



Minutes from the Community Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:00 pm

In Attendance

- **Board Members:** Rebecca Nelson, Lynette Harris, Ismail Khadar, Anna-Marie Foster, Seanne Thomas, Damian Schaab, Jessica, Sydney Stuart, Justine LaCroix-Martin, Emma De Vera, Kelsey Canaday, Julia Wilcox
- **PPCC Staff:** Margi Kastle, Jack Byers
- **WonderLust Productions:** Frances Matejcek, Leah Cooper, Becky Dale
- **Community:** Marjorie, Sheng, Margot
- **MN Pollution Control Agency:** Megan Kuhl-Stennes

Developing the Payne-Phalen District Plan:

6:05 pm

1. Debrief on the Community Data Party

Discussion led by Janey Atchison (PPCC Board) and Becky Dale (Wonderlust)

- Seanne: surprised about lack of focus on diversity & youth
- Damian: reflected that this space and structure aren't necessarily youth-friendly
- Anna-Marie: some youth just don't know where to get involved, don't have time (e.g. extracurricular activities). If there was a way for them to be involved less than once a month, like a quarterly school assembly.
- Sheng: can't quite speak to high schoolers [is 33], but agrees that now it is so busy. The idea of incorporation into school makes a lot of sense
- Lynette: what if we offered high school credit, like an elective to show how government does business...do you think that'd be interesting?
- Anna-Marie: a bunch of people I graduated with would have jumped on that
- Lynette: thinks this would be great, youth are the future. Experiences like this shape work ethic & changes your future & life. Former board members have gone onto higher government roles.
- Ismail: time is an issue... something I didn't hear is the social development of the area. Mentioned the idea of slowing things down, like a boulevard approach. That was one thing he heard in his group, how are we going to construct things to have greater communal interaction.
- Damian: lots of virtual meeting places, which force us to disconnect. Different energy with meeting in-person.

- Julia: also environmental factor & environmental justice. Communities that are primarily BIPOC or higher levels of poverty, you see lower investment from the city or even a lack of cleaning up sites (e.g. 3M)
- Damian: discussed how these things are sustained & how complex these things are
- Lynette: we're going into uncharted waters in 2023, with lots of changes in the new year. Talked about being reminded of the importance of "we the people" and it's really the hunger of the people to change the environment. Julia just talked about environmental issues & that's only just the surface – we're dealing with a lot of horrible environmental issues within our community. Feels like there's a real attack on human beings with the environment currently. Don't think we realize how serious these issues are.
- Janey: is there a way we could bridge those gaps? Do see diversity & environmental justice merging in these data?
- Justine: talked about the idea of redeveloping green spaces
- Julia: a mention of increasing community voices & community engagement
- Jessica: talked about how it would be important for us to explicitly state the importance of our diversity
- Lynette: we are at a diverse space on the Eastside & that doesn't change the fact that we are very divided & segregated...in my mind we're really not diverse because we're separate
- Jessica: clarified that Lynette doesn't want us to just have demographics but to come together
- Lynette: maybe that's communal spaces but even with that, you're still looking at the different groups of racial/ethnic groups & still doing business within themselves. I value a community where we all break bread together...I don't see that on the Eastside.
- Seanne: what if you could get some kind of reward for engaging with a business of another ethnic background. I hear what you're saying about living in silos. So how do you build bridges across silos.
- Lynette: really equals community relationships. We know that African Americans spend their money not just one time in within our own businesses but across others. Talked about perceiving other racial/ethnic groups not visibly patronizing businesses
- Sheng: thinks that it goes down to deeper factors, including language. Talked about how Hmong speakers or Spanish speakers are more likely to go places that speak their language. Suggested food as a universal language & talked about inviting lots of people.

2. Small Group Conversations

6:35 pm

- Based on the conversation at the January Board meeting
 - Groups: Space & Place Making, Community Voice & Engagement, Youth & Senior Engagement, Bridging the Silos, Businesses & Housing, Safety, Environment
 - Becky Dale: There was overlap with creating places where people come together.
 - Lynette: talked about difficulty, discomfort with being the only Black person, White person, ect in a space. Takes us all meeting & working together to change our environment.
 - Julia: do we have a general goal of what subcommittees will do? Seems like we have a list of amazing topics. Wondered if we have a limited number of people on committees.

- Janey: by my count, there will be 3 people on each topic tonight. This is more of a discussion to start and see from there.
- Jack: reason this came up (having separate discussion during meeting time) was because people couldn't necessarily commit to another, separate night.
- Topics for small groups will be derived from the outcomes of the Data Party - as determined by the Board in tonight's conversation

3. Reporting out from Small Group Conversations

7:05 pm

- a. Space & Place Making: traffic, loitering, walkability
 - i. Julia: Ismail asked us if we traveled outside the neighborhood that felt really good & reflect on what about those spaces felt good. Talked about walkability, gathering spaces.
 - ii. Shang: main complaint, esp on Maryland ave are left turn lanes that turn into medians. Why are there only pedestrian signs but not those signs that light-up. Why not roundabouts? Within roundabouts, some have green spaces within them. If we can't have roundabouts, why can't we have left turn lights. Also mentioned air pollution -> talked about higher rates of asthma in areas like ours, mentioned traffic congestion.
- b. Community Voice & Engagement: communication, goals, empowerment
 - i. Justine: community engagement and grants – tried to brainstorm how to try to get engagement going. Like, people don't know we exist, even getting the word out.
- c. Youth & Senior Engagement: bridging gaps everywhere
 - i. Anna-Marie: talked about how to get seniors & youth to connect & PPCC to connect w/them. To bridge the gap w/those two groups. Culture is a great way to do it. My school had a culture day where people would share their cultures with people who had no idea. Elders in the community would come in. Finding ways to get into spaces where seniors & youth are in & letting them know that there are people who want to share about the community they live in.
- d. Bridging the Silos: trust, hospitality, safe
 - i. Marjorie: trust has to be there for people, you have to have intentional exposure. You have to have safe & hospitable ways to connect. Safe & respectful events that center the dignity & worth of people.
 - ii. Lynette: maybe pop-up events & setting the tone with these aspects in mind
- e. Businesses & Housing: living wages, working capital, landlord accountability.
 - i. Seanne: Living wages would solve affordable housing, for business development it seems that the challenge is with

small, under resourced businesses wanting to be in a physical space & then realizing there's all kinds of code issues, etc. Talked about Judy's Kitchen, where the commercial kitchen hood wasn't operable and the landlord wasn't willing to fix it & eventually the space closed. You need to understand the motive & intention of landlords. How does business community hold landlords accountable. Where can a small business go to get working capital, to get technical assistance (e.g. quickbooks, taxes).

- ii. Jack: just had meeting with new city economic development director talking about these things
- f. Safety: prevention, lifting people up, resources, community & social infrastructure, crime prevention through environmental design
 - i. Janey: 2 pieces - preventing crimes & getting people more resources (e.g. housing, wages), lifting people up. Infrastructure w/in community is struggling, such as mental health.
 - ii. Jack: system as it exists with the police is not enough, we need to articulate again and again what's needed instead of just expecting it to change
 - iii. Seanne: perhaps mental health professionals attending to calls
 - iv. Jack: open questions of relationship of police w/school district, parks & rec, public housing.
 - v. Lynette: resources from that department (mental health) have opened up in Ramsey
 - vi. Jack: talked about how few beds/places there are for people who need resources
 - vii. Janey: talked about design that is prohibitive for the unhoused (e.g. benches with bumps on them)
 - viii. Jack: lots of design that prohibits use of space
- g. Environmental Justice: grants, accessibility, pollution
 - i. Talked about grants available to the area & looking for other grant opportunities. Talked about land protection & pollution. Making grants more accessible.

4. Update on Environmental Justice activities

7:15 pm

Margi Kastle, PPCC Staff and Megan Kuhl-Stennes, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- Purple Air Sensors: Purpose, program, and potential
 - a. Margi: We've been loaned 5 air sensors, we have a map of locations we're looking at having them installed. There are a lot of these in Minneapolis and a few in St. Paul but none in this neighborhood.
 - b. Marjorie: why aren't there any in Payne-Phalen?
 - c. Megan: Mpls did a large crowdsourcing to have some placed throughout the city. They're not regulatory but are helpful to the

- Agency. Megan explained how these devices are installed & how they measure air pollution.
- d. Lynette: can a business or residential home purchase these & how much do they cost?
 - e. Megan: these cost \$260, versus a regulatory monitor is 10s of thousands of dollars. These CAN sit outside in the rain.
 - f. Marjorie: is our air in St. Paul being monitored at all?
 - g. Megan: we have a monitor at Harding High School, is on our website. Does take a while to ensure quality of the data, not real-time. Just getting 2022 data in March 2023.
 - h. Damian: if you were to be installing these – are there ideal conditions for this?
 - i. Megan: at breathing height & if they can be somewhere someone wouldn't tamper with them (e.g. on a fence in a backyard), have to have a power source & have to have wifi. Stucco houses don't work as well due to poor wifi signal. You don't want an enclosed area, like surrounded by 3 walls. Might not want to put it right next to like a dryer vent, backyard fire pit.
 - j. Jack: next step is to get permission from 4 property owners to install these
 - k. Justine: suggested Maryland
 - l. Rebecca: immediately thought of Arcade & Maryland
 - m. Jessica: lives right by Arcade & Maryland
 - n. Julia: lives by the lake, if we want one there
 - o. Lynette: suggested Cub on Maryland
 - p. Anna-Marie: I live close to Hmong village
 - q. Megan: these will be for a year & might not last that long but they'll gather good data
 - r. Lynette: Biz Recycling could perhaps provide funding for this
- Upcoming Environmental Justice Tour of North Minneapolis with CMEJ
 - a. Margi: 3/25, put on by the Community Members for Environmental Justice out of North Mpls. Tour paid for by HourCar. Will have discussion afterward. Evie convoy to North Mpls would be great. Tour will be on a school bus to go around North Mpls. Specifically for Payne Phalen & Powerderhorn Park.
 - PPCC Event: Earth Day in Five Languages
 - a. Hmong, Karen, Somali, Spanish, & English
 - b. Jack: we're under contract with an org called Mint, that will be translating documents & also providing translators at events

Business items:

7:35 pm

5. Welcome to Jessica, new board member:
 - a. Justine motioned to welcome Jessica to the board, Seanne seconded, passed unanimously.
6. Request for Support: Justice for Yia Xiong
Request by CM Nelsie Yang

- PPCC support, solidarity, and co-sponsorship of events related to the Justice for Yia Xiong movement.
- PPCC support, solidarity, and co-sponsorship of events and communications related to calls for higher level consideration of community policing practices in St. Paul
 - Rebecca: in our executive team meeting, we were in support of doing this but wanted to open this up for discussion.
 - Damian: wondered what this support would look like.
 - Rebecca: would be similar to our support for George Floyd, Dante Wright. Wouldn't be a news conference, would be a response demonstrating that we stand in solidarity.
 - Lynette: can you remind me about how we showed solidarity
 - Rebecca: we sent out a statement (hould be included in the board packet)
 - Jack: that's why I'm bringing it to the board. I can write a letter but Nelsie wants to know are we behind her & our Hmong community members. I think she's asking a deeper question than a letter.
 - Seanne: what would that deeper question ask of us
 - Jack: that's a more complex answer than any one person can answer
 - Rebecca: still evolving, calls are for firing of the officers, no paid leave, ect but our actual letter is in more general support, not specific action.
- Janey made a motion for a letter of support, Ismail seconded, passed unanimously.

7. Election of Officers (See By-Laws, Articles V and VI)

- Rebecca: Patricia is stepping down as vice chair.
- Janey nominated Rebecca as chair, Julia seconded.
- Rebecca nominated Syndey as vice chair, Jessica seconded.
- Rebecca nominated Marci as Secretary, Ismail seconded.
 - All passed unanimously
- Jack: detailed executive committee.
- Seanne: Executive committee meets Tuesday before the PPCC meeting, discuss documents & topics that come up & create agenda for the next week.
- Emma De Vera will join the Executive Committee.
- Damian also agreed to join the Executive Committee.
- Julia *tentatively* will join the Executive Committee.
 - Seanne motioned to approve them joining, Janey seconded. Unanimously passed.

8. Committee Formation and Assignments (*if intended*). (See By-Laws, Articles VIII)

9. Updates: Mentors and Mentees – remember that you have them!

10. PPCC Monthly Financial Report and Status (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)

11. Approval of minutes: (Marci Exsted, Secretary)

a. Emma motioned, Julia seconded. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

8:00 pm

➤ ***Next PPCC Community Meeting:*** Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6-8 pm, Arlington Hills Recreation Center

Engage * Educate * Empower