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Minutes for the Community Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

Attendance

Board Members: Anna-Marie Foster, Rebecca Nelson, Marci Exsted, Emma De Vera, Janey Atchison, Damian Schaab, Patricia Enstad

PPCC Staff: Jack Byers, Robin Horkey, Vivian Tran

Community Members: Paul, Rosalinda, Jeanne, Barbara, Gabby, Sue B, Winona, Nathan, Chere, Rachel, Deanne

1. Welcome: Introductions and Review of the Agenda ~6:00 pm

Presentation and Discussion Items:

~~2. Request for Support: 1033 Arcade Street, Rob Yang, Developer 6:05 pm~~

3. Arcade Street Project Updates: Vivian Tran, PPCC Community Organizer 6:30 pm

- East 7th started construction March 31st, road closure started from Wheelock/Frost down. Starting June 9th Wheelock opened up. All of Arcade from Frost to Sims will be closed, only side streets will be accessible.
- Jeanne - 511 had things described completely different (PPCC has also struggled w/511)
- Lead pipe replacement *is now* either completed or scheduled to be completed by the end of June!
- ESABA & ESNDK have begun a proposal for business relief funds - this went to the MN Senate but didn't make it to a vote, however the transportation committee did allocate \$250k for businesses w/25 employees or less within 300 ft of the construction on Arcade. A press release will come out on 6/26!
- Arcade Green Lungs Project updates (Arcade Streetscape, particularly) - MnDOT has continued to state that they'll plant trees and planters in late 2027 when construction wraps. They will take care of trees, planters for the first 2 years & then there will be a new agreement met w/the city. We're currently asking for these details to be put in writing.
- Sue B - the lead pipes and properties being noticed are due to Vivian's work; also the work of Rebecca & Jack should be championed for the business relief fund as well. While

MnDOT will take care of the planters for the first 2 years, we'll likely need to still do some maintenance. [also may help engagement/community buy-in starting earlier in the process]

- So far, it appears the Arcade street construction is currently progressing on time!

4. Arcade Street Project: Reimagining the Civic Commons, Paul Bauknight, Director of the Center for Transformative Urban Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design 6:35 pm

- Here in the Twin Cities - we're trying to leverage projects already in existence. We don't need to create a new org to make parks, etc. For RCC, we're asking how we can elevate & support what's already going on. We have 4 initiatives, including Arcade Street, Longfellow, Blue Line, and creating Police stations that are places of connection & change. All are focused on major connectors. We need to get beyond how MnDOT thinks about the street. Even as painful as the construction is, we can ask how we can leverage this opportunity to bring people together, move policy (e.g. not having to have another round convincing the legislature to set aside money for business mitigation funds).
 - Janey - are you predominantly architects?
 - It's a broad mix - architects, lawyers, community development folks, arts

Updates/Coming up: 7:15 pm

5. Arcade Street Walking Tour with national leaders from Reimagining the Civic Commons (RCC), Friday, July 11th, 11:30-12:00 pm. Meet at Arcade and York

- Jeanne - It's a walking tour...how far are you walking?
 - It'll be a short walking tour. We'll start at Seger Square, have an introduction. We'll look at York/Arcade and then walk as far as Sims or Case (~3 to 4 blocks).
- Damian - asked about whether the walk lands well with the construction schedule
 - Jack - yes, we're working on that

6. Updates: MPCA/Northern Iron

- Jack - MPCA took the step to start permit revocation, Northern Iron can appeal but this shows consensus across the MPCA/Attorney General/Governor's Office. Also, the current proceedings are only continuing in state court - all other proceedings are on hold.
 - Winona - Mai's office has been pushing to have more preventative work done in District 6. At the Eastside YMCA from 6-8 pm on 7/16 we're going to have an event focused on healthy soil. We'll also do some raised bed garden workshops, air filter building, and will partner to rent out vacuums to folks so people can have access to these. Working hard on harm reduction. Have a meeting with MDH and MPCA to see if they can partner to test both indoor and outdoor soot.
 - Emma - Executive committee received a request from Melissa Lorenz that we write a

letter of support to the MPCA expressing that we support their revocation of Northern Iron's license. Emma motioned, Patricia seconded this. Passed unanimously.

- Damian - we've been spending a lot of time on this issue, we also have a lot of people who will lose their jobs if this closes. They are also facing health concerns. We aren't an employment org but making sure they get some kind of testing, etc.
 - Patricia - Eastside Environmental Justice has worked to reach out to the employees. A task group is trying to support just-transition but we've been stonewalled. There is an open OSHA case there, a surprise visit for health also occurred.
 - Jeanne - Another company in White Bear was also facing lead pollution and bringing it home with them & testing on employee's kids raised red flags
 - Winona - emphasized attending the soil shop. Northern Iron is the top lead emitter so please bring us your soil.

7. Follow-up to promotion at SunMoon Boba, 1440 Arcade, Saturday, June 21st, 12-3

- We'll have another pop-up on 7/26 in the parking lot of SunMoon!

8. AIRNET: Air Quality Focus Group, Wednesday, June 25th, 6-8 pm, East Side YMCA

- Please come if you can/are interested! Biggest concerns were Northern Iron AND what pollutants are emitted on high-traffic streets. Air Quality monitoring plans will be brought.

9. Evie East Side Expansion: Community workshops – multiple, see newsletter/staff!

- **6/26 5:30-7:30 is the first workshop (free dinner provided!)**

10. Board recruiting and development

- Marci motioned to approve Janey's flyer, Anna-Marie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Regular Business 7:45 pm

11. Approval item: Financial Reports for April and May (Janey Atchison)

- Janey moved to approve both April and May financial reports, Emma seconded. Passed unanimously.

12. Approval item: Minutes from April 2025 meeting (Marci Exsted)

- Marci moved to approve the April 2025 minutes, Anna-Marie seconded. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN 8:00 pm

➤ **Next PPCC Community Meeting:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025, Arlington Hills Recreation Center, 1200 Payne Avenue

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