

# PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council Board of Directors

22 September 2009

## Draft Minutes

President Al Oertwig convened the meeting and greeted all community participants and Board Directors.

Agenda Review: The agenda was modified to permit the East Side Tennis court presentation to be first on the Agenda. Livesay moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Theisen Second. Passed by vote.

Arthur Nguyen, (Unity Leadership Intern with District Five) led a team of young adults and teens who organized the East Side Tennis Coalition. The group is comprised of teens who have a passion for tennis and who are concerned with the lack of recreational facilities for tennis players of all ages on the East Side. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached and incorporated into these minutes).

Nguyen presented the group's case for the need for newly constructed tennis courts on the East Side. The group sought District Five Planning Council support for prioritizing tennis courts in public funding for recreation facilities. The group asked for Board support as they plan to approach the St. Paul School Board regarding potential use of the large lot behind the Wheelock Elementary School.

The teens presented testimony on the health benefits of exercise and tennis as an affordable, accessible and highly popular sport. Cayuga spoke from personal history and discussed the benefits of a tennis program for children and teens to become active, to learn teamwork, and discipline in the sport. These qualities

benefit teens in a variety of levels. The group included two local teachers who serve as tennis coaches.

East Side Tennis Coalition has proposed that 6 new courts be built near the Wheelock Elementary School on what is presently a vacant lot. Initial cost estimates were roughly at \$500,000 for six courts.

Discussion points and questions arising in Board discussion:

How popular is the sport? The St. Paul Urban Tennis group has a list of 3000 youth playing tennis across St. Paul. This number is up from 700-800 just a few years ago.

The fastest growing need is on the Eastside. The sport is inclusive and popular among all teens. Affordability is part of the appeal.

The next strategic step is to prepare to present to the St. Paul Board of Education. There is an Athletic Council which can be of support. Then the group can approach the School Board. The East Side Tennis Coalition teens have already initiated conversations with Council Member Bostrom's office, County Commissioner Jim McDonough and St. Paul Park and Recreation's Kathy Korum. All expressed a strong desire to see new tennis courts on the East Side.

R. Kapaun moved that District Five Planning Council evidence its strong support for the plan in a letter to the St. Paul School Board, and copy the letter to city and county officials, the Johnson High School Principal, Johnson Athletic Directors and the cited St. Paul Athletic Council, St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

The letter will express strong support for the East Side Tennis Coalition mission and their specific efforts to both improve the existing tennis courts at Johnson High School and existing public courts while moving forward to secure funding and a potential location for additional courts. Stone Seconded. Motion passed by vote.

### **Board President's report**

Oertwig celebrated the Saint Paul Welcome Home Tour success. Kapaun reported that approximately 150 visits were made to 13 home sites. Kapaun reported that

there was high enthusiasm expressed to repeat the tour in the Spring and Fall in 2010. Thank you packets are going out to all realtors and District Five thanks SPAAR, Historic Saint Paul, Wells Fargo, and City of Saint Paul staff for their help. Kapaun thanked the ED, staff and Board members who made the event successful. Oertwig expressed the Board's appreciation of Kapaun's leadership in the project. (applause!)

Brief Update on MAC Advisory Committee Meeting to review and incorporate input from the Public Hearings on the Zoning Ordinance proposal. Oertwig claimed a community victory in getting MAC to pause its planned process to further review all public input and comments. Alan Lovejoy (St. Paul Planning and Economic Development) will meet on Thursday, September 24, 2009 with the Railroad Island Task Force to discuss specific concerns, comments and issues. Oertwig specified that the RRITF meeting would be the venue for District Five Board participation in the topic, so that the issue is lodged with those residents most impacted by the issue.

Update on Ladder 7 Issue: Oertwig reported recent conversations regarding funding for St. Paul Fire Department and proposals for re-locating the 100 foot ladder truck. The 100 Foot ladder truck will now be staying where it is at Ladder 7 – here on the East Side. A new grant will be applied for to build a new structure to store the ladder truck and EMS. This is a clear victory for residents of District Five.

Payne-Maryland Project. Oertwig informed the Board of his recent conversations with St. Paul City Council members. Support is growing for the Payne Maryland Project. There is an October 28<sup>th</sup> public hearing on City Budget, and this venue is appropriate for residents to raise issues and support for City Budget line items.

(A minor typo regarding the address of the Mac Khoa garage on Arcade will be corrected and approved by CPED when they review their meeting minutes).

Bill Zajicek moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded. Motion approved.

NAC (Neighborhood Action Committee) Report NAC determined to participate in doing community outreach at the recent PABA fest event. Ted Hecht, a coordinator for the event estimated that some 4,000 people were present. Stone

noted that all appeared to pass by the District 5 outreach booth. Census information materials, Neighborhood Clean Up flyers, and general information packets were distributed. Children received balloons and people were encouraged to sign up to volunteer. Kerry Stone and granddaughter Summer, Fardosa Mahad and Al Oertwig helped run the booth. A slide show was presented to the Board.

Executive Director's Report. The Restorative Justice grant was not awarded to the Mpls RJCA. We now have an intern, Wanda Bublitz, who is working 60 plus hours with our project. Possible new funding sources may be available in October.

The District Five city funding was secure and the funding outlook stable – in late August with the Mayor's budget address. COPP funds appear secure. Now steps are being taken to review staffing needs and initiate a hiring process for a new position. Our funding level allows for a new hire as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. An open hiring process is required and we will post the position in October. Leslie would expect to hire in late October or early November. Al, Kerry and Janice will participate in final candidate review and give input. The MN Council of Nonprofits (MNCN) website has been a good source to advertise positions and we've had a strong diverse candidate pool in the past. This is a very good advantage of maintaining our MNCN membership. Of course we'll advertise in other venues as well.

The ED noted that the end of summer often brings a seasonal shift in focus for District Council staff work and neighborhood leader interests. There is a time shift to required administrative work in required in relation to staffing, budgeting and management issues every fall. The Board's work mirrors this as we examine the 2010 budget, plan for an audit, and look to the next program year. The priorities for the upcoming month include; the Neighborhood Clean Up, ESRJ, and working at a district wide newsletter. We still have the Area Plan draft review process, Burr and Case organizing, and youth work as work ahead. The newsletter (using ISP funds) coupled with Clean Up announcements could save us money. The Fall Neighborhood Clean Up on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Ongoing required reports and reimbursements are a priority as we turn commitments to cash. Jerry Livesay thanked the ED for her informative updates on the Clean Up process. He asked

about grant receivables and the ED noted that significant funds were received shortly after the August Financial report. Of note, the metals recycling revenue from the Spring Clean Up came to the office on 9/14/09. The amount was \$450.30.

District Five will be renewing and reviewing our insurance package in weeks ahead. There may be a premium reduction without ISP funds – if we drop below the threshold that requires an additional policy. Four used pcs were donated to District Five by Metro State. Equipment with more capacity should permit us to upgrade our software through TechSoup. Tech support for web and office software can dramatically streamline work processes and reduce problems. Our equipment and software has been very outdated. Several volunteer job descriptions were circulated. The ED asked for those interested to contact her.

Kapaun moved to accept the August 2009 financial report, Theisen seconded motion. Motion Approved.

Community Announcements: The Fall Neighborhood Clean Up October 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All Board members are hoped to be present.

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> City Council hearing at 5:30 pm to discuss the order to repair or remove 717 Geranium. Kapaun moved that D5 vocally reaffirm their strongest support for the demolition and removal of 717 Geranium. Livesay Seconded. Motion approved.

On September 24, 2009, Thursday at 4:30 pm at the Hi-Way Federal Credit Union, ESND and PABA are hosting a forum on the viability and potential for investment in the commercial corridor – Payne Avenue. McMurray noted the event time was changed so that the District Five Board could fully participate. The commercial emphasis complements District Five's work on attracting new housing investment in Payne Phalen.

Matascastillo made motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion approved.