



Payne-Phalen

DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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Payne Phalen District Five Board of Directors Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Board Directors Present:

Roger Allmendinger	P	Danette Allrich-Osano	P	Valentine Awasom	P
Rich Bold	A	Spencer Cardinal	P	Annie Davidson	P
Mark Dawkins	A	Charles Dexter	A	Richard Finch Jr.	P
Eric Foster, President	P	Britt Graupner	P	Nick Hayen	P
Athena Hollins	P	Felipe Illescas	A	Dan Rodriguez	E
Eric Saathoff	P	Keith Schmalzbauer	A	Maychy Vu	P
Marny Xiong	L	Ploua Yang	P	Bill Zajicek	P

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

Community Participants & Guests: Regina Rippel, Joann Ellis (Commissioner McDonough’s office), Marietta Wood (Parks & Rec Community Recreation Director)

Staff: Lissa Jones-Lofgren, Interim Executive Director

Quorum Established

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Eric Foster, Board President, called the meeting to order and welcomed all board directors and guests. Eric Foster expressed enthusiasm for the Board’s progress on working with Interim ED Lissa Jones-Lofgren.

Agenda Review and Approval – Eric Foster

Motion by Eric Saathoff, 2nd by Roger Allmendinger, approved unanimously

Public Input and Comments – Eric Foster, opened the meeting up for public comment or discussion, no discussion occurred.

Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames Committee, Marny Xiong asked the Board to draft a letter to County Commissioner Jim McDonough about placing a stop light at Johnson Parkway and Ames Avenue East. The racial equity committee considers this an issue of racial equity due to the ethnic and economic backgrounds of the majority of people in living in the area.

Joann Ellis, a representative from Jim McDonough’s office, provided the city’s position on the matter and stated that they are not sure if this issue qualifies as an issue of racial equity. She also mentioned that the city of St. Paul has not requested a stoplight since Johnson Parkway is a county road and needs county approval. She also summarized a study which determined that no stoplight was needed, though she said the city is committed to working with the public to find an alternative.

Annie questioned if there were situations in the past where a study did not support a stoplight, but one was still installed. Joann responded that this has occurred before, but was paid for privately. Marny informed the Board that a neighborhood survey indicated very strong support for a stoplight at this location so people could easily access the Hmong village shopping center. Eric S. expressed support for a pedestrian crosswalk with push-button stoplight as a compromise solution. Marny disagreed by stating that the community would also like traffic to be able to turn right or left at that location. Eric Foster mentioned that this intersection is not in District Five and requested that the Board lend its support to an inclusive process more than to any specific outcome. Annie suggested that the Board bring this issue for District Four to discuss and provide a final decision since the intersection is in their district.

Motion (Annie): That the Board draft a statement affirming that this is a Racial Equity issue and that all sides should come to an agreeable and fair solution that helps pedestrians, neighbors in the area, and the Hmong village.

2nd: Bill

Motion passed

Changsha China Friendship Garden, Bill Zajicek, requested a letter of support from the Board for the Changsha China Friendship Garden project. Bill reminded the Board that it has previously supported similar motions.

Eric Foster asked about the support of this project from the Hmong community, which had previously raised concern about cultural sensitivity issues. Bill outlined community engagement meetings which occurred between the Hmong community and China Friendship Garden officials. He stated that many members of the community now strongly support this project with the inclusion of a statue honoring a historical Hmong figure.

Motion (Bill): provide recommendation letter for STAR application approval for detailed design and installation for the China Friendship Garden project.

2nd: Eric

Motion Passed

President's Report, Eric Foster, mentioned that the city is looking for community input on changing existing liquor laws to align with state laws that were changed several years ago. This was brought to CPED, but Eric wanted to bring this to the Board's attention as well. CPED supported the measure and no objection to this was raised.

Eric also brought up the upcoming Harvest Festival Parade deadline on September 1st. Eric asked if anyone was interested in marching in this parade as members of D5. Several Board members mentioned that they would be interested, so Eric decided that the Board would participate in the parade.

Finally, Eric brought up the low Board attendance for recent CPED meetings. Non-board members are able to participate and vote on this committee. Danette raised concerns that non-board members would have a disproportionate voice on this committee if Board members do not attend. Eric raised the idea that CPED could provide recommendations for the Board to take rather than allowing CPED to have the final say on important zoning issues. Spencer also raised concerns that non-elected members could have voting privileges on a Board committee that decides such substantial issues. Lissa

reminded the Board to not stray too far from the initial agenda topics and that the governance interviews she has conducted will address issues like this.

Motion (Annie): That all committees will send all letters of support, official positions, or formal decisions to the Board for approval by the Board itself.

2nd: Britt

Motion passed

Board Member Mentorship Proposal, Ploua Yang brought up the lack of new member participation in recent meetings. She suggested that the Board begin a mentoring program between veteran and new members to encourage greater participation. Eric suggested that D5 staff look into the issue more to determine if enough Board members would be willing to participate in a mentorship program. Annie reminded the Board that similar issues will be addressed in several additional Board sessions in the coming months.

Executive Director Report, Lissa Jones-Lofgren praised the recent engagement with community members over the past month. The Board impacted nearly 4,000 members. She discussed upcoming goals for streamlining the agenda and future meetings by changing the meeting structure. The Board will also move to eliminate redundant printings of multiple Board agendas. Finally, Lissa updated the Board on her progress regarding the governance interviews.

Finance Committee Monthly Report, Annie Davidson outlined the Board's finances and reminded the Board about their meeting date and time.

Motion (Annie): To approve the monthly financial report as submitted.

2nd: Britt

Motion passed

Consent Agenda

1. Board of Directors Draft Minutes from June, July, 2016.
2. Draft CPED Committee Minutes from August, 2016.
3. PPEC (Environmental Committee) Summary notes from August, 2016.
4. Transportation Committee Meeting August 2016

Motion by (Nick) to approve the consent agenda. Second by (Eric S.). Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion: Annie 2nd: Eric S. Adjourned without objection

Minutes submitted by Nick Hayen, Board Secretary