



Minutes from the Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Attendance:

- PPCC Board: Sidney Stuart, Damian, Janey Atchison, Patricia Enstad, Lynette Harris, Justine LaCroix-Martin, Marci Exsted, Rebecca Nelson, Jessica Haley, Emma DeVera, Reier Erickson, Anna-Marie Foster
- PPCC Staff: Jack Byers, Robin Horkey
- Community Members: Winona Yang, Melissa Lorentz

Meet-up at Arlington Hills Rec. Center: Introductions and review of the itinerary 6:00 pm

1. Rescheduling BRT/TOD Field Trip due to weather
 - Reschedule for a Saturday morning in April? (potentially 9am-12pm)
2. Updates:
 - Purple Line Arcade Street Station
 - Winona - still in phase 2 modification study. Engaging community business & property owners. Expected to decide by December whether White Bear Ave will be alternative route. Not much said about Arcade Street Station - said presentation to come in April or May with PPCC?
 - Jack - they were planning to do that tonight but if they weren't ready they would in April
 - Winona - no major updates. On county end - county doesn't have major plans to update White Bear and Maryland, council member Xiong has asked county to figure out what they'll do to fix up that area.
 - Jack - between county & metro transit, all the attention is on White Bear; not clear anything is advancing on Arcade.
 - Winona - Steven did touch on the fact that the owner of the strip mall may not be cooperative, metro transit are going to put together a proposal to use Seeger Square [they've started?] Last email was 3/8 about that owner, didn't say they've met yet, just talked about preparing for that engagement. Winona will follow-up.
 - Jack - we'll talk more about this during Saturday morning tour and our annual meeting
 - MPCA/Northern Iron and Metals
 - Jack - thanked PPCC members working on legislative language to address this issue. The language wasn't really in a place to put before the legislature yet in time for the deadline for committee hearings. Will continue to pay attention to this over the next months. Last night Jack received an email from the owner of Northern Iron & Metal and they would like to have a meeting to learn about the PPCC and how they might work with us throughout the permitting process. Would anyone like to be on that meeting?
 - Justine, Patricia, Rebecca, Sidney, Damian, and Lynette offered to attend.
 - Jack - MPCA hasn't been very communicative. They hired a community specialist to work on both of the St. Paul locations (Northern Iron and St. Paul Foundary). This specialist recently left a job working for D14 (Mcallaster Groveland) for 3-4 years, Jack has previous experience working with her.
 - Mel Lorentz - put in data practices request from MPCA and foia request from EPA (they don't have documents related to enforcement agreement, though MPCA documents indicate EPA is aware of the lead emissions). Put together drive of documents received from MPCA. Happy to provide write-up of what stood out to her in the documents:
 - MPCA was aware of these issues at least in 2012 - Northern Iron told MPCA that they were concerned that they would be exceeding air quality standards with certain

changes, MPCA said they'd get back to them and never did. Seems to make the lower fine make sense - maybe they couldn't take stronger enforcement action. Wondering how new permit can be stronger.

- Not sure about MPCA's assessment of Northern Iron and whether it will change (currently anticipates that Northern Iron will exceed lead and other emissions). Difference of testing and modeling isn't as clear as it could be, need an air engineer.
 - Winona - worked closely with the county on air emissions issues, asked Mel to send over these documents
 - Damian requested them as well
 - Jack - thought it would be a good idea for PPCC to know about these documents; important for us to make these documents available to the public as well, don't want Mel to come under scrutiny either...thoughts?
 - Mel - fine with people knowing she requested the documents. EPA should also have something on Northern Iron, but Mel only requested documents related to the enforcement action (may request again).
 - Lynette - offered to assist Mel with additional foia requests.
 - Sidney - since there's so much info, if we could create a timeline of events or a 'fast fact' type sheet for our event on 4/4, that would be helpful
- Jack - we have asked Northern Iron to notify households within a ten block radius, they haven't. Should we? Should we hold a discussion during one of our meetings, an event?
- Justine - likes the idea of notifying community & having an event included for further discussion
- Damian - feels that we should also push forward info we have from MPCA
- Patricia - emphasize that our fact sheet is cobbled together, not created from a collaboration (we had to create this ourselves from what we know so far). This is the sort of thing that makes me suspicious - when the MPCA says they'll do something and they don't. Also, with them seeming to know about Northern Iron back in 2012.
- Jack - received email from Frogtown neighborhood about the St. Paul Foundary. They reached out to learn what PPCC is doing. Including our current activities on this issue on that 'cheat sheet/fact sheet' would be useful. Jack will publish the memo from Mel on our website. [Mel also mentioned that she's ok with us linking to her summary of the documents from the MPCA.] Also mentioned his concern about PPCC continuing to be a petri dish of attention - would be helpful to have other orgs and entities share the burden of making progress on things like this issue and the Arcade Street redesign.
- Winona - mentioned sending these documents over to a local community org (like the Sierra club). County team working on this would be public health team - which would be different from teams working on infrastructure.
- Lynette - seems that other orgs aware of this have lacked participating. For meeting with Northern Iron, is there a set of questions we're asking, what exactly will be talking about? Are they willing to contribute to D5 in some way?
- Jessica - there's an information inequality, they know why they want to meet with us and we don't. This is similar to the Purple Line issue and how communication has been. Maybe we do take the time to review the documents Mel got - but Jessica named feeling skeptical that our review would add much beyond what Mel's review would cover.
- Justine - how quickly do we think Northern Iron would speak with us?
 - Jack - can set up a meeting on Microsoft Teams in the next month
- Lynette - asked where Northern Iron is based out of [Jack thinks Pennsylvania]
- Jack - MPCA deputy director said they'd set up meeting with PPCC to talk about process of bringing community into permitting process, haven't done this yet (or are pushing it off).
- Mel - an amendment to their permit application is due in April. However, they've missed other deadlines for many years.
- Jack - we'll add a tab on the PPCC website with MPCA documents & Mel's memo; will also connect with Dominique since they're part of larger effort, will work with Lawton to setup a meeting (Northern Iron folks). Everyone will review info on the website, take notes on what feels most important so we can create an 'important to know' doc. We'll have a further convo

- after Lawton meeting to figure out future steps & public event(s).
- MNDOT Arcade Street Redesign
 - Jack - Sue Banawits (our community volunteer) has put together an application to local watershed. Seems good to run everything by council once more and then submit. We should expect to hear more next month from MNDOT re: spots for greening.
3. Current requests for time at upcoming community meetings
- Jack - Metro Transit pushed off meeting till April, as did MPCA. Eastside Skate Park also asked for time. Capitol regions watershed is also doing a regional resources survey, hoping to land that info so we can have that information for future projects.
4. Nominations, Elections, & Annual Meeting
- Jack - do we want to do elections as part of May 4th meeting? We previously talked about annual meeting in April. Current board roster shows that we would want to ask Patricia, Rebecca, and Marci to run for their seats again. Do we have a motion?
 - Justine motioned, Jessica seconded, passed unanimously.
 - All three accepted, indicating an intention to run again.
 - Jack - asked about the two members appointed since our last annual meeting elections, do they 'run' again or do we just appoint them? Thoughts?
 - Reier - happy to do whatever's easiest for everyone. Maybe if we have 26 people interested in the board, elections make sense but if you run unopposed, going through elections doesn't really make sense. [lots of agreement, especially with so much on PPCC's plate right now]
 - Janey - made a motion to go ahead and appoint Ramona and Reier (keep them on instead of having elections). Patricia seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. Approval of minutes from the February meeting
- Emma motioned to approve, Justice seconded. Approved unanimously.
6. Financial Reports for February
- Janey - we are trucking along, nothing significant to note. May want to think about switching banks at some point (Bremer is frustrating sometimes). Janey motioned to approve the financials. Emma seconded. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN 7:30 pm

➤ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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