

Minutes of the Community Meeting

June 27, 2023

Call to order - 6:06 pm

Payne Phalen District Plan

Environment, Energy and Land Use

1. Gas Free Development at the Heights (Chelsea DeArmond and Patricia Enstad)

- Chelsea spoke about the work of St. Paul 350 and introduced the past work the group has done at the Heights.
- Discussed the importance of getting rid of gas due to safety and air quality.
- Port Authority has voted not to host a geothermal heating/cooling system.
- Talking to elected officials to make sure that issues surrounding energy use are addressed. There is a sense that there is backpedaling when it comes to the city and it's take on climate goals.
- First landowner at Heights will be Xcel Energy.
- Asking for a publicly owned district system.

Motion was made by Patricia to write a letter supporting sustainability group and St Paul 350. Janey seconded. 9 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain

Urban Design, Parks, Environment, Social Justice, Arts and Culture Chapters

2. St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden (Brett Hussong, St. Paul Parks and Rec)

- Brett introduced team behind park and gave a rundown of the current design.
- Gave a rundown and timeline of phase 2
- Spoke about the system plan vision. How the city prioritizes and plans park design and operations/maintenance.
- Described the reason for including Hmong Plaza in the China Friendship Garden and how it was being advised by Hmong stakeholders.
- Showed a diagram of what the Hmong Plaza will look like.
- Damian asked about funding, where funding was coming from. Brett talked about the grants and state funding along with funding from the MN China Friendship Garden Society.

Transportation, Economic Development Land Use, Environment, Parks

4. Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (Colin Owens, Metro Transit)

- Colin introduced the team who works on the Purple Line.
- The Station Area Planning Update was given and that they are doing work on stations in terms of community feedback.

- An Arcade Street station on Neid Ln was considered popular but ultimately risky and too expensive.
- Second option would add a new road off of Neid Ln adding a bridge over Bruce Vento.
- Damien asked why additional roadways or basic roundabouts couldn't be utilized. The answer was that it wouldn't be competitive as a BRT for federal funds.
- Rebecca asked what the length of the roads would be.
- Patricia asked if there was a change in the trails.
- Janey asked questions about the operations of the two station options.
- Jack asked if we could show a google map of the space and asked if this would serve the most community members
- Janey asked about the bridge lanes and about the seating in the stations and if they would feature anti-unhoused architecture.
- Lynette asked about timeline. A 2029 finish date was given.
- A rundown of the route modification process occurred including the move from Bruce Vento to White Bear Ave.
- Reier asked how to express concern about Bruce Vento Trail being taken over and to support the White Bear Ave. route modification, answer was given that this is about a year away until decisions will be made.
- Phase 2 project schedule was given.
- A list was given about Phase 2 outreach and engagement activities.
- Lynette spoke about meeting people where they are at and suggested Metro Transit evaluates connecting the Purple Line to what people's needs are. Also suggested that demographics be considered.
- Rebecca suggested that there are double standards when it comes to how Maplewood and White Bear Lake got their way and our needs/wants have been largely ignored or reversed.
- Damien asked about the ridership expectations.

Announcements, updates, upcoming events:

Upcoming Event: PPCC Community Barbecue, Saturday, July 22nd

- A list of potential questions was given about conversation starters.
- Jack gave a timeline on how we will go forward and a potential meeting next week for board members.

Business items:

Janey gave update on financial track. Made motion to approve business statements.

Anna-Marie seconded. 9 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain

Minutes were approved 8 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain

Motion to adjourn Anna-Marie, seconded by Damien was adjourned - 7:58