



## Minutes for the Community Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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

**6:00 pm**

Board Members Present: Damian Schaab, Ismail Kadar, Seanne Thomas, Lynette Harris, May yer Thao, Patricia Enstad, Jessica Haley, Janey Atchison, Rebecca Nelson.

Board Staff Present: Jack Byers, Robin Horkey

Community Present: Nicole Peterson, Jessica Deegan– want help w/review of Railroad Island neighborhood revitalization plan; Winona Yang (Ramsey County)

**The Payne-Phalen District Plan:**

**6:05 pm**

Transportation, Environment, Business Development, Parks and Open Space

1. MnDOT's Arcade/East 7<sup>th</sup> Project: Quick refresh, see:

[https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/e7tharcade/news\\_feed/design-layouts](https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/e7tharcade/news_feed/design-layouts)

- Rebecca: we're trying to devise a strategy for this, it's both days – rather than an either day sort of event.
- Jack: the executive committee said it would be better to have a shorter meeting just to prepare for Wednesday & Thursday. Provided a refresher of the MnDOT project. Wednesday & Thursday anticipated to focus more on pedestrian experience, opportunity for community to weigh-in in greater detail.

2. Arcade Street Redesign: Review of past PPCC engagement and Board actions

- Damian: during executive committee meeting, we talked about mailers that were sent out, which had voting tabs in four languages but the explanation for what would happen with those tabs is only printed in English.
- Lynette: asked whether we know what this will look like.
- Robin: vast majority of businesses on Arcade know about the panel.
- Janey: saw targeted Facebook advertising.

3. Jack: was at a meeting two weeks ago that was doing an online survey – if they use Arcade Street Redesign: Preparation by Board for your attendance at the MnDOT Community Design Workshops:

- Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Indigenous Roots
- Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Indigenous Roots

- Jack: this Wed & Thurs, people can go to this on their phones and vote on options. The brochure says there will be a short presentation. They will want people to talk and make design choices.
- Janey: is the county going to assess for the new sidewalk at Wheelock? I've never heard an answer to that [whether the community will have to pay for the new sidewalk].
- Jack: from Wheelock to Larpenteur, they have 2 new sidewalks – one on the West (which currently has no sidewalk) and one on the East (north of the golf course).
- Damian & Janey: mentioned that there should be bump outs in these areas, talked about seeing people standing on snow mounds waiting for the bus.
- Lynette: recently rode the bus for the first time in years, wondered whether metro transit is working with MNDOT on this. I know the white elephant in the room is not dealing with the mental health and individuals dealing with homelessness. When Lynette was on the train, it was filthy. Wondering how they'll address this issue while we address street aesthetics.
- Damian: agreed, just becomes an issue of who pays for & does that work between the city, metro transit, etc.
- Lynette: when are these (arcade & purple line) starting?
- Jack: Arcade street 2025, Purple Line 2027 (currently planned dates)
- Damian: executive team talked about maybe getting a more targeted group of questions for Wednesday & Thursday. Also might free up space for other folks, too.
- Seanne: reflected that we would be representing the community
- Janey: like we could use the four themes we are seeing [from our district planning process], which are use of public space, housing, safety, and access to businesses.
- Jack: prompted us to consider what we would say/ask.
- Patricia: asked for clarification about the structure of the event.
- Jack: senses that they want to talk about Arcade Street, the sidewalks, & public realm around there. We haven't really heard them respond well about the businesses (e.g. how will construction impact them; impact on new businesses). We're on the 4<sup>th</sup> project manager that MnDOT has had. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one had a problem with engagement, with community. Current manager seems to be trying, which is something to keep in mind. They are doing more engagement now, it's an opportunity. We have gone to Public Works, Ramsey County, etc. to ask them to help with the businesses but we've just heard that they don't have enough resources. MnDOT has had more of an open ear to hear from the community but hasn't paid much attention to businesses.
- Janey: noted that the mailer focuses more on planter types, pavement finishes, etc. Is this what they're focusing on?
- Lynette: if these businesses on Arcade are shut down for 2 months, that could be it.
- Ismail: could there be technical assistance to help some of the businesses go online?
- Lynette: will traffic be completely rerouted during the next several months?
- Jack: it's worth asking
- Rebecca: I still think it's worth talking about the businesses off Arcade, talked about so many businesses that have closed or moved (including CVS, Walgreens)
- Jack: encouraged MnDOT to design Arcade not for what it is today but what it could be. Try to design with a positive outlook for the future.

- May yer: talked about where she used to live in WI, she lived right next to an interstate and they were compensated for the disruption of the construction. Can they do this for the businesses?
- Jack: we're not hearing enough about whether sidewalks will be rebuilt
- Lynette: said that they are rebuilding both at a site she recently saw.
- Patricia: even some sidewalks that are present seem 'cobbled together' (uneven)
- Lynette: the only grocery store is sun foods and with that construction, how will that be? [Payne Phalen is a food desert]
- Seanne: also mentioned all the kids who walk to and from Johnson High
- Jack: roadway will be narrowed in front of Sun foods, should limit cars funneling. Detailed current bus stop planned near Sun Foods & the Y. We were out there last week with Metro Transit and it was very discouraging. This area, in the real world, is very slopped. Their plan is to grade it and build a retaining wall. Jack asked them to consider being ten years older, with a kid, having just worked the night shift during the winter and consider what walking that planned bus stop would be like. This is a different project but it's the same street & clear that these two agencies aren't talking.
- Janey: both projects we voiced concerns to and they just explained them away
- Jack: said that we can talk with our elected officials, as well, as a board.
- Rebecca: we need to keep talking and voicing our opinions. The more we talk the more they have to listen – elected officials, metro transit, and MnDOT.
- Patricia: what is going to help them think about the future of Arcade? Some of it is the fact that the neighborhood looks like a hodgepodge.
- Jack: they'll probably ask more aesthetic questions, but thinking about the future – there are more people walking on the sidewalks on Payne but on Arcade there are fewer people walking on sidewalks.
- Lynette: as a business owner that has grown out of my business space, we were looking at Arcade and said no because it's not pleasant and parking is an issue.
- Marci: summarized what was heard (larger scope overview based on comments)
- Jack: added traffic impacts, will sidewalks be paid for by MnDOT or residents, relationship between streetscape – potential to address need for people facing housing concerns, local groceries, lighting & wiring, bus stops, incorporating our District Plan into questions for the meeting.
- Damian: said we should also prevent infrastructure that is anti-homelessness, anti-disability, etc.

## **Business items:**

**6:50 pm**

4. Approval of minutes from the August 2023 meeting
  - Jack: double checked that our notes are accurate to send regarding bike plan.
  - Patricia motioned to approve the minutes; Jessica seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. Financial Reports
  - Janey: provided an overview of the financials.
  - Seanne motioned to approve the financial, Lynette seconded. Passed unanimous.

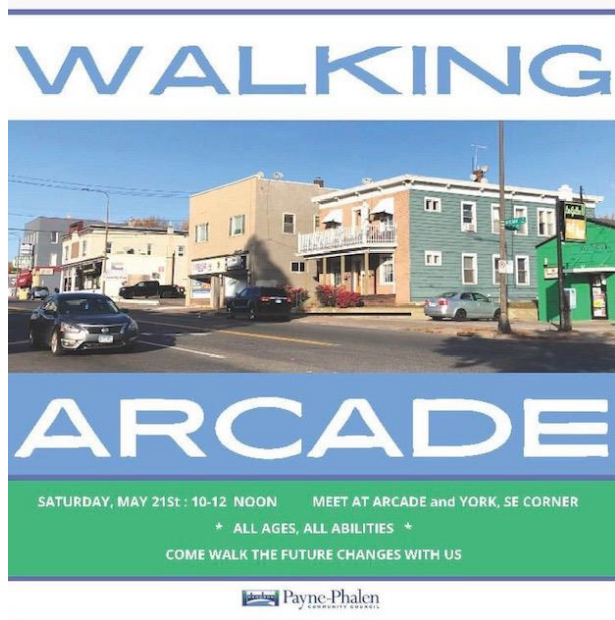
**ADJOURN**

**7:00 pm**


- Jack: next month we'll be at the Duluth & Case Recreation Center.
- Rebecca called us to adjourn.

➤ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, October 24, 2023,  
Duluth Case Recreation Center, 1020 Duluth Street

Engage \* Educate \* Empower



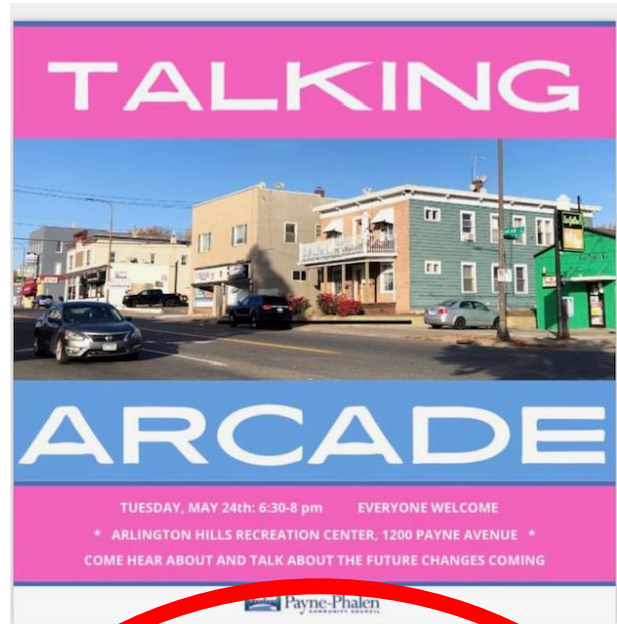
**WALKING**




**ARCADE**

SATURDAY, MAY 21st: 10-12 NOON MEET AT ARCADE and YORK, SE CORNER  
\* ALL AGES, ALL ABILITIES \*  
COME WALK THE FUTURE CHANGES WITH US

Payne-Phalen



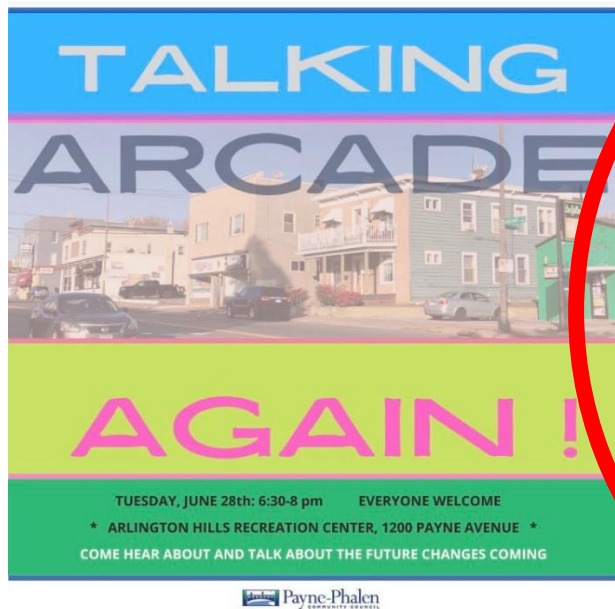
**TALKING**



**ARCADE**


TUESDAY, MAY 24th: 6:30-8 pm EVERYONE WELCOME  
\* ARLINGTON HILLS RECREATION CENTER, 1200 PAYNE AVENUE \*  
COME HEAR ABOUT AND TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE CHANGES COMING

Payne-Phalen



**TALKING**

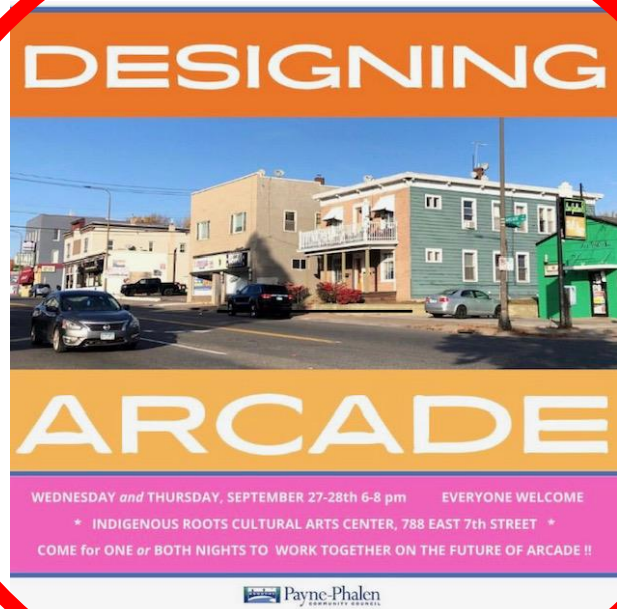
**ARCADE**




**AGAIN!**

TUESDAY, JUNE 28th: 6:30-8 pm EVERYONE WELCOME  
\* ARLINGTON HILLS RECREATION CENTER, 1200 PAYNE AVENUE \*  
COME HEAR ABOUT AND TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE CHANGES COMING

Payne-Phalen



**DESIGNING**



**ARCADE**

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-28th 6-8 pm EVERYONE WELCOME  
\* INDIGENOUS ROOTS CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, 788 EAST 7th STREET \*  
COME for ONE or BOTH NIGHTS TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE FUTURE OF ARCADE !!

Payne-Phalen

**Community Design Workshops:**

- Next Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Indigenous Roots
- Next Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Indigenous Roots