



# Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Minutes from the Community Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Duluth Case Recreation Center, 1020 Duluth Street

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

**6:00 pm**

**Board Members:** Rebecca Nelson, Janey Atchison, Patricia Enstad, Emma De Vera, Jessica Haley, Marci Exsted, Ramona Banks, Anna-Marie Foster, Lynette Harris, Reier Erickson, Damian Schaab, Seanne Thomas.

**Board Staff:** Robin Horkey, Jack Byers

**Wonderlust:** Leah Cooper & Alan Berks

**Community Members:**

1. Appointment of new Board Member: Welcome Ramona Banks

### The Payne-Phalen District Plan:

#### 2. Northern Iron Update

- a. Jose: Apology since it's taken ~15 years to hold Northern Iron accountable. By Winter will install 2 air monitors. Will return in Nov w/more information.
- b. Damian: given the findings & the citation – will that change the auditing strategy?
- c. Jose: Yes, enforcement & air permitting staff will keep closer eye. Measurements & data gathered will give more detailed information as well.
- d. Patricia: by reading this, did Northern Iron try to hide their actions?
- e. Jose: they were definitely doing things they were supposed to inform us about (can't speak to whether they were intentionally doing so)
- f. Patricia: glad our county commissioner is here. Our area is at greater risk for air pollution
- g. Jose: commitment to environmental justice means looking at facilities like this to make sure we avoid harms in communities like this. Lots will change between now and 2026 w/updated environmental justice legislation.
- h. Janey: why 15 years? Why would a business change if it takes 15 years to charge you? 15 years is a generational timeframe of development for children.
- i. Stephen: will put together timeline to say what happened when.
- j. Jose: won't lie to you since it is based in environmental racism and these places not being held accountability. Relying on community voice to advocate for accountability as well.
- k. Jessica: where does the fine money go to, any other remediation efforts. Damage has been done but opportunities to address this beyond inspection.

- l. Jose: legislation looked at right now that would allocate fines to the impacted community. Some people are debating this & WHO it would go to. If you take a fine why does it go to the MPCA and not the community.
  - m. Damian: is anyone aware of current health orgs working in the community to identify respiratory problems from things like emissions from particulates or the sheer intensity of the emissions?
  - n. Jose: knows MDH is collecting information on environmental impacts on the community (e.g. lead is really high in this area). Doesn't know more locally.
  - o. Jessica: I work at a clinic off East 7<sup>th</sup> and we do lead testing for kids.
  - p. Mai Chong: asked again about where fines go to [they go to MPCA – usually staffing, overhead costs] Thanked the MPCA for reaching out to her office. Their office will also be tracking permitting, community comments. Looking at MPCA's cumulative impact and rulemaking. Important for community to know what benefit agreements look like, how do we make things right after impacts after decades.
  - q. Jose: w/in a year we can imagine their permit will be up, which will be an opportunity to invite community to provide input during the comment period. UMN just received a lot of money to engage more community organizations and hold agencies like MPCA accountable with regards to environmental protections.
  - r. Lynette: My lab service will be spearheading lead testing in Nov – working alongside ESNBC.
  - s. Jack: 1) legislation being drafter – who's leading that? [not sure – will get back to us] 2) has heard from folks that may smell things, what should they do?
  - t. Jose: call us. If we have even ~20 calls, we will go out and take a look w/our team. If you see/smell something, call. [Jack will circulate their phone number.]
3. Progress Report and Discussion: Wonderlust Productions, Leah Cooper 6:05 pm
- a. Leah: provided update on events they have held & data collected. See handout. Have spent ~691 hours on this project and have connected with ~492 people. Explained that they looked at all the input they received and 'tagged' the input with themes they were about (e.g. economic development and business). Will eventually develop a larger word document with everything tagged grouped together, along with holistic information (such as demographics of the person, disposition – or *how they felt*). Doc will likely be ~500 pages. Questions?
  - b. Damian: Are you committed to the word disposition? A little confusing – talking about people but w/records/digital assets they have a 'disposition schedule'.
  - c. Leah: didn't realize there was a whole other, open to changing it.
  - d. Jessica: important, excited about bringing people's experiences into something concrete
  - e. Alan: sharing about conversations artists in the community are having. Simultaneous to making the district plan was also a goal to be able to express it out to the community so that it doesn't just stay in this room and then go to the city and that's it. WL invited artists in the community who were interested in that process. Initially had around 40, went down to ~20. Have ~11 people who have attended multiple meetings. Excited to work w/this information and invested in making things better in the neighborhood. Artists responded in 2 ways – were most likely to respond in problem solving ways (e.g. safety concerns led to artistic ways to increase physical light in the neighborhood) and then ways to express certain feelings/ideas (e.g. expressing the feeling of worrying about cultures disappearing w/gentrification). Alan invited us to brainstorm. WL created

- 3 categories – 1) these are great ideas that need \$\$\$\$ 2) these are doable 3) this should go in the district plan (e.g. this is more about neighborhood development)
- f. Lynette: city of st. paul makes final decision about district plan...there's such a disconnect w/the city and community. Have y'all thought about bridging that gap with this plan?
  - g. MY: some district plans are out of date but these plans also help guide staff to make decisions. May feel disconnected w/this process. Want to make sure our values, goals, and visions are in there.
  - h. Damian: read a bunch of the plans recently, really stands out that these district plans are filled with wishful language but aren't really actionable. Filled with lofty ideals but lack a roadmap to how to get there.
  - i. Patricia: talked about clearly communicating challenges w/the city. We have a real opportunity to connect methodology.
  - j. Jessica: that's the work ahead of us
  - k. Emma De Vera: talking about a district plan (mission, vision, and values) to a work plan which shows this is how we achieve this
  - l. Jack: For the district plan - there is an implementation chapter that is required, at the same time this is a requirement of the city where the plan will be received by a specific system and structure that exists and functions as it has. May hand over all these ideas/dreams and just have them go 'into a buzz saw'. Question of what to give to this institution versus what do we take it up, ourselves.
  - m. Patricia: different avenues of implementation, as well – w/various actors involved
  - n. Alan: returning to artists- none of this brainstorm need permission from the city. These are ideas from local artists that can be held and created by community. Will have 2 more sessions to talk through how to artistically express some of the data. Tomorrow will have another session, great if you want to come but we'll also find ways to share back & there will be collab w/the council as well.
  - o. Lynette: asked about funding brainstorming [they will be talking more about this]
  - p. Jack: so money paid to Wonderlust is money PPCC received through grants. WL is talking w/artists about doing this & PPCC has an opportunity to advise WL about doing this.
  - q. Reier: is an artist – noticed that lots of artists wanted to talk about parks/land use. Lots of people from outside the neighborhood who said they want to come to the neighborhood more often and wished they had a draw to come here more. Maybe next meeting – ask people whether they have someone that doesn't live here what would bring them here to the community. (e.g. a food hall). Doesn't want gentrification but does want people to come here and spend money here.
  - r. Alan: that did come up in 2 ways – 1) having a public square where things are pointed inwards & ppl could sell crafts, only pedestrian traffic (no cars) 2) someone mentioned that the neighborhood doesn't have a Snoopy statue & how can we have something (Snoopy or otherwise) that draws people (e.g. mosaics in potholes). WL will be sure to talk about this even more. Tomorrow's meeting is at Wonderlust's offices in Frogtown from 6:30-8:30 pm. One of the other questions is always that you say you want people to participate & they say they want to be connected but they don't take the actions. QR codes were brought up as a potential way to engage people, get more people involved.
  - s. Patricia: mentioned the Freedom Library's Neighbor's Meeting Neighbors events as something that felt really impactful (would be good to replicate/revive).

- t. Alan: passed around more detailed notes from previous meeting, will have notes for next two meetings as well
  - u. Janey: we often feel like the forgotten side of the city, would be cool to spotlight us
4. Arcade/East 7<sup>th</sup> Project: Debrief on MnDOT Community Design Workshops 7:05 pm
- a. Jack: MNDOT has committed to putting together an aesthetic resources manual. Folks working on the greening, artists aesthetics will be coming up with patterns/designs for the plan. They're being more responsive = good news. Pushing MnDOT, city, ect but are getting no's but are still trying to get money to help businesses get through construction period. ESNBC, ESABA, District 5, & District 4 are all working on this. Also making sure ppl are aware of what we are & aren't getting from various entities.
  - b. Rebecca: good that folks showed up, made a difference that we were all there.
  - c. Patricia: they came with a presentation but the 2 nights in a row helped us to stop them from giving us so little time at the end for questions/input. You can see how the Eastside got how it is – they (MnDOT) told designers to do as little beautification as possible b/c of maintenance requirements. They also didn't tell us how we could put together partners, just said we could put together partners for maintenance.
  - d. Jack: community said there's opportunities for greening but MnDOT & city said we don't do that – we get concrete. Not a way for MnDOT/city gives a placeholder to figure it out. Someone would raise their hand with a nice idea and it would be shut down. A lot of people walked out first night.
  - e. Patricia: they had the perspective that a corporate partner would be good for ensuring maintenance but we're losing corporations off Maryland (CVS, Walgreens)
5. Update and Next Steps: Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit 7:20 pm
- f. Jack: w/ESABA, District 4, & ESNDK – got funding for a proposal to continue doing engagement regarding the Arcade street station. Metro Transit at no time asked what community wants, just said no to anything but what they have planned. We'll have to take a run at that again through our elected officials.
6. Know Your Rights presentation, Sierra K. Cumberland and PaChia Yang  
City of St. Paul, Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC) 7:30 pm
- g. Sierra: St. Paul has a Human Rights Ordinance – see details on slides shared.
  - h. Janey: complaints about police department – will they inform the Human Rights dept?
  - i. Sierra: I keep track of these, DHR only hears about them if filed internally at police dept if they go to the civilian review board.
  - j. Janey: do you know how many didn't go to civilian review?
  - k. Sierra: they have a new report of complaints received in 2022. 15 were brought to the civilian review board and 39 were not.
  - l. Janey: isn't that part of the problem – police reviewing themselves?
  - m. Sierra: shift of civilian review board out of police dept and are working to be very transparent
  - n. Reier: added that he applied to be on this board and got on it, brought up issue/concern that this requires civilians to be trained (required to go to civilian police academy)
  - o. Sierra: agreed that there are lots of steps, room for improvement

- p. Reier: asked about progress regarding accessibility issues w/different cultures and understanding the pay ordinance.
- q. PaChia: reported that they are doing more events with people to try to get more outreach and talk with people about the ordinance

**Business items:**

**7:45 pm**

- 7. Approval of minutes from the September 2023 meeting  
Patricia moved to approve, Reier seconded. Passed Unanimously.
- 8. ~~Financial Reports for September 2023~~ [moved to next month]

9. Coming up/Seeking Volunteers

- Trunk-or-Treat at Rivoli Bluff, Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 4-7 pm
- Downtown Airports Advisory Committee (DAAC)
- Give to the Max Campaign in November: Seeking volunteers to coordinate
  - o Lynette: talked w/JcPenny who can have volunteers who can come out & help w/an event
- Seeking volunteers to organize a photo contest for District Plan images
  - o Janey: our District plan will need photos, thought a photo context would be fun
- PEACE academy is asking people to come talk w/5<sup>th</sup> graders about what PPCC does

**ADJOURN**

**8:00 pm**

- **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023  
Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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**Engage \* Educate \* Empower**