



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes for the Community Meeting
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom Conferencing

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda 6:30 pm Rebecca Nelson (Acting Chair)

Attendance: Ikram Ali, Janey Atchison, Patricia Enstad, Marci Exsted, Athena Hollins, Jacob Jurss, Carolyn Keeton, Stuart Knappmiller, Krishna Natarajan, Rebecca Nelson, John Thompson, Bill Zajicek Excused absence: Kelsey Canaday, Seanne Thomas, Absent: Wintana Melekin, Lynette Harris

Community Participants and Guests: Mary Konsela, Cory Hetchler

Staff: Executive Director Jack Byers, Administrative Assistant Robin Horkey

Context: Many organizations are confronting how to manage the need to host virtual board meetings and elections when current bylaws do not allow for this activity. Following the lead of the St. Paul City Council, in April the PPCC Board adopted the following language (and a series of other measures to manage the organization through this challenging time): "In-person meetings, or meetings conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.02 of the City Council, are not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 health pandemic emergency declared under Minn. Stat. Chapter 12 by the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. In light of the COVID-19 health pandemic, members of the City Council will participate in City Council meetings by telephone or other electronic means."

Business items: 6:40 pm

1. Approval of minutes from recent meetings: (Stuart Knappmiller, Acting Secretary) Athena moved approval, John seconded, approved.
2. PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer) The city is waiting for funds for Councils. Staff applied for Payroll Protection Program in April, which will pay staff salaries.
3. Election of Officers for the Board of Directors 6:50: Marci nominated, Patricia seconded Rebecca Nelson for President. Rebecca nominated, John Thompson seconded Patricia Enstad for Vice-President, Rebecca nominated, Bill seconded Janey Atchison for Treasurer, Bill nominated, Patricia seconded Stuart Knappmiller for Secretary. All unanimously elected.

4. Election of At-Large Members to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors: Bill nominated, Patricia seconded Seanne Thomas, Marci self-nominated, Rebecca seconded Marci Exsted, Patricia nominated, Rebecca seconded Carolyn Keeton. All unanimously elected.

Discussion Items: 7:10 pm

5. Consideration of letter concerning encampments in the City of St. Paul drafted by Freedom from the Streets - At the request of CM Nelsie Yang, Ward 6. The letter expressed those in encampments should have a choice to stay unhoused. Yang and Jalali argue in St Paul no one should have to be on the street.

Patricia moved, Jacob seconded we support the letter. Motion passed.

6. Status report on the Phalen Park China Garden Project 7:20: Request of Board Member Bill Zajicek for discussion and feedback. The project began in 2005 with the China Peoples Friendship Association of MN realizing there were Japanese gardens in MN but no Chinese garden. PPCC became involved in 2011 at an environmental meeting and again in 2014 with a 30 participant meeting. Tim Mahoney and Fong Hawj got \$50,000 in 2015 to begin a plan. The estimate from St Paul Parks was \$700,000. Now the cost is 1.5 million. In 2019 the project was \$240,000 short so the city gave a promissory note for work. The first phase will include plants this summer. Then \$1 million in restricted funds will be made available for phase two, which will include a Hmong Plaza, an East Moon Gate, Donor Wall and the garden extended to the waters edge and a Moon Bridge connecting the garden to the island.

7. Board appointments and/or volunteers:

- East Side Housing Justice Community Advisory Committee would have monthly meetings in 2021. Jacob was interested in pursuing this.
- Wheelock Park Public Art: Artist Selection Process: several expressed an interest and will decide among themselves who will apply.

➤ Next PPCC Community Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

ADJOURN 8:04 pm