



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Board of Directors Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, February 26nd, 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	P	Athena Hollins	P
Stuart Knappmiller	P	Britt Kringle	P	Seanne Thomas	P
Crystal Norcross	L	Wintana Melekin	P	Krishna Natarajan	P
Rebecca Nelson	P	Lynette Pineda Tamayo	E	Eric Saathoff	E
Chris Schweitzer	P	Danielle Swift	E		
Maychy Vu	E	Bill Zajicek	P		

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

Community Participants & Guests: Trista MatasCastillo (Ramsey Co Commissioner), Georgia Fort (SIR Boxing), Regina Rippel, Cheryl Peterson, Joann Ellis (Commissioner McDonough’s office), Amy Speare, Damian Schaab, Don Lorr, Jolie Wood (Ramsey County), Marjorie Otto (East Side Review)
Staff: Jack Byers (Executive Director), Robin Horkey (Administrative Assistant)

Welcome, Introductions, Review of the Agenda

Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo Introduction & conversation about District 5 issues.

Trista MatasCastillo District 3 Commissioner talked about the County’s plans to implement a 4-3 test for the conversion of Maryland Avenue going west towards Arkwright from Payne Ave. This stretch will be the County’s test of 4-3 for all of Ramsey County so if it goes well, the County will be implementing this on more Ramsey county roads. Test will start in the beginning in April after one more public meeting. Additional crosswalks will be considered first at Burr St.

Stuart asked about Rice Commons in Arden Hills, right now this affordable housing issue is at a stalemate and going back to mediation.

Development related

SIR Boxing, 1440 Arcade St. Georgia Fort seeking letter of support for Neighborhood STAR grant.

Georgia Fort is looking for support for a Neighborhood STAR Grant application for SIR Boxing Club. Arcade Business Center for four years. SIR Boxing is looking to expand and make renovations to the building (adding a water fountain, bathroom with shower, and sign outside). They have approval from their landlord and they are prepared to match the grant for \$5,000 to \$10,000. The Club serves a very diverse group, ages 4 and up. This program serves many at-risk youth and helps them with guidance

and mentoring. Britt asked about scholarships. Yes, but they are informal, goal is to have a fund for that. Wintana knows the owner well from school and is a strong supporter of this program. Tara asks question about the safety of boxing. Georgia replies that her husband would know better and will follow up.

Wintana makes motion to offer letter of support, Britt seconds. Tara abstains and motion is approved.

Presentation: Census: Complete Count Committee

By Jolie Wood, Ramsey County Policy Analyst

Count occurs every ten years and it is important because that's how we figure out the numbers of seats each state gets in the 435 seats in Congress. Minnesota could lose a seat in the House of Representative and therefore a loss of electoral votes. We have eight seats now, in order to keep them going forward, we need to have the best possible actual count and not an estimate. Ramsey County and the City of St Paul have begun to create Complete Count committees in order to create awareness & outreach. We need an accurate count to keep funding for many Federal programs. In District 5 we have a non-response rate of 20% to 49%. In 2019, the City and County are trying to build bridges with community organizations and local governments. In 2020, in March postcards and letters will be sent out with info for online registration, more reminders and then the actual questionnaire. Census takers will be sent out then to people who have not responded. As many people as possible are encouraged to become Census counters, especially those with second language skills. 40,000 people will be needed for Minnesota alone.

Citizenship question is in contention and hopefully be resolved by the Supreme Court by next year when the questionnaire goes out.

Britt asked for advertising flyers, applications etc. at our Annual Meeting.

Jack commented that our base funding is from the City of St Paul and 60% of that is from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and that the formula for that funding is based on the census. The census formula also affects the amount of money that local, county, and state governments get for affordable housing, transportation etc.

Public Comment/Input/Announcements

Introduction of Terri Thao who is running for City Council for Ward 6.

Regina frustrated about the trash service. She received letter and is confused by it as it shows a credit. There is an administration fee and she can't get a straight answer. She would like trash issues to be resolved.

Don Lorr offered an open invitation to the Railroad Island Neighborhood meeting on Thursday night. Election of new chair will happen and there will be presentations about construction projects (Payne Avenue re-surfacing (Edgerton to Woodward) and Lafayette and Tedesco reconstruction – including bike lanes and other design issues.

Bill Z announcing a fundraiser March 20th at the Flat Earth Brewery for art studio and gallery on Payne Ave. It will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. PABA & ESNDP are promoting this.

Community member wanting to know about bump-outs by Bruce Vento trail. Jack said PPCC staff were notified by the St. Paul Public Works Dept that a Federal "Safe Routes to School" grant has been awarded to the City and they will be using this money to redo pedestrian routes to, from, and around the Bruce Vento school to make it safer. More details in April or May.

Crystal announced the City Council Candidate Forum for all Ward 6 candidates on Wednesday Feb. 27 at the East Side Freedom Library, 6:30 to 8 pm.

Rebecca announced Wednesday March 6th East Side Elders will be holding their Elder Fest at Flat Earth Brewery from 6 to 8. Raffles, food trucks and speakers.

Friday March 8th is the St Paul East Side Lion Club Fish Fry, Silent Auction, 50/50 raffles, bake sale, eggrolls, all you can eat fish. 4:30 to 7:30.

March 16th will be the Bake Sale for the East Side Community Festival and Harvest Fest Parade at the American Legion on Arcade St from 12 to 5.

Board Deliberation and Votes

Approval of November minutes and January minutes.

Britt moves to approve both minutes, Wintana seconds, motion passed.

Britt talks about Annual Meeting April 23rd. Auction items committee, food committees, and help with nominating committee. There are many Board seats to fill so please try to recruit heavily. Wintana offers to lead the work group who will solicit food donations.

Tara would like to discuss the possibility of PPCC supporting legislation currently under consideration at the MN state Legislature.

- SF 163 Reduction of transit fares for MetroTransit system
- HF 1313 MN Chinese Friendship Garden
- HF 1350 East Side Freedom Library (ESFL)

There was a conversation amongst Board Members about how much lobbying would /could we do? We are a 501c3, so lobbying is prohibited. But are we just suggesting that we are watching and seeing what is going on? Is this something we should be into? Do we have an agenda?

Agreement was made to suspend conversation and table until next month.

Finance Report

Treasurer Bill needs balance sheets.

Executive Director Report

City has streamlined the process of grants and assume that all Community Councils will be getting more money than they have in the past. The City Council voted on the proposed increases and PPCC will be getting \$134,000 for our annual Community Engagement Grant for 2019. In addition,

Innovation Equity Funds of \$6000 per year for three years are available to improve equity and outreach for each Community Council. Hopefully money will be available in the next week.

Bruce Vento Safe Routes to School Grants (see above and packet). Also, the draft St. Paul Pedestrian Plan calls out Railroad Island and blocks north to York as being priorities since they need serious pedestrian improvements.

President's Report

Athena talks about when Stuart was elected, he ran with the understanding that Stuart and the Board thought he would have had two-year term but in the election process it turned out to be a one-year term. Since Joe K. recently resigned, the Executive Committee voted to take care of the previous error having Stuart fill out the remaining year in Joe's term (which means Stuart will have a two year term as originally intended.)

Adjourn

Chris made motion to adjourn, Krishna seconded, and the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by

Rebecca Nelson Board Secretary