



Payne-Phalen

DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

506 Kenny Road, Ste 130, St. Paul MN 55130 www.paynephalen.org 651-774-5234

Payne Phalen District Five Board of Directors Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, (February) (28), 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Board Directors Present:

Roger Allmendinger	P	Valentine Awasom	P	Spencer Cardinal	P
Annie Davidson	P	Mark Dawkins	P	Charles Dexter	P
Richard Finch Jr.	P	Eric Foster, President	P	Britt Graupner	A
Nick Hayen	P	Athena Hollins	P	Dan Rodriguez	P
Eric Saathoff	P	Keith Schmalzbauer	P	Maychy Vu	E
Marny Xiong	P	Bill Zajicek	P		

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

Community Participants & Guests: Suzanne Al-Kayai, Kim T., Lorenzo Pullen, Oriane Casale, Al Oertwig (community members), Danielle Swift (ESNDC)

Staff: Lissa Jones-Lofgren, Interim Executive Director

Quorum Established

Agenda Review and Approval – Eric Foster welcomed all Board Directors and community members. Eric also reviewed the agenda and outlined the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

District Plan

Eric Foster discussed the planning process around the vacant lot at 848 Payne Ave between Ward 6 and Ace Hardware. Three organizations have expressed interest in the property. So far all proposals have been residential apartments, with one also containing commercial proposals on the ground floor. All are Workforce Housing proposals. These range from 30 to 100 unit complexes. There have also been discussions about connecting this area to the Bruce Vento trail. The initial plan is for the city Planning and Economic Development department to work with ESNDC to select a proposal, then allow for public comment. Eric posed the question of allowing for public comment before the initial selection and requested input from the community regarding the proposals.

Keith mentioned that the land was previously owned by a dry cleaning company that left the land contaminated with chemicals. Several community and Board members mentioned this as a large concern that should be investigated during the process. He mentioned that this could cause issues when building the foundation or underground parking for apartments. Several Board members expressed concern about the building having too many floors. Most members supported the idea of having commercial space on the ground floor.

Transportation

Eric Saathoff reviewed the city's test project to convert sections of Maryland Ave from a four lane to a three lane street. The city will be testing for both pedestrian safety and traffic congestion. The test would likely last around two or three months, in time for the city's planned construction on Maryland Ave towards the end of the summer. Eric then proposed a motion in support of the city's test project. Marny suggested that the Board also include a list of questions and concerns that the Board and community currently has.

Motion: To draft a letter to the city in support of the Maryland Ave 4-3 Conversion test project.
2nd (Keith) Motion Passed

Eric continued by proposing having two "pedestrian refuges" to help pedestrians cross at intersections like Maryland and Duluth and Maryland and Greenbrier. One issue is that cars would be unable to turn left at those intersections. Eric proposed that the Board request this consideration in addition to their 4-3 conversion test.

Motion: To recommend that the county investigate adding pedestrian refuges or other enhanced pedestrian crossing at two intersections in the 4-3 conversion project.
2nd (Marny) Motion Passed

Public Comment, no other public comments.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Meeting Minutes January 2016
2. 2016 Financial Statement
3. Support Letter for ESND CDBG Funding

Motion (Eric), 2nd (Keith), Motion Passed

Executive Committee Motions

The Executive Committee discussed the Standing Rules of the organization and how they relate to the current Bylaws. The Committee decided that the Standing Rules were no longer useful to the Board as they are mostly covered in the bylaws and can cause confusion within the organization. The Committee then proposed a motion to abolish the Standing Rules and only use the Bylaws moving forward. Lissa reminded the Board that a full legal review is also being done to ensure that this move would not cause any legal issues.

Motion to abolish the Standing Rules: (Keith) 2nd (Spencer) Motion Passed

The Executive Committee also proposed creating a Financial Policy and Procedure Best Practices guide for the organization.

Motion to create a policy: Athena, Keith 2nd, Motion Passed

Annie Davidson moved to merge the Finance and Executive committees. Finance committee members would be allowed to vote on financial matters, and Executive committee members could vote on all matters.

Motion to merge the Finance and Executive committees: Annie, Athena (2nd), Motion Passed

President's Report

Eric Foster updated the Board that the search has begun for a permanent Executive Director. The Nominations committee is also in the process of planning the Annual Meeting. Eric also stressed the importance for increasing turnout and potential candidates for the Board elections.

Interim Executive Director Report

Lissa mentioned the Board's work on the upcoming work plan and the Board's work on equity.

Adjournment

Motion (Eric) 2nd (Keith) Adjourned unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Nick Hayen, Board Secretary