



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Community Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom Conferencing

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:30 pm

Attendance

Board Members: Carolyn Keeton, Rebecca Nelson, Seanne Thomas, Patricia Enstad, Damian Schaab, Justine LaCroix, Lynette Harris, Julia Wilcox, Kelsey Canaday, Rachel Sheild, Marci Exsted, Dayna Wolter

Council Staff: Jack Byers & Robin Horkey

Community Members: MariEtta Wood (St. Paul Parks & Rec)

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.”

Developing the Payne-Phalen District Plan:

6:40 pm

1. Background, refresher, and progress report:
Presentation (Jack Byers, Executive Director)
 - Review of documents sent out in the board packet. Overview of work & details needed re: District Plan. Comprehensive Plan is required by the city with updates every 10 years. State law also requires that cities/districts have a plan that is consistent with the metropolitan council (St. Paul for All plan for the entire city).
 - In 2018 – our District Plan didn't have any core values established. We have since started this but it is not completed.
 - Reiteration that the last time a district plan was created was in the 1970s when our neighborhood was predominantly White.
 - Articulation of the goals/aims of the project are vital for implementation.

- Scope was established, we have gathered resources (inclusion of artists who work in the community to draw people out so people can express themselves through these artists), preliminary list of community partners gathered, timeframe originally established was disrupted by COVID.
 - a. Marci brought up question related to qualitative interviewing and coding.
 - b. Damian mentioned meta data as well and what's available.
 - c. Seanne talked about being interested in the artists' approaches, mentioned
 - d. Julia mentioned taking a survey and being interviewed by Macalester College about feeling welcome and safe in parks in the area.
 - e. Jack – partnerships and information with different groups (Metro State doing windshield assessments, interviews etc. and other places that have info for us). Jack has some experience with NVivo and they have used tools in the past to help draw people in, such as otter, which does automatic transcribing. Another thing that was used during in-person work, they would write down/have people write down their responses and then it would be scanned/photographed but then given back to them to keep as their ideas.
 - f. Rachel – data is only as good as the number of voices you activate. The list of partners is good but Rachel wondered about our relationships/their involvement and how we can strengthen this for this work (as well as ongoing).
 - g. Jack – executive committee discussed this for a while and decided that tonight it would be good to take this conversation to the next level. In 2019, we had an intern that pulled together 3-400 orgs that serve this district and we narrowed it down to this list. Some of these are well-established partners and some of them need to be developed. You've hit on one of the big questions for tonight.

Updates:

2. Developing our community engagement strategy for 2022
Discussion and organizing session (Led by Executive Committee)
 - Seanne – one of the things that emerged out of that conversation was the possibility of forming some working groups within the Community Council. One thought was we could have a working group that investigates some strategies around gathering data from community, a working group investigating how we can mine data from partners, and (at some point) maybe have a working group that could guide and manage those strategies. Does anyone have anything to add from that conversation?
 - Patricia: I think along with that – some relatively new things that have come to light, in addition to having the people to do that engagement, we need those artists on board. We also have some new monies in for transportation sustainability (Hour Care) and there's some hiring with that so we need some people to work with that. And, Jack, I believe that's sort of pressing – so we need to be ready to move forward with that pretty soon. Is that right?

- Jack: yes. The PPCC has partnered with HourCar, which is trying to unroll an electronic car sharing service. In late Spring/early Summer we applied to the Federal EPA to work at the grassroots level to work on environmental justice. HourCar was the lead applicant and we were a co-sponsor and we won the grant! It's 80k over 2 years (40k/year) so we can hire a part-time community engagement and environmental justice community coordinator. The intention is that that person would work with the PPCC to help advance the District Plan, the Rush Line, and the work of Hour Car. While that's fantastic, we can't put all of this on one person – we'll just have additional help.
- Patricia – as I understand, we need to work to define that person's role and finding that person, or how defined is that from the grant. Or do we need a subgroup to read the grant and help guide us?
- Jack: I think it's more important either in a separate group or all of the groups and the board to direct their work. The qualifications and the work are pretty much prescribed by the grant. Since the grant is for 2022 and 2023, the agreement is that we would have something on the ground in the next few weeks (an application). We'd hope to hire someone by Feb/March and coordinate that person's work with the organization. We should look at, when that person's hired, how will they do this work will all of us. (a few folks pointed out to Jack that he was having audio problems)
- Seanne: it sounds like we have to participate in the management and hiring process but we have to consider how this person would integrate into the work for the District Plan.
- Jack pulled up the "Zipper" again and asked how the person is going to join into this process, or is it too complicated (looking at them helping through the topics as well). We need to look at the path from A to B and B to C.
- Lynette: I find this pretty interesting because my Home Health Care is starting new beginnings with HourCar and we are taking a serious look at how transportation + housing affects our employees who work for Care For All. One of the things that is important (in the circle), I just had a meeting with the Director – Shannon and have another one in Dec, and we will have a corporate membership and we will be using them (in a pilot) as well in the Spring. This will eventually probably catch onto other home health cares as well. EVie is wanting to break into this arena because – even in our preplanning before COVID we were hashing out what we want to see in the community in the next 20/30 years and we see that Blue Line but what we're about to see with some drastic changes is EVie and those electric cars. I don't know if we can go back and add that to [our plan] because, I don't know if you know that the city of St. Paul is responsible for the charging stations. Prospectively, we'll have quite a few charging stations built throughout St. Paul.
- Justine: is part of the data collection where we'll put the charging stations – or who decides this? Is this something we're looking into or the city?
- Lynette: as far as I'm aware, the city determines that
- Jack: that's mostly true but HourCar, in partnership with the city, scoped out how the service would be most effective and in St. Paul they said "you can't roll this out in the affluent neighborhoods" – so this program is focused in

the core neighborhoods and all the community councils pushed for (as far back as 2019/early 2020). HourCar did engagement about the specific placement with the councils and looked at the electricity feed (not disrupting businesses/bus stops/etc) so the initial station spots are already set up with wiring and are ready to go. That's all for Phase 1 and there will be a second round with more added, likely bolstered by the new federal funding passed.

- Lynette: under the infrastructure bill they have a good chunk of money at their disposal
- Patricia: that was a great circle around. To return to what Seanne brought forward with the working groups is that it seemed to us, the exec committee... do you need, Jack, people to be involved in both the environmental justice hiring and the community engagement?
- Jack: the environmental justice hiring will be done in conjunction with Powderhorn Park. With regards to the artists: the conception is that the executive committee will only do the interviewing and help to advise the director. Based on what Seanne proposed, if you're all ready to move forward, then I think we're ready and can start to activate the process to spend some of that money to hire artists. We were waiting since we were unable to be back in person, but I would recommend looking for artists that are effective at a hybrid approach.
- Patricia: clarified that we have the green light for moving ahead and then those 3 working groups [Jack confirmed this]. Also, Lynette has something...
- Lynette: I want to – okay so although my company is forming relationships with HourCar and I'm still a board member, I would like to assist a little bit even though my plate is full. Her home health care agency did a recent survey on PCAs and transportation. This resulted in showing 70% of those who answered living on the bus line and that's where EVie came in. Clarified that she's not getting paid, so this wouldn't be a conflict. But she asked if the planning that was done was 1.5 years ago. When [we] were last at the center and John was the bus driver. So, that planning is not set in stone, correct?
- Jack: you're right, that's not set in stone (was just data collection) but that is open for people to analyze it. We talked about the community partners and that's a group that Seanne recommends. Something I forgot to mention is that originally – there is about 30k people living in district 5 and there are about 20 of us. We have a slim chance of reaching 31k people on our own. With our community partners, we can expand our reach. So, if we look at the partners list and reach out – each of them connects with a lot of people in the District. So if we can have them connect with the folks in their community that they serve or work with, we can expand our reach significantly. I know we have folks on the board currently with relationships with these orgs. However, there are some we need to expand our relationships with. For example, the Karen organization – we don't have a close relationship but they serve a lot of people in our district. So, the proposal (as I understand), is to reach out and embrace that list and going out to them so that we can listen to what they have to say. When it comes to community (at large) engagement – there's a lot we have done and can do.

We previously went to a lot of in-person festivals, had community meetings at the Rec center. We've also discussed getting on the bus and talking with people – literally going and talking with them. Parades, dinners, packaging up a “meeting in a box”.

- Patricia: well we talked about doing these things – going to orgs, bringing them donuts, etc. We got quite excited but we realized the exec committee tasked with guiding all these projects – unless we develop a working group we would be back to square 1 in December. There's a lot of excitement but there needs to be additional planning/implementation and then it can come back to the group as a whole. Especially with COVID, we don't have a lot of those 'on the way out the door' opportunities.
- Lynette: well you just named it “On Our Way Out the Door”...what I'm telling you guys (since you have the relationship in the works with HourCar) – we still want to be able to form these relationships throughout COVID. You just named it. With EVie, “On Our Way Out the Door” – when you place an order, it's been order pick ups and that's the same thing we can implement with D-5. This can be a meet and greet pick up with D-5. On the list we just showed, we can show up to their meetings and introduce ourselves by dropping things off and having a “carry out conversation”. How do you do that creatively?
- Julia [in the chat]: curious if we have specific questions to pose to community already?
- Patricia: we do have a lot but we may need to revisit since COVID, so these are the things (such as historical preservation). Are these still relevant/pressing? How might those pieces be different for our partners?
- Julia: might these change based on how we engage with our partners (starting with why and the what and moving into the how)
- Patricia: so sort of like planning the engagement
- Rachel: I think there's a lot to be said for making the distinctions between information from community orgs versus the community itself. I would also guess that it might help to do some focus group question development, things developed by the grassroots stakeholders to develop those questions.

Engagement Planning Group

- Rebecca confirmed that **Rachel** would like to be on this group.
- **Justine** said it might be good to tailor the questions and interesting to think about what kind of questions and making sure we get the right questions to the right people. (she also expressed interest)
- **Julia** is also on board with this.

Seanne asked if we should have 2 separate engagement groups (partners and community).

Rebecca checking in on folks' thoughts.

Dayna: I think 2 engagement teams are best because it's a big job.

Patricia: it might be good for this first group to start (this is what I thought Seanne was getting at) – would it be good to have a team 'teasing out' these distinctions [between community and partners]. I would be willing to be a part of this during the distinction phase and I think some other exec folks might lend their hands there and then move into partners/community outreach.

Seanne: I think that's a good idea. Like Rachel said, you might ask [different questions to each type of stakeholder]

Jack: I was thinking that, maybe to make it easier based on what Rachel was saying and Seanne proposed – maybe it would be easier to have the community at large group to figure out what to seek (what are the questions) but the other working group uses their ears first – going out to listen first. Asking: what are you doing? Feeding this information to one another.

Rachel: talked about how there are culturally specific ways of utilizing information/gaining information to consider as well.

Patricia: what we learn from the community orgs. Will also help shape our community engagement. It's another zipper.

Rachel: maybe as one gets started we could divide into 2, if it helps to split eventually.

Patricia: my vote is that it takes the whole issue and then move into where people are drawn.

Rebecca: okay so the plan is to start one group and maybe merge into 2.

Rachel: I can send out a Doodle poll. Is the goal to have met before next months meeting?

Rebecca: mentioned that our next meeting is in January.

Patricia: yes, I believe the exec committee is meeting in December.

Jack: the board has previously decided not to meet due to holidays, but we can. I think in many ways it's easier to meet digitally.

Rachel: next week is December and that final week, I won't be able to do much.

Rebecca: let's take a break then and meet in January.

Patricia: the council will meet in January but the engagement committee could meet before then and even before our exec meeting (3rd Tuesday)

Marci: tentatively might pop in.

Patricia: this knowledge base might be useful. Understands pieces of competition & things.

Rebecca: doodle poll will be sent out to the whole board to see if people are interested in joining this committee (due to time we're wrapping).

Business items:

7:40 pm

3. ~~PPCC Board Roster~~ (skipped)
4. PPCC Board Conflict of Interest Pledge
5. ~~PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)~~ skipped
6. Approval of minutes: (Marci Exsted, Secretary)
 Seanne moved to approve the minutes.
 Patricia seconded.
 Approved unanimously.

ADJOURN

8:00 pm

Seanne moved to adjourn. Rachel seconded.

➤ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, January 25th, 2022, 6:30-8pm, on Zoom

Engage * Educate * Empower