Rebecca: if we do a task force - who will be on that task force?
- **Seanne, Damian, May yer, Sue, Jessica, Justine, and Lynette all volunteered to be on the task force.**
- Sue: who decides designs of the benches? Saw a rendering that she liked. Benches should be in same theme of water and culture.
- Michael: we'll look into that - would be cool to have community input; currently there are only basic requirements for benches but we could have more specific specifications. Even what the bench is *made out of* - would be good to know community preferences.
- Geeta: working w/a watershed grant with Johnson HS that they're working with mosaic tiles for a bench *in* their school
- Lynette: with next engagement - has there been any talk about people experiencing homelessness and benches
- Damian: we want benches to be as accessible to everyone in our community
- Sue: in the process of selecting design - it's imperative that we do something unique. We need to have the Eastside stand out & be above the norm. Having a unique image helps attract ppl to the area (e.g. Eat Street)
- Geeta: Eat Street being in Mpls allows them to do that public art, too.
- Sue: mean just whatever is selected in the packet, even, not necessarily (but not excluding) art
- Chad: makes sense to go through that and can be part of the 2027 landscaping process to vet different designs
- Sue: sometimes this process can be a bait and switch - shown opportunities but then it's a C level not an A level.
- Rebecca: MnDOT is aware community needs to make these choices & will allow us to.
- Mai: 26-32 and appendix E slides are what is being included in MnDOT plan. In May (about) we will be sharing what is in our design plans and will hopefully have students and teachers share their process. Will share more about business outreach work. Planning specific business meetings this fall but can move up to the summer. Held meetings with various BIPOC business & broader community-owned business groups.
- Geeta: regarding maintenance - a maintenance partner could be featured on a bench, could be an incentive for a local business
- Michael: expressed appreciation for our rigor & passion on this project and is looking forward to working with us
- Mai: will be moving on from this project, still in MnDOT but expressed appreciation for our effort on this since she's from this side.

Discussion items:

2. <u>Orientation, mentorship, sharing and developing our talents</u> **7:10 pm** All toward raising community voices and advancing community priorities: ➢ Arcade Street, Purple Line, Air Quality

- Rebecca: lots to cover, especially regarding Purple Line. Especially frustrating. See letters/press releases in Board packet. We need input on what to do, how to do it. Jack

& I have been meeting w/a lot of orgs - but it's very frustrating because of coming up against several walls.

- Jack: Purple Line station was proposed for Ramsey County on Arcade street. Metro Transit moved it into a gully - that's what the Y calls it. <u>We all need to call our representatives at the city, county, met council, and at the legislature about this.</u>
- Justine: asked for context to be included with the minutes.
- Sue: feels we need more than a press release, need to reach out to reporters at Pioneer Press, try to get an interview with MPR.
- Jack: Julia Wilcox wrote up a template to use when talking with representatives. Our meeting last month reportedly landed with some representatives.
- Winona: not sure if council member Yang's office has reached out but we did have a meeting

Business items: 7:45 pm

4. Financial Reports for December 2023 - Janey is not present, moved to next month.

3. Approval of minutes from the November 2023 meeting

5. 2024 Budget

- Reier moved to accept the November 2023 minutes and 2024 budget.
- Seanne seconded.
- Passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Lynette: in November board meeting, you all did a Care for All letter. Asked that it be moved to a more general letter of support since they're applying for grants.
- Damian: wondered whether this is common practice
- Lynette: clarified that this moves it to a 'to whom it may concern'
    - Seanne moves to make this a general letter of support, Sid seconded, passed unanimously.

May yer motioned to adjourn. Jessica seconded.

ADJOURN 8:00 pm

➢ **Next PPCC Community Meeting**: Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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