

Meeting minutes

Michael, Melissa, John Mark, Suyapa, Bettsy, Ray, Scott

Visitors:

Jan. 12th 2017

Cynthia Meyer

Kristal Leebrick

Arantza Martinez Miranda

Approve Minutes from last meeting

Addition to minutes - Cynthia Myer tree

Melissa moved, Ray seconded, approved

Transportation update: Met last night - discussed goals from 2016. Discussed the National Walk Summit in St. Paul in September 2017. Submitted a proposal to do a walking workshop. Arranging a meeting to coordinate Como Ave and school construction discussions, along with 4th of July. Hope to get together in February. Checkin on construction for Cleveland in 2018. Expecting design study to start this year, are hoping to be included in Ramsey County discussions. Talked about asking Brad Engelmann to present Territorial Road study he is working on. To get it ready for next round of CIB (Capital Improvement Budget) grants (city money available every other year for community improvements - city departments and councils are able to apply).

Equity: No meeting due to lack. Ongoing work in: Community Development Block Grants, ADA Request, Equity Framework, Community Garden, Diversity training.

Environment. Did not meet. No report.

Land Use. Presented Policies and Procedures handbook in rough form to Land Use committees - all committees will eventually weigh in on it. Land Use had decided that it should go to all committees first before it goes to the board. Did not hear anything from Dominion regarding Weyerhauser land. Towerside Consortium seems to be winding down and their activities seem to be waning. One of main goals is to increase biking access between St. Paul Grand Round and Franklin Avenue using railroad right of way.

Cynthia Myer - homeowner and resident for about 30 years (SPark North). Received several bids last summer on removing some trees. Decided to let one tree remain (advised by all three that this tree could remain). Visited by city employees telling her she had to have the tree removed. Said they had sent a letter and it had to come down. They proceeded to tear down the tree along with

neighbor's bushes (Foster family). Lisa Martin - city employee came... said Cynthia could go to city and apply for a waiver. She did so in October and applied. Was denied in December (Marcia Moreman). Asked City to reconsider. Was told she could go to a City Council meeting in January. Had other questions for Ms. Martin but did not have response. Told that several people had been on her property to assess/survey. None of them were seen or left notice that they were there. \$1700 charge when she could have done it herself for \$400. Only recourse now is District Court. Concerned about her own loss but also think it illustrates a larger problem with City. Code Compliancy was city department involved. Box Elder tree. City claims that they sent the letter and that was enough to justify their actions.

Connected to a Residential Parking Survey that people do not seem to have received.

Board discussed what is appropriate notice - timing and/or mode of letter.

Discussed sending a letter to Russ Stark supporting Cynthia's situation

Also discussed the broader ramifications of city communication with residents of District 12, including other examples of communication breakdowns (and it's not just us. District 10 also has had similar issues).

Michael moved that we write two letters:

Melissa moved that we draft a letter supporting Cynthia Meyer in her situation with the city (including the difference in cost between her private \$400 bid and \$1700 city charge and the appropriateness of the communications from the City). Suyapa would draft and Michael, John Mark and Melissa will review and send. We will provide a copy of the letter to Cynthia and send a copy to Russ Stark's office. John Mark seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Council advised Cynthia to attend the next City Council meeting to address this issue. If needed, a board member would attend in support.

Discussed issues surrounding communication to residents about numerous issues. Including Meyers tree issue, permit parking survey, etc. Decided to refer consideration of city communication to Equity. Will coordinate with Kristal Leebrick to discuss further.

2040 Plan. Michael has started process of forming a steering committee to move the plan along. Will get Equity guidelines next months. Will incorporate into this. Asked people to look at *Road to the Community Plan* (included in the email) specifically and to look at all other information included. Board should consider possible other steering committee members and send them to Michael. (should send not to board right away)

Our goals should include 4 things.

10 year plan

Policies/Procedures started by Land Use

Bylaws (developed through google doc.)
Diversify our membership
Adopt and Implement Equity Framework across committees.

Staff Update

Replaced bookkeeper last month and have taken on a new accountant - Jenny Claver. Outsourced work in meantime to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Still have some outstanding accounting to finish to catch up on budgeting.

Have added a part-time grant writer, Janelle Louise Shoemaker, who will help us with grant writing. Will help us with our grant writing

Fundraising was over projections. Helped by generous gift from JOTP. Plus new folks who donated to the council (some who haven't donated in 4 years). Will consider another fund-raising appeal in Spring or early Summer. Give to the Max didn't go well - their website went down and crashed between 10 am and mid-evening. We ended up getting less than in previous years.

Community Garden land sale update to Ettel and France Roofing. Working to create an easement that allows us access to the Eastern edge. Have an offer from the buyer, but we are working with a broker to determine if that is a good price. Garden people are in agreement. The main question is what happens with the land in the future - the easement allows us to access the entire property from eastern edge. Ettel and France was instrumental in helping the council receive the property from the railroad. The board discussed the use of the proceeds from the sale and moving forward. Actions that have occurred since Ettel and Franz's presentation Nov. 10 include: the property has been surveyed, we have engaged a broker for a survey, and have brought Ferd into the equation. Council will review and discuss further actions after the attorneys come to agreement.

Food Equity. Ongoing discussion and new research.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Ray moved to adjourn, adjourned by acclamation.