



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes for the Community Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom Conferencing

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:30 pm

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

Staff: Jack Byers, Robin Horkey, Maly Lee

Community Members: Joshua Markham, Don Lorr, Jose Luis Villaseñor (MPCA), Jenna Ness (MPCA), Bruce Braaten (MPCA), Darlene Adams

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.”*

1. Welcome/New Member

- a. The council formally welcomed its newest member, Maly Lee.

Developing the Payne-Phalen District Plan:

1. Presentation: Metropolitan Council Waste Treatment Facility, Presentation by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Jenna Ness, Project Manager, Bruce Braaten, Air Quality Permits, and José Luis Villaseñor, Environmental Justice Outreach Coordinator.
 - a. Introductions & Explanation of Roles
 - b. Role of Water Treatment Facility
At present, the Water Treatment Facility in our district handles 65% of all home/business wastewater treatment in the Twin Cities, and 80% of sewer wastewater.
 - c. Incinerator Request
Due to the age of current (3) incinerators as well as population growth & demand estimates, the water treatment facility is in need of a fourth incinerator. The current 3 incinerators operate 365 days a year, the

goal of the fourth unit is to help rotate usage across incinerators and to ensure the plant has 3 working units at all times. At this time, it is not expected or planned for all 4 units to run simultaneously. The build model for the 4th incinerator is identical to current incinerators.

d. Boiler Request

The second improvement at the treatment plant is to update the current boiler system and eventually migrate over to propane use versus natural gas.

e. Discussion on Air Pollution & Permitting Process

This district has some of the poorest air quality within the Twin Cities, so council brought up questions surrounding the potential and likelihood of additional pollutants that would come as a result of a fourth incinerator.

- i. The Minnesota Pollution Control team addressed these questions and noted the biggest causes for concern are Nitrogen, Carbon Dioxide and dust or particulate matter. The team also addressed that their current environmental modeling does not notate a dramatic increase in current pollution levels with the installation of a new incinerator.
 1. The model did not include the oil refinery
 2. The model did include running all four incinerators simultaneously for an extended period of time (or worst case scenario).
 3. The Minnesota Pollution Control team explained there are studies and data collection points around cancer rates in the community, specific numbers or data research can be obtained by contacting the state
- ii. The Minnesota Pollution Control team explained the air permit requirements that they had to draft and submit to the state for approval. The permit will include testing requirements, equipment control measures, etc. The permit is currently under review at state level- the next step in the process is to complete informal community outreach programs.
- iii. The council requested the Minnesota Pollution Control Team to send the MPAC fact sheet to the council for further review- this request was agreed to be sent to Jack for distribution.

f. Generator/Power Source

The council posed several questions around power sources for the backup generators at the treatment plant. The Minnesota Pollution Control Team explained the generators run on natural gas; they will not be solar powered. The council noted several concerns around burning additional fossil fuels and an increase in burning fossil fuels with a fourth incinerator.

2. *Lead levels in Payne-Phalen*: Joshua Markham and Jose Luis Villasenor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 6:35 pm
- a. This presentation has been postponed to a later date due to scheduling conflict.
3. Updates and further discussion: *Developing our community engagement strategy for 2022*: Discussion and organizing session led by the Engagement Subcommittee (Julia and Justine) 7:30 pm
- a. The engagement committee listed off initial questions the community council can use as a baseline to engage with community members. These questions are meant to be prompt-style with limited descriptors to solicit un-bias and complete responses. Initial questions include:
 - i. What is your highest need in the community now?
 - ii. Where do you see the neighborhood in 20 years?
 - iii. What things do you love and hope do not change within our neighborhood?
 - iv. In what ways do you believe the neighborhood could change for the better?
 - v. What obstacles do you see that lie in our path to reaching your vision?
 - b. Damien suggested that the following question should also be added to determine level of current involvement in the community.
 - i. In what ways are you currently involved with our community? or which organizations do you currently support?
 - c. Lynette shared the U of M is also surveying the community and will find a contact for that survey.
 - d. Patricia suggested adding a question around how people feel their voice is heard.
 - e. Next steps include a booth; a written survey; QR codes at local bars & restaurants and Phalen Lake; engage people while they are walking; in a local business; Kelsey suggested the food truck court at Gustavus on the weekend. They know there are several outdoor events coming up and want to have the survey questions and QR codes ready. The season of engagement is now. Opportunities that need people were discussed.
4. *Review and consideration*: Hamm's Brewery Development, Joint Letter of community interest (draft) 7:10 pm
- City of St Paul is trying to sell the site. This Saturday the RFP expires. Six core organizations have been meeting regularly: PPCC, DBCC, ESNDC, RR Island Neighborhood Group, Historic St. Paul, and ESABA. This group conducted a November tour & meeting and now includes the Lower Phalen Creek Project, ESFL, Phalen Blvd Corridor, and more. It has been suggested to contact the HRA and inform them of basic community values and community ideas. A draft letter is included in tonight's packet for your input

and other community organization's input before it is sent to the HRA and PED.

Motion by Lynette to support the letter. Second by Patricia. Discussion included some additional input around a developer that will co-create with the community focusing on community values and priorities. The letter will seek to balance the various nonprofit organizations specific wants and needs and a final draft will be prepared. Motion passed.

Business items:

7:50 pm

5. PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)
 - a. Financial docs in the packet. The executive committee will try to present the financials in a more easily understandable way.
 - b. The May meeting will include our tax documents.
6. Approval of minutes: (Marci Exsted, Secretary)
Motion to approve by Dana, seconded by Carolyn. Motion passed.
7. Announcements (Rebecca and Jack)
Save May 13th for the kick-off of the Evie Car Share program.

Adjourn

8:00 pm

- **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 6:30-8pm at the Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue (on site, in-person)

Minutes submitted by Seanne Thomas and Justine LaCroix-Martin