



Payne-Phalen COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Community Meeting

Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom Conferencing

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:30 pm

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 2020, 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.”

Attendance: Janey Atchison, William Zajicek, John Thompson, Ikram Ali, Athena Hollins, Lynette Harris, Carolyn Keeton, Patricia Enstad, Seanne Thomas, Rebecca Nelson, Marci Exsted, Stuart Knappmiller

Staff: Executive Director Jack Byers, Administrative and Outreach Assistant Robin Horkey

Community Participants and guests: Joann Ellis, Sam Wegner (Lower Phalen Creek Project)

Developing the Payne-Phalen District Plan:

6:35 pm

Chapters: Transportation:

1. Discussion, review, and comment: Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW): Public review and comment period closes on June 25th
 - a) Big Picture and Top Line Issues

- Our Met Council Rep: Chai Lee – reach out & invite them to a meeting?
- 6:40 Presentation and Discussion: Overview of bridge over Johnson Pkwy & need for more community comment; impact on daylighting of Phalen Creek Project – request to use “Phalen Creek Project” rather than “Lower Phalen Creek”, using language that is more concrete to highlight the use of the land by the Dakota people for a settlement and traveled using the creek; gentrification concerns & impact on affordability of the East Side, John mentioning a call for intentional hiring of folks in the community for the work. Beacon’s Bluff committed to incorporating jobs from the community but didn’t do this. How do we hold them to a commitment like this? Rebecca has been following up with something similar regarding Hillcrest and follow-through for hiring folks. Economic benefits letter might be the appropriate vehicle to be added to the Rush Line planning docs.
- 30-page Enviro Justice Technical Report can be found in Appendix E – needs to be clarified & defined.

7:54pm Janey Atchison made a motion to support the Rush Line but we have concerns.

7:56pm Seanne Thomas made a motion that the environmental assessment include an economic benefits commitment to employ local BIPOC skilled laborers on the Purple Line project and a commitment to expand affordable housing along the Purple Line. Additionally, more community input on the Johnson Parkway bridge and a synchronization with the day lighting of the creek.

8:02pm Athena Hollins seconded Seanne’s motion.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Informational note: the Rush Line is also referred to as the Purple Line.

- a) Section 1. Purpose and Need
- b) Section 2. Alternatives
- c) Section 3. Environmental Impact Areas
- d) Section 4. Section 4(f) Evaluation
- e) Section 5. Public Engagement and Agency Coordination

Business items:

2. Approval of minutes from recent meetings: (Stuart Knappmiller, Secretary)
8:08 pm Marci Exsted moved to approve the minutes.
8:08 pm Seanne Thomas seconded.
8:08 pm Unanimous approval of the motion.
3. PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)
4. Update: Fundraising Committee (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)

Announcements, updates, and upcoming business:

- Save the date: Payne-Phalen Community Council Annual Meeting and Elections, Saturday, September 25th, 8-11 a.m., Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
- Heads up: City of St. Paul [Parking Study](#) related to minimum parking requirements
- City of St. Paul, Swede Hollow Park Master Plan – [Interpretive Signage](#): Community meetings to be scheduled by LCPC for later this summer

ADJOURN

8:12 pm

O *Next PPCC Community Meeting:* Tues., July 27, 2021, at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Notes taken by Marci Exsted on behalf of Stuart Knappmiller.

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