



## Minutes of the Community Meeting

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Moved to online Zoom due to power outage at meeting location

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

6:00 pm

**Board Members:** Rebecca Nelson, Jessica Haley, Justine LaCroix-Martin, Ismail Khadar, Damian Schaab, Seanne Thomas, May yer Thao, Ramona Banks, Janey Atchison, Patricia Enstad

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

**Guests & Presenters:** Cassandra Pinta (TKDA), Josephine (Joey) Lundquist (Ramsey County), Michael Corbett (MnDOT), Meredith Benesh (HDR), Mack Shaffer (TKDA), Ashley Thompson (Zane Associates), Randy, Jeanne Surdo, Rachael Rivard, Melissa Lorentz.

### The Payne-Phalen District Plan:

1. Maryland Avenue Reconstruction: Josephine Lundquist, Ramsey County Project Manager, and Cassandra Pinta, TKDA 6:10 pm

To be built by Ramsey Co. Maryland Ave from Clark St to Edgerton St. Old pavement this section, falling apart. Project Goals: keep the 3-lane section with left turn lane and pedestrian refuge islands, reconstruct signal at Edgerton, upgrade all ADA ped ramps, replace sidewalk and existing lighting, look at existing drainage, confirm ped crossings are at correct locations. Timeline: currently in Preliminary design and talk to people about improvements, then next year final design and purchase any ROW needed. Construction in 2026. Current conditions: ped ramps not ADA compliant, Maryland/Clark median exists but want to add crossing for wheelchairs & strollers. Burr to Jessie is steep slope, and at Edgerton during rush hour there's a lot of congestion. Open Houses every 4-6 months until project constructed. Safety is priority for both pedestrians and drivers, especially at Edgerton for pedestrians crossing and traffic at the light, and left turns along the corridor in general. Residents satisfied with Desoto Street crossing. No ped refuge at Bradley because of slope and not conducive to wheelchair crossing. Questions: Sections of lights out in this area, any thoughts on changing type of wire or securing fixtures so theft less and lights stay on. Any additional safety features for planned pedestrian safe spaces, like large reflective items or additional elevation? Some people don't realize they exist, especially in winter, and they drive right over the signs and the medians. We have a total of four medians planned, but don't want a median the entire length because people need to be able to move over for emergency vehicles and access driveways. Safety concerns at Edgerton; timing of light may change, and may want a protected left turning movement, a green turn arrow. Because of backup back to Jessie drivers make riskier moves, find gaps, especially when

making left turns; they are looking at intersection for options. Can you integrate more greenspace? Do want to value greenspace. Project website: [ramseycounty.us/MarylandAve](http://ramseycounty.us/MarylandAve).

2. Arcade Street Redesign: Update and Next Steps, Michael Corbett, MnDOT, and Meredith Benesh (HDR)

6:35 pm

Project 7<sup>th</sup> St E & Arcade North, a little over a mile of 7<sup>th</sup> from downtown to Arcade, then up to Rosemont Ave. General roadway resurfacing, sidewalk replacement. Also got a RAISE grant to use for aesthetic enhancements including more greenery, street furniture, pedestrian scale lighting. Final plan turn-in this week. A couple maintenance contracts with St. Paul to wrap-up. MnDOT and St. Paul only like to pay for and maintain pavement, trees and grass. Any greenspace to be maintained by partners or nonprofit organizations. All landscape elements to be part of future project. We have two-year period where anything we plant is under warranty for two or three years, but after that MnDOT doesn't take care of it. Plan to put project out for bid in August and construction would start next April. The 2025 stuff would be from the northern limits to the gully. 2026 would be from Phalen or just south along Arcade and the bulk of 7<sup>th</sup>.

There will be some areas where plants & structures are put in, but the bulk of landscaping will be a separate project. Three levels of maintenance. Level 1 pavement, sidewalk, grass & trees – basics. Level 2 planters – some greenery on boulevard. Level 3 is highest level – raised planters, decorative stones, benches, sculpture - requires most maintenance. Planters along E 7<sup>th</sup> & Arcade both level 2 & level 3. Neid intersection – benches, level 3 plantings. Almost every block will have something. Wheelock – willing to put more work at intersection – benches, planters, drinking fountain possible. Some places not a lot of space to work with. Possibly some work specific with Johnson HS, some intentional work with an environmental group already doing a project with plants.

Pattern update: worked w/Farnsworth Middle School. Some patterns were too detailed and can't use trademarked items. Took ideas and worked to revise them. 7<sup>th</sup> St (Mississippi Market area and Greenbrier to Clear Ave would get the pattern (sandblasting) into sidewalk. Draft pattern to share: vines/wavy water lines, and the circles would have various icons from themes such as space, water, culture. Lots of icons crossed themes – sun in Karen culture and a space theme, next: have goals for maintenance agreements. While City and MnDOT may not be able to maintain some streetscaping there are some smaller firms that have ability or can get certification. Street construction 2025, Landscaping part will happen in 2026-27. Could the etching/sandblasting affect durability? It could, that's why waiting on landscaping. Etchings would be along edge and not where people would normally walk. If etchings are on a wall that would be even better. Comment: like the icons, but to double check the icons for inclusivity. City and MnDOT learning that the status quo is no longer acceptable; greenspace and more aesthetics desired.

### **Discussion:**

7:00 pm

3. Get Outta the Gully Debrief

Fun, a lot of work. Any idea how many people we connected with? To the app, 15 cc to us but each went to multiple officials. See info sheet in packet for numbers. Signatures on

petitions 91 so far (our event and FVFL event). Weather not great but may have helped because we captured a lot of people that didn't know and educated them. How do we take the momentum and where do we go next steps? The video of marching – any comments from Metro Transit? Jack: Video hasn't been shared, but put a link to our Dropbox so anybody that took photos or video could upload them. In working with staff from other organizations it could be packaged by a videographer to be presented to Metro Transit; we would need to do some budgetary things for that. Question on how many signatures needed to make impact? Unknown, but the more the better. Opportunity to get more? Can continue to use the app; it will be kept up all summer, and it's for the entire metro, not just Payne-Phalen.

4. The Purple Line and the Arcade Street Station: Next Steps: (skipped; see item 3)

5. Northern Iron and Machine: Debrief and Next Steps

Felt same information presented in a better way. Difficult to hear. A lot of information but what do people do with all that information. Breakout groups at end was a way to reduce voices; also a way to talk directly to someone one-on-one for answers. Response from Northern Iron is limited (none) because of ongoing litigation. Does the community need someone to intervene on our behalf? Some people have asked since the meeting if they should get tested. No clear recommendation, even when asked directly one-on-one. Even if tested, difficult to determine where the lead came from because lead is in our pipes and other places. There isn't a 'permitted' other place in the area that MPCA is looking at for lead. Given this community is already at elevated risk, if someone asks about getting tested, answer yes if it's not a burden on them. We've lifted the veil and alerted the public. The MPCA is now giving out grants to community organizations to purchase and install monitors. Monitoring doesn't tell you as much as you think it does.

**Business items:**

8:00 pm

6. Receive and File: Impact Report: 2023 HOURCAR & Evie Community Carshare Services (provided for informational purposes)

7. Approval of minutes from the April 2024 meeting (Marci Exsted, Secretary) (postponed until next month due to time)

8. Financial Reports for May 2024 (Janey Atchison, Treasurer) Seanne made motion to accept report. Damian second. Motion Passed.

Ending comments/questions: Can we be a clearing house of information for Northern Iron? Is there one place on the website that we can point people to – a subgroup in the dropdown, rather than multiple locations? A Health & Wellness section of the newsletter where we can list lead-testing resources, where to go for asthma issues? We did that for covid, so we could.

**ADJOURN**

8:15 pm

➤ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024  
Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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