



# Payne-Phalen COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Board of Directors Meeting Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 26th, 2018 – 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	Athena Hollins	P
Stuart Knappmiller	E	Britt Kringle	P	Joe Kuzelka	E
Chad Medellin	P	Wintana Melekin	A	Krishna Natarajan	P
Rebecca Nelson	P	Lynette Pineda Tamayo	E	Eric Saathoff	P
Chris Schweitzer	P	Danielle Swift	P	Seanne Thomas	E
Maychy Vu	P	Bill Zajcek	P		

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

**Community Participants & Guests:** Elizabeth Giffin, Regina Rippel, Celeste Marin, Brad Griffith, Don Lorr (Railroad Island Task Force), Joann Ellis (Commissioner McDonough’s office), Chris Osowski (The Salvation Army), Loren Schirber (The East Yard), Frank Alarcon (Ramsey County), Fay Simer (St. Paul Public Works)

**Staff:** Robin Horkey, Outreach & Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Board President** Athena Hollins

**Agenda Review and Approval –**

**629 Bush Ave: commercial development proposal -** Loren Schirber, The East Yard

The East Yard was originally looking to development a Tiny Home Village on the lot. Due to several issues, it was decided that this location was too risky for housing. The current request is for a lot split, followed by rezoning to allow for commercial and industrial use. The property would be sub-divided into four parcels, one parcel would be sold to fund development, and three parcels would be rezoned. Rezoning requires signatures from 2/3 of the neighbors. Eventually a second parcel would be sold to help fund building to suit on the remaining parcels.

Mr. Schirber is requesting a letter of support for the lot split and rezoning.

**618-626 Lawson Ave E rezoning -** Chris Osowski, The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is requesting a rezone from RT1 to B2 of parcels they own at 618, 622, & 626 Lawson Ave East. They will be adding a second entrance, additional restrooms, and plan to fence in the yard as a play area. They currently host programs for youth after school

and for adults. To continue providing these services, they need to make this expansion. They will not be changing the physical footprint of the building.

Eventually, if fundraising provides, they want to build a gym. The current gym is used for youth activities and their feeding program, so they must set up and take down regularly, which causes constraints on both time and activities.

The Salvation Army is requesting a letter of support for the rezoning.

### **Rush Line BRT Station Planning - Frank Alarcon, Ramsey County**

An update of the Rush Line BRT (bus rapid transit) project was provided. Station area planning started with resident participation work groups and will continue into fall. There is a Technical Advisory Committee, which is mostly local officials and staff (planners and engineers) from various agencies, and a Community Advisory Committee, consisting of people who live and work along the Rush Line BRT. Board Director Eric Saathoff is a member of the latter committee.

### **Safe Routes to School funding – Fay Simer, Pedestrian Safety Advocate, St. Paul Public Works**

There is federal funding for infrastructure at & around schools that have completed a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan. Bruce Vento Elementary has a plan. The City is applying for funding and, in the short-term, would like a letter of support to include with the application. Grant requests can be for anywhere within a 2-mile radius of a school. Some of the ideas for the plan include bump-outs along Case Ave and Arkwright St, to fill the gaps in the sidewalk network around the school, and for bike lanes that are already planned for Arkwright St.

Due to the application process, the plan work wouldn't happen until 2022 or 2023. The application goes through the Met Council. These are often done in partnership with the City, schools, and Ramsey County, with the City being the applicant.

### **Public Comment/Input/Announcements**

**629 Bush Ave:** Questions were raised about whether they (The East Yard) have talked to any neighbors of the property yet. Loren Schirber hasn't, and currently has no timeline. Another person with property to rezone said that it took about a year to get the 2/3 signatures needed, between locating all the neighboring property owners (some out of state) and getting language translators when that was needed. The suggestion was made that he gets input from neighbors before going further with plans.

Bill Z announced the Public groundbreaking of the China Garden on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> at Lake Phalen, starts at 10:30. Also there is a Water Garden tour following this event. Bill will send out announcements on Social media.

Don Lorr announced the Swede Hollow Overlook Groundbreaking in August and the opening of a new business on Payne & Minnehaha called Karibu Grocery & Deli.

Darlene LaBelle announced the July 14<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser for Harvest Festival – 6-11 PM at the Minnesota Music Café.

**Finance Report** Treasurer Chad M has looked at the finances and was told they aren't 100% correct as there are still checks being deposited and will get back to us when he has had a chance to meet with accountant but everything looks good.

### **Board Deliberation and Votes**

Land Use proposals:

Britt motioned to table any support letter until The East Yard hears from neighbors on the proposal. Second by Chad. Motion passed.

Joe motion to support the rezoning of the parcels on Lawson Ave East for The Salvation Army. Second by Chad. Motion passed

Joe motion to support the funding application by the City for Safe Routes to School for the area around Bruce Vento Elementary. Eric seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the May minutes. Seconded and motion passed.

Executive committee motion: Request from the Board that the negotiating power for the Executive Director Hiring be moved from the Hiring committee to the Executive committee. Bill makes the motion, Britt seconded and motion passed

### **President's Report**

In regards to the hiring of the Executive Director we have made an offer and have a tentative agreement and are in negotiations along with following up on references. Hopefully by the next Board meeting we will have them in place but it is dependent on a few factors including when they can give notice to their job etc.

Still working on trying to get the Air conditioning fixed, Chris is looking into some options for non-profits that can help us.

### **Adjourn**

Chad motioned to adjourn, Valentin seconded.

**Minutes submitted by** Rebecca Nelson & Robin Horkey