



# Payne-Phalen COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Board of Directors Meeting Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.**

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

Board Directors Present:

Valentine Awasom	E	Tara Borton	E	Athena Hollins	P
Stuart Knappmiller	P	Britt Kringle	P	Joe Kuzelka	E
Crystal Norcross	E	Wintana Melekin	P	Krishna Natarajan	P
Rebecca Nelson	P	Lynette Pineda Tamayo	P	Eric Saathoff	P
Chris Schweitzer	E	Danielle Swift	P	Seanne Thomas	P
Maychy Vu	P	Bill Zajcek	E		

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

**Community Participants & Guests:** Randy Hammad (Mini-Pac), Frank Alarcon (Regional Rail Authority), Joann Ellis (Commissioner McDonough's office), Mai Yia Vue, Michelle Natarajan, Ethan Osten, Marjorie Otto (East Side Review), Kassim Busuri (Ward 6 Interim Council Member), and several other guests

**Staff:** Jack Byers (Executive Director), Robin Horkey (Administrative Assistant)

### Welcome, Introductions, Review of the Agenda

### Planning, Zoning and License Entitlements

1184 Maryland Ave E, Mini-Pac, Randy Hammad.

In addressing concerns of the community, Mr. Hammad, who has just bought the Mini-Pac has made changes regarding the Car Wash hours (changing to closing at 8 pm), volume of the vacuum, making deliveries quick and efficient so as not to block alley, safety concerns addressed by installation of surveillance system to discourage illegal activities. Would like a letter of support to be licensed. Eric made motion to write a letter of support. Stuart seconded. Motion passed. Letter needed by the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

888 Maryland Ave E, Removal/Repair Order

Nothing about the 888 Maryland property, no one to present. Discussion regarding the demolition of the property and building of Smoke Shop. Will leave this topic as is unless community voices great concerns.

### Presentation: Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit: Progress Report

Frank Alarcon, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority  
County is seeking public input on proposal to add a station near Hmong Village

Heather McDougal, presenting update on this project. Currently in the Environmental Analysis phase, producing the document that shows the environmental impact of the stations on both the human and natural environment. Engineering and public engagement are both used to help determine this. Construction is set to begin in 2024 and Opening in 2026. The route is a dedicated guideway BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) which is a dedicated lane (has its own lane). Community request to look into pedestrian bridge over Phalen Blvd, connecting Railroad Island and Cayuga. The project office decided that this was not feasible as Route 64 is a good connection already for Railroad Island residents along with Rush Line connection at Payne. Input regarding Arcade St. Station: original station was located down on same level as Payne Station and now will go up Neid St. to Seeger Square (to bring commercial development hopefully) and then back down ramp. This is where Bruce Vento Trail and Rush Line begin running next to each other. Cook Ave Station has been added to fill a long gap between Arcade Station and Maryland Station; this will provide better access to Hmong Village.

They have been to over 100 events to promote, gather community input and use that input for a better route.

Eric is on the Community Advisory committee for this so he can answer questions also.

### **Presentation: Maryland Ave Reconstruction (Edgerton to Clark) Progress Report**

Jenna Fabish, Ramsey County Public Works Department  
County is seeking public input on intended redesign to address vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety.

Part of improving traffic, crash rate data from 2011 to 2013 was reviewed in 2014 and the Maryland/Edgerton intersection was third in volume of car crashes. Options to improve the intersection includes adding left turn lanes on Maryland turning onto Edgerton.

Federal funding was applied for by the County and awarded in 2015 to begin adding turn lanes when a pedestrian fatality occurred at Greenbriar and Maryland. Based on City and County review and Community input the County implemented a 4 to 3 lane trial project which has now become permanent east of Payne Ave.

Project community input at Open House Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and outcomes (4-3 lane trial): It was found that pedestrian safety was a concern as there is no safe place to cross, anticipating a 4-3 trial from Arkwright to Payne along with pedestrian crossings somewhere along the corridor. Approx. \$1 million in federal funds has been set aside, the rest is County and City funds.

Trial as a 3-lane will be set up for Spring-Summer of 2019. Construction expected late Spring thru Fall 2020.

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

Kassim Busuri Interim City Council Member for Ward 6 introduced himself.

### **Items for Board Discussion**

Sustainable To-Go Container Resolution to be voted on by the City Council on February 20.

Stuart presented resolution to support this. Wintana brought up the fact of cost of these recyclable containers and suggested that maybe the City could find a way to help with that transition cost or some other type of solution. Britt made motion to support the resolution with some recommendation

that there be some conscious discussion and language about phasing for businesses. Stuart seconded and motion passed.

#### Progress Report: Ad Hoc Committee on City-Wide Trash Collection

Rebecca reported that the committee met and decided that what they would like to do is hold a forum that gives the community a voice to discuss the trash issues. Specific questions can be brought up and given to the people that can answer them. It would not be a “bashing session” but a discussion so that solutions could also be considered. March is when this could happen.

#### Consent Agenda – December Minutes

Britt made motion to approve the December minutes, Wintana seconded. Athena abstained. Motion approved.

#### **Finance Report**

Bill is out of the country.

#### **Executive Director Report**

Jack reported that the 2019 Civic Engagement application to the City has been submitted. Also comments and thoughts on the City Comprehensive Plan were submitted to the Planning Commission January 11<sup>th</sup> with input from Athena, Eric, Stuart, Robin and Jack.

#### **President’s Report**

Britt moved to appoint a Nominations Committee for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Board at the April meeting. Wintana seconds. Motion passes.

Britt will chair this committee. Other Board members can be on the committee if they are not up for re-election. Joanne Ellis from Commissioner McDonough’s office volunteered. If you are interested send Britt an email.

Joe Kuzelka is resigning from the Board as he is moving out of the area.

#### **Adjourn**

Krishna made motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, motion passed.

**Minutes submitted by** Rebecca Nelson Board Secretary