



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

567 Payne Avenue, St. Paul MN 55130 www.paynephalen.org 651-774-5234 district5@paynephalen.org

Minutes for the Community Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:00 pm

Board Members: Rebecca Nelson, Janey Atchison, Emma De Vera, Julia Wilcox, Reier Erickson, Ramona Banks, Marci Exsted, Damian Schaab, Jessica Haley, Seanne Thomas, Ismail Khadar

Board Staff: Jack Beyers, Robin Horkey

Community Members: Mel Lorentz, Randy Paulzine, Gabby Menomin, Winona Yang

The Payne-Phalen District Plan:

6:10 pm

1. Daylighting Phalen Creek: Update and progress Report: Gabriele Menomin, Environmental Restoration Manager, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi
 - Reier – wondering why just the creek is being renamed
 - Gabby – we’re focusing on the creek and not the park, etc.
 - Reier – wondered about the park since it’s named after a murderer who blamed indigenous folks
 - Gabby – hoping that this naming will potentially spur on renaming of the park
 - Mel - asked whether the lake has an original Indigenous name
 - Gabby – nothing in records for the original name of the lake
 - Janey – asked about impact on the current, existing pipeline
 - Gabby – will only decrease the flow but won’t completely decommission that pipeline
2. Face to Face development of an affordable housing project to be developed on Arcade Street
 - Jack was invited to join the development committee for this project – it will meet every other Thursday at 3 pm (usually via Zoom) to discuss this project. The next meeting will be 3/14.
 - Damian, Jessica, and Marci expressed interest

Discussion items:

6:55 pm

3. Orientation, mentorship, sharing and developing our talents

- Jack – 3 big things happening now that need to advance →

All toward raising community voices and advancing community priorities:

○ Arcade Street, Purple Line, Air Quality

- Jack:
 - We need to talk about keeping Arcade Street green – including & beyond upkeep
 - Damian is leading this group
 - Jessica is leading group on air quality.
 - Lynette created legislative language related to Northern Iron as well.
 - Metro Transit is still trying to place a station in a gully, they've moved very little in the last few months on this issue. There will be a third group working on letters about this and potentially a press release – headed by Julia.
 - Jack – met council heard about a press release and wants to meet with us. Jack told them not to come without some solutions. They will do a market study of Seeger square and look at a turnaround or go right through the shopping center.

Summaries of Discussions

- Seanne – Greening group – identified orgs & businesses along Arcade (from YMCA to Johnson HS) to invite into taking care of a green & art space; will send a list out to PPCC
- Damian – Greening group – we'll each reach out to at least one business per PPCC member to see if there's a partnership opportunity, we'll probably need some kind of receipt that they contributed to a nonprofit & see if we can track where their money is spent; could also tap into individual citizen & entity funds, volunteerism, and/or expertise
- Jessica – Anti Pollution Group – talked about current legislation at the capitol, focused effort on going through Lynette's letter & making a general letter that community can use and send out; we will also support Mel in developing a proposed bill amendment adding language that would allocate fines back to the impacted community rather than the state
- Julia – Purple Line – reviewed drafted letter to reps & press releases, will apply edits & then have 2 final drafts for PPCC to review. Also: prioritize 3/12 meeting to plan our annual meeting.
- Ismail – Purple Line – will also start an email communication about this initiative

Business items:

7:55 pm

3. Approval of minutes from the January 2024 meeting

- Rebecca motioned to approve Julia seconded, passed unanimously.

4. Financial Reports for January 2024

- Janey – provided overview of financials
- Janey motioned to approve financials, Emma seconded, passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

- Janey motioned to adjourn, Jessica seconded, passed unanimously.

o **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

8:00 pm

Engage * Educate * Empower