



Minutes from the Community Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda

6:00 pm

Attendance:

- **Community members:** Ricky Keeton, Reier Erickson
- **Board members:** Sidney Stuart, Jessica Haley, May yer Thao, Damian Schaab, Julia Wilcox, Justine LaCroix, Patricia Enstad, Carolyn Keeton, Lynette Harris, Seanne Thomas, Ismail Khadar, Kelsey Canaday, Marci Exsted, Rebecca Nelson, Emma De Vera, Janey Atchison
- **Payne Phalen Community Council Staff:** Jack Beyers, Margi Kastle
- **Wonderlust:** Becky Dale

The Payne-Phalen District Plan:

6:05 pm

1. 1-4 Unit Housing Study Phase 2: Presentation

(Luis Pereira and Josh Williams, City of St. Paul, Department of Planning and Economic Development)

Please prepare by previewing [critical information here](#).

- Lynette – asked about tiny homes
 - Luis: trying to promote cluster developments, detailed updated standards
- Kelsey asked them to repeat what they're trying to incentivize: 80% AMI Units and/or Units w/3+ bedrooms
 - Luis: trying to incentivize developers to work-in affordable housing, getting deeper into affordability you have to provide subsidy or you may not be able to have a viable project
- Patricia: w/cluster development, are you looking at things like energy districts? Talked about the Heights eliminating geo-thermal & talked about the elimination of solar development by Xcel. If the city made agreements w/energy companies, this could save costs for development AND increase affordability. Mentioned the climate action and resiliency plan coming out tomorrow. Wanting us to build affordability into the developments, not just the zoning.
 - Luis: got this in public comments, it's difficult just in the zoning stage to know what will be proposed. Other things the city could do in order to see how to weave these aspects in. Have a sustainable building policy.
 - Josh: will share his contact information so that folks get answers to their questions, he'll be a resource for people

- Luis: the climate justice advisory board is aware of this too, seem in-support
- Patricia: recognizes that there is resistance to change in this area.
- Luis: asked for feedback from the Eastside through email, mail, or testimony at a public hearing held in mid-summer 2023.
- Justine: asked for examples of cluster developments around here, if any
 - Example by the Mosaic church w/tiny homes
- Damian: asked whether there is any prevention for someone building ADUs for frequent short-term rental use
 - Luis: our short-term rental terms have been recommended to be tightened, probably makes sense. Haven't seen a lot of short-term rental except downtown (~200 licenses in the city) but definitely can look at this.

2. Group debrief: "Earth Day in 6 Languages" event held April 22, 2023

6:50 pm

- Patricia led a paint printing station
- Lynette: we put on a great event, organizations doing tabling were great, but we also fell short with marketing. People didn't really know what was going on if they pulled up except for the pop-up tent. Only so much we can do on Social Media. Felt that we could have had more people show out. We could also have used a sign-in banner, signs for the tables we set up with our different activities, and just a PPCC sign in general. Kalea did great for the food, they just might have benefited from delegating a bit more.
- Carolyn: heard a lot of feedback from the youth, which was great.
- Lynette: glad we were able to incorporate the ceremonial prayer and the band, who just won a Native American music award. Wants to thank the staff here at the community center and the volunteers who showed out. We only have events ~3 times per year to show the community who we are and so it's so important for us to all work together. Definitely felt this need. Expressed that we should try to make sure it's clear if board members are unable to show up and help out.
- Jack: for the board members who did show out, definitely felt like everyone pulled together. I'm always grateful for anyone who can show up and does and try to extend grace and understand if people cannot for whatever reason. 2 things: 1) we have elected officials who I took the trouble to make sure, at every level (senators, city council members, etc) and we didn't see any of them or hear from any of them. A word of encouragement would have been great. 2) it's really good for our org to be trying this but there is a reality that there was zero people who did not speak English at some level. We did have diversity but all of the sessions happened in English and the trainings did, too.
- Lynette: did know that Nelsie advertised on her site, at least. [Jack reported that he contacted her in order to get this up.]
- Seanne: how can we get into the communities that don't speak English?
- Margi: we had a wonderful turnout from the Indigenous community. Doing 6 languages, maybe it would be a bigger venue but having that music may be the draw for people coming out.
- Rebecca: maybe we partner with HAP, CLUES, or LADC.
- Damian: wondered why we aren't recruiting people who are representative of those languages to the board?

- Carolyn: agreed, if I'm not connected with someone in any way it will be hard to feel welcomed. People like connections.
- Lynette: we have had former board members who were Somali, Hmong, ect. I'm always looking for new board members & trying to see who can join us.
- Carolyn: we can always name a problem but we also have to identify a solution as well.
- Patricia: not just about individuals because maybe that would feel like they have to represent the whole of their community, ect.
- Emma: the library, even this one has community specialists who work within these communities. They might be a good person to reach out to in the person. They do have Karen and Hmong events all the time, here.
- Julia: agreed, reflected on creating events for versus events – still doing stuff like Earth day, but perhaps coming to an event people are holding already.
- Marci: agreed that going to community events and celebrations would be a great idea
- Julia: would be great to get a link to something explaining what the PPCC does
- Patricia: pre-COVID we did a training on how to do an elevator speech about what the PPCC does, so just learning how to communicate to people and helping them to build more power through collective understanding is part of our work already.
- May yer: I don't have the capacity to be the only person who knows everyone who is Hmong. We need to meet community where they are at and not just expect them to come to us. Also, at the data party I was so thrilled to see Hmong people attend. I spoke with them, got their contact info. Made that extra effort & reminding them of other events.
- Kelsey: this board is pretty well represented in many communities, we're here – a lot of us are. Did notice that there are not a lot of people who are unhoused or facing homelessness. I'm currently living at a place, called harm reduction, in downtown.
- Rebecca: 6 years ago today, I was elected to this board. The first person who welcomed me was Marnie Xiong. Today I am on a bunch of boards, 4-5 of which I am chair. You just have to put yourself out there and get comfortable talking about it.

3. Story Circles coming up this Spring:

7:10 pm

Update and conversation (Becky Dale, Wonderlust)

- Becky: going to be reaching out to community orgs & partners. Thinking a lot about meeting people where they are. Several places expressing interest in story circles, one which is Cookie Cart (5/2), Hmong American Partnership (+ HOPE academy), CLUES, American Youth Family Center, Karen Org of MN (suggested a few places, too), Eastside Freedom Library. If anyone is in joining a story circle, I can make a list and let folks know.

Business items:

7:40 pm

4. Filing of IRS form 990 – Annual statement for non-profits for 2020 (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)

- Janey motioned to approve the 990 for submission.
 - Seanne seconded
 - Passed unanimously

5. Resolution to Approve the MN Attorney General's Annual Report for 2020 (Janey Atchison, Treasurer)

- Janey motioned to approve the MN Attorney General's Annual Report for submission.
 - Lynette seconded
 - Passed unanimously

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

- Janey motioned to approve the Monthly Financial.
 - Jessica seconded
 - Passed unanimously

ADJOURN

8:00 pm

Rebecca elected to adjourn!

○ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, 6-8 pm Arlington Hills Rec. Center