



# Payne-Phalen COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Community Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

In-person meeting: Arlington Hills Rec Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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**Welcome:** Introductions and Review of the Agenda

**6:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Rebecca Nelson, Patricia Enstad, Marci Exsted, Janey Atchison, Lynette Harris, Carolyn Keeton, Damian Schaab, Julia Wilcox, Dayna Wolter.

Staff: Jack Byers, Robin Horkey, Maly Lee

Community Participants and guests: Regina Rippel, Ethan Osten (Ramsey County), Chris Xiong (City of St. Paul), Jeff and Emily Anderson, Danielle Swift, Steve Gjerdingen, Anne DeJoy (ESNDC), Anna Waugh, Kurt Hallstrom (SPPD), Mai Xiong (MnDOT), Carolyn Fackler (MnDOT), Faith Xiong (Zan Associates), and several more attendees.

### Developing the Payne-Phalen District Plan:

1. Presentation: Arcade Street Project: Minnesota Department of Transportation 6:40 pm
2. Carolyn Fackler presenting on the Arcade project. Mai Xiong & Faith Xiong.
  - a. Project details & team members (6 folks total) & grant info. Overview provide: maintenance project from 7<sup>th</sup> street to bridge over gateway state trail. Improving safety + effective functioning through the corridor. Aim for construction to start in Fall 2024.
  - b. Improvement: road resurfacing (will improve drainage), sidewalk repairs (80-90% replaced, much due to ADA needs), opportunities to bring more safety “for all users” (e.g. bikes), lighting/signal/bus stop improvements.
  - c. RAISE grant through fed hwy admin **secured 6.5 million for this project.**
  - d. Taking May to speak to community & businesses, taking that along w/alternatives analysis they’re working on (fed by engagement to date). Final layout to present in mid-June (approx.). Various engagement efforts (e.g. virtual meetings, etc). Contacted 350 businesses, online survey, mailings, sidewalk decals, etc.
    - i. From this, heard: need for pedestrian safety, greater buffer between pedestrians & vehicles, street beatification, lane reduction, reduction of vehicle speed + driver confusion, parking.
    - ii. Parking study: not a lot of utilization (>50% of corridor not a lot of parking). Parking need Maryland-York. Only need from York-

7<sup>th</sup> was on Saturdays but plenty of supply. Lots of parking utilized on 7<sup>th</sup>. Mostly utilized 12-6 pm Mon-Sat.

- e. Design Concepts [framed w/design definitions on p. 15 of PPT]
  - i. Broke up the area into 7 sections depending on various factors.
    - 1. Section A (: planning to adjust curb-line, clean-up road geometrics
    - 2. Section B (Mound-Minnehaha/Mendota): Alternative 1) brings it down from 4 to 3 lanes keeping parking bays, keeping bump outs. Keeping center medians. 2) 3 laned (1 each direction, center turn lane), on parking side would keep bump-outs but w/bike lane would not keep bump outs. **Are we willing to sacrifice half a road of parking for bikelanes? Which of these 2 options do you prefer...if we do drop 1 side of parking, any opinion on which side?**
      - a. Community member: bike lanes are nice, my experience is that ppl bike on sidewalks due to safety concern. Feels it's a waste of space.
      - b. Question: did you do a bike study like you did a parking study?
        - i. No, & if we count now & there are no bikes is it b/c there is no current lane now?
      - c. Damian: mentioned doing a study on like-streets.
      - d. Community member: I don't bike there a lot but when I do, a bike lane would be nice.
      - e. Community member: when you talk about parking, are you talking about moving back & forth or just keeping it to one side?
        - i. Keeping it to one side.
      - f. Community member: they paved bike lanes a while ago & they did it to preserve parking...if we did that on Arcade there's somewhere that it gets pretty narrow (e.g. by Case). Did you have input from businesses that could lose parking? Also, did you look @ not losing parking & adding a bike lane?
        - i. Just looking at one segment of 7<sup>th</sup> street, different situation. That's what we're trying to do is hear more from businesses [in May], esp. on 7<sup>th</sup>.
      - g. Georgia Fort: knows that there is a new Black-owned business there. 99% sure they weren't there when the survey happened. Right on the corner. Works out of media center on indigenous roots. Just launched a newsroom, will have 6-7 folks meeting there. Concerned b/c already parking is tight & she's just showing up here. Wondering where the 10 of them are going to park

when there's already no parking. Concerned about removing either one but removing both would be problematic.

- i. Would only be looking at keeping both or removing one [side of parking]
- h. Janey: mentioned snow emergencies.
  - i. Will bring it up to the city.
- i. Janey: this is in English, too. Lots of Latino businesses.
  - i. Are having a Spanish ESABA-hosted presentation Thursday, Hmong one hosted on Wed also hosted by ESABA @ Far-East
- j. Daniel: do y'all do any door knocking as businesses are open?
  - i. We've been doing that but not always finding folks. Have been out 2-3x now, trying to catch as many folks as possible.
- k. Damian: wondering at how their survey data is looking...
  - i. There has been concern about parking & how that will affect businesses. Want to be sure to do a good job communication.
- l. Community Member: also w/having the one side bike lane, that also leaves folks to have to cross the street to get to businesses.
- m. Community Member: have you observed difference of use of different sides?
  - i. No...it was pretty well balanced. Remembers one block that was at 90-100% utilization for a good chunk of time. Rest of blocks were ~75%. Downside is that if you're already at 75% and you take half of parking away, that would be underserved.
  - ii. Same Community member: looking @ alternative, parking seems wide. When I bike on East 7<sup>th</sup>, going down isn't so bad but going up is...would you consider an uphill only bike lane?
  - iii. Maybe what we could...those are wide parking areas...we don't have enough money to move curb lines in. Trying to maximize usage w/o moving curb lines. Could look at this. Also thinking about "share-o" -> instead of 11-ft wide parking lane it would be 8 ft but 15 ft wide driving lane. In theory, cars & bikes would share that lane. Cars would navigate toward

yellow line, bikes would navigate towards white line.

- iv. Community Member: thinking going downhill would be share-o but uphill would be designated lane.
- v. Dayton's Bluff were worried about lack of buffers w/bike lane...sandwiched between parking & driving lanes. Not as much room to maneuver. Hopefully more of a buffer but a lot of bikers also like to have buffer between themselves & driving car...if only have 7 ft, they'll take 2 of that 7 to paint in a buffer. But have been hearing from folks that they wouldn't even feel safe w/a painted buffer.
- vi. Community member: maybe make the uphill bike lane the one to deal w/the door-zone & the downhill not.
- n. Georgia Fort: re: timeline for engagement...was there a survey done during the pandemic, are you confident you got an accurate reflection [of folks utilizing the space]. Reflected that 5 years ago traffic looks different from now.
  - i. City did analysis of parking prior to COVID, didn't do 7<sup>th</sup> street. Only did their analysis recently. Don't have
  - o. Community member: don't feel safe at all biking on East 7<sup>th</sup>. Wonders if there could be signage connected to city streets like 6<sup>th</sup> when you're considering getting folks connected to businesses.
- 3. Carolyn [MNDOT] – Section C (Arcade-York): 1) 4 foot shoulders, 4 lanes + a left turn lane. If we have bikes on 7<sup>th</sup>, we'd want bikes up to BRT. City is favoring off-street bike facilities. W/this project, they'd be able to make 10 ft wide sidewalk w/shared bike path. Would bring trail up to bridge. But if we don't put bike lanes on 7<sup>th</sup>, likely wouldn't do this. Would do planted tree trenches as well. If not bike lanes, 6ft sidewalk → 2<sup>nd</sup> option w/ 10' concrete boulevard.
  - a. Community member likes bike trail w/walkway b/c takes bike off street. Might be a good solution everywhere.
  - b. Would be considered shared-use path. Wouldn't have delineated spaces.
  - c. Community: asked for clarification about where this would be put (which side)
  - d. Both b/c they would be moving the road in.

- e. Lynette: isn't Arcade considered an interstate?  
Allowed to have bike trail?
  - f. Truck highway, only impacts thickness of road, etc. Yes, allowed to have bike trail.
  - g. Community member: would you be able to do anything like a raised crossing, etc w/the gas station right there...reducing traffic.
  - h. Intersections w/driveways would be considered sidewalks
  - i. Community: would driveways be considered the same/sectioned off differently?
  - j. More up to the city...
  - k. Community member: asked why we would only consider A if there are bike trails...would like this whether or not bike lanes on the other section.
  - l. Generally follow the city's comp & bike plans. Don't designate Arcade as bike route...weren't looking to add bike facilities to Arcade. Not on the plan. As project team, would be helpful to have if we have bike facilities on 7<sup>th</sup> & get new BRT station up there. Also either adding/improving trail to get to the station down there as part of that project...made sense w/that as a connection. Can bring it to the city.
  - m. Jack: clarified that the community member means bikes coming from Bruce Vento trail even if they aren't coming/going on 7<sup>th</sup>
  - n. One way or the other, weren't looking to add it originally. Struggling to get it over bridge & didn't make sense w/o something to connect to...
  - o. Community member: as a biker, you can continue to bike to other, safer streets- reaffirmed connection to Bruce Vento trail.
  - p. Can bring that info back for sure to the city.
4. Rebecca: how is this connecting w/the purple line? [this question keeps not getting addressed by MNDOT so far]
    - a. C: we've been looking at overlap w/our project...b/c of what's needed for # & size of buses...will change geometrics of that intersection. Don't want to make those changes w/those project b/c BRT coming in 2 years after us. Geometrics being pulled back. Things like signals, won't move them b/c they don't want to have them move again. Whatever we incorporate...they'll incorporate that.
  5. Patricia: what I'm hearing that folks are hearing about bike pathways, what I'm hearing is about ppl also worried about getting to places w/their bikes. Not just getting

- through places. E.g. going on a bike to get to the bus & getting to the Y, whatever else.
6. Lynette: mentioned that w/road resurfacing...why can't we find a better solution than using the same material that we have to come back over and over again to repatch? Why not use better materials?
    - a. Probably not the best person to answer that...they do benefit-cost analysis about why they do what where. Can bring that back [to the city]. Offered for someone to take tour of MNRoads facility. Will tell all the research they do. In Albertville.
  7. C: looking at Section D (York-Geranium): will add bump outs at many intersections [will send list of intersections w/bump outs]
  8. Jack: asked for something more specific...
  9. Can add something more specific to website/out.
  10. Rebecca: asked when it would be...tonight?
  11. Jack: ending w/community engagement...if we don't have tonight we wouldn't have an ability to respond to.
  12. Janey: will you be redoing curbs?
  13. C: Yes.
  14. Community member: would be important @ York to connect ppl to the existing bike trail on Forrest w/signs & markings. Otherwise from Bruce Vento you're dumped on Arcade w/nothing [to direct you].
  15. C: Sounds like also signage off of this corridor.
  16. Georgia Fort: own a building in section D. Curious whether they've looked at all at removing any parking there.
  17. C: not looking at removing parking. Just adding bump-outs.
  18. Georgia: v. important for them, not even open yet [boxing gym] & will have dozens of folks coming in. Weren't engaged...received an email in Feb about their basement...5 days after the murder of Amir Locke. Really disappointed being a new business owner. Mentioned, also, the Insane Vegan. Kong's Kitchen, Saigon. Lots of new businesses. When we've talked w/folks & we wanted to show up and be clear that parking is v. important.
  19. C: won't touch [parking] & saw the importance of this, might just lose 1-2 w/transit stops.
  20. Georgia: how do [business owners] stay up to date? Feels disconnected/disjointed [things on sidewalk, etc] & having option 1 or option 2...doesn't feel collaborative. "This is your future, whether you like it or not." I know you mentioned 300+ business owners but we were missed & I know [other] Black businesses that were also missed.

21. Mai: if you go to the project website, emails + phone numbers are on there [including Mai's] & you can sign up for project updates. Will connect w/Georgia to connect w/those businesses.
22. Georgia: sounds like this is happening 2024 after COVID, after unrest & it's a lot to handle. Lots of businesses wiped out & now we're being asked to endure construction...How long w/our streets & sidewalks be ripped up. Wish they had face-to-face before asked to look at their basement. Were only told about sidewalk reconstruction, not loss of parking above/below them on streets.
23. Mai: will be working w/businesses to talk about that. Will be sure to connect w/Georgia.
24. Daniel: if parking would be restricted in sections outside this section...do you think parking would be pushed into section D?
25. Carolyn: Section further south [C], only parking is by 7<sup>th</sup>...doesn't see this encroaching on D. North of that, the parking was not used much [Geranium-Maryland] but north of Maryland it was. Maryland needed add'l traffic study, will need to approach that + parking. Needed parking up there but from walkthroughs/site-visits, lots of folks seem to park at CVS & Walgreens & walk up to those businesses. Parking wasn't heavily utilized [between Geranium & Maryland].
26. Community member: disagreed, does think ppl park on Arcade, worried that w/bump outs on corridor & buses stopping @ corner...if ppl want to park, they have even less parking.
27. Carolyn: looking at having buses stop in lane w/bump outs. Better than bump out + needing space for bus.
28. Community member: doesn't love this idea- having ppl wait behind bus
29. Georgia: if you look @ Arcade & Wheelock on Wednesdays our lot is full in the evenings to Arcade & Case. We have maybe 10 spots, share w/other businesses...where are all these customers going to park. Even if you're taking 1-2 spots...that's a lot. Getting ready to change significantly [ on Arcade ]. At end of August won't be the same as during survey.
30. Daniel: if we further revitalize Arcade, we hope to see even more businesses & not just serve local folks either...hoping to serve ppl from downtown.
31. Community: mentioned ppl parking in Walgreens & CVS...problem is that it's not shared parking & could end at any time. Any loss of parking is a big concern.

32. Carolyn: that strip is a concern, don't see other options. Section E [Geranium-Wheelock]...still have area to Maryland that they don't have all answers for. 2 lanes in each directions w/sidewalk & boulevard. Not looking to move curb-line. Looking @ 4→3 lane conversion. Still not prepared to talk about Maryland but by School heading North...looking at 4→3 lane w/4ft shoulder.
33. Rebecca: Maryland study going to be done?
34. C: by the end of the month...
35. Rebecca: suggested to move community engagement by the end of June...
36. C: Then we'd have to do a special session. Taking input from businesses...
37. Rebecca: Doesn't feel they have enough public engagement to do anything. They were at food truck fest for 2 hours on Sunday. Feels they're missing info + engagement.
38. Lynette: I would like to see if we + other businesses could have that engagement.
39. Community Member: has a business on York + Arcade. Doesn't know how they're letting businesses know about this...only knew from Facebook post about this. Would also like if they could talk with more folks for input, have folks learn timelines...Are businesses going to be closed? Have different routes for customers? New immigrant here, doesn't know exactly what a bump-out is [beyond initial mention, once] Clarified how he can get further communication. We haven't gotten any mail, approached at my store to ask his opinion.
40. Georgia: echoed what Rebecca said. Mentioned a meeting of 20-25 Black-owned businesses that recently happened. Concerned about equity & that feedback won't be implemented. Wondered whether businesses will have input. Is MNDot willing to push back timeline for you to engage w/us? We did get an email but it was v. intrusive "hey can we come look in your basement". I don't know who you are, what you really want, how you got my contact info. Transactional. This is our neighborhood. This isn't just some project, this is our future, our children's future. Feels a little rushed & this is where I pay taxes. Shouldn't have to leave this meeting wondering whether I have say in [what happens here]. Feels really unfair. Community engagement process shouldn't be extended. Husband who operates business can't be here b/c he's teaching a class.
41. Rebecca: agrees. This is our life, this is where we live. Just b/c you have a deadline & a plan. That's you.



42. Carolyn: only concern I have is that we've been reaching out to folks for a year and a half. Concerned about moving schedule back...would lose 6.5 million in funds.
43. Jack: that threat feels a little intense. MNDot reported that a year ago someone named Broderick was supposed to reach out. No report about businesses contacted, # of businesses in the area.
44. Carolyn: bright side of that is that it sounds like there's a lot of new businesses.
45. Community member: that sounds very condescending.
46. Georgia: what you're telling me sounds like we might have to be closed. You're saying well just hold a little longer, you're going to have new sidewalks, esp as a Black-owned businesses after the uprising. Missing equity, where are our voices in this?
47. Community member: if there's a tough timeline, are there areas where some improvements could be done where needed w/an overlay...mentioned that he bikes north of Maryland. Getting 4ft shoulders would be phenomenal. Also being able to cross Arcade.
48. Carolyn: end of June is deadline
49. Daniel: do you have calendar of engagement events in June?
50. Mai: yes & we'll share our engagement council.
51. Daniel: wondering where we can direct folks to show up.
52. Jack: website doesn't show engagement coming up. Most recently showed April mtg that didn't happen.
53. Janey: mentioned Wed & Thurs Meetings [Hmong & Latinx, respectively]
54. Georgia: so when is the meeting w/the Black-owned businesses?
55. Mai: don't have one.
56. Faith: thanked ppl for showing up here & helping them to hear about how they can engage community...
57. Georgia: feels like we're an afterthought. We are an afterthought. Feels like you already have it figured out, we don't have input. You already have BIPOC groups but where's the effort to get to Black-owned businesses. Esp as person who believes in the future of this corridor, invested as a business-owner. Mentioned email – not engagement, that's intrusion.
58. Lynette: were businesses on the Eastside or specifically for Arcade?
59. Mai: Arcade & East 7<sup>th</sup>
60. Patricia: can we see that documentation of that engagement? Feels alarming since we've been told there would be a lot of community engagement. To hear you

better decide if you'll get an overlay...that doesn't feel productive.

61. Community member: is there a way to sign up w/our info to bring us up to speed as a business owner? I do like the changes w/lighting & better sidewalks. Would like to know how it would affect my business. No objection whether it would be good but would like to learn more about it. Mentioned Thursday mtg & inviting ppl to that. Info is probably not out there, would like to see which businesses {350 businesses}...seems like a lot but [we weren't included, myself & Georgia, a friend of mine]. Want to make sure businesses don't lose customers.
  62. Faith: will be reaching out & can make changes by mid-June.
  63. Jack: have you reached out to PABA? A year ago we asked MNDOT to reach out to ESABA, PABA, and ESND, has that ball been dropped? That's been expressed to MNDOT. Remembers meeting in May 2020 need to reach out to those orgs. Reached out offering ourselves to help w/engagement.
  64. Faith: only reached out to ESABA.
  65. Jack: the fact that it's late is not the community's fault, it's MNDOTs. How can you work it out w/our board of directors?
  66. Carolyn: asked about our walk through...wanted to know about this.
  67. Rebecca: we had a walkthrough & organized it ourselves. Doing your job for you. That's concerning to me.
  68. Damian: reflected on lack of utilization of the dept.
  69. Faith: we like to partner w/community orgs. Maybe we could have organized the walkthrough instead of you all. Apologized about it. Wondered what we learned...
  70. Jack: mentioned that we publish our newsletter every week, didn't know about these other meetings this week, any of the other meetings. Only heard about a few meetings in February & only learned on a Friday for a Mon/Tues meeting that was scheduled.
  71. Patricia: we're not your check box.
  72. Janey: mentioned Waterfest + Art in the Hollow on the same day, adding them to our June meeting.
  73. Mai: will be at Art in the Hollow, will look at Waterfest.
- f. Rebecca: inviting them to the second one. [Seconded by Dayna]
  - g. Jack: need info on Maryland + Arcade.
  - h. Carolyn: reflected that we could have saved time on 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Jack: not saying it to be difficult, we've just spent a lot of time w/Metro Transit on the Purple Line. Want to know more than just "we talk to them". Want specifics on traffic stops.

3. *Community Discussion: Walking Arcade and Arcade Street Redesign (PPCC)* 7:10 pm
4. Updates and further discussion: *Firming up our community engagement strategy for Summer and Fall 2022*: Discussion and organizing session led by the Engagement Subcommittee and Executive Committee 7:40 pm

**Business items:**

**7:50 pm**

5. PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)  
Patricia: moved to accept report  
Marci: seconded  
Passed Unanimously!

Julia: Community engagement stuff - Justine created survey monkey. Trying to make QR code. Hoping to print materials, conduct interviews. Meeting next week, will invite folks. Jack asked her to work through the office. TBD

6. Approval of minutes: (Marci Exsted, Secretary)  
Janey motioned to accept.  
Rebecca seconded.  
Passed Unanimously!
7. Announcements (Rebecca and Jack)

**Adjourn**

**8:00 pm**

- **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6:30-8pm at the Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue (on site, in-person)