

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council

2010 Annual Meeting

April 27, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 pm.

JAJ Elementary School, 740 York Ave., St. Paul, MN

Minutes by Trista Matascastillo, Secretary (with input from L. McMurray)

Pre-meeting Announcements:

A Silent Auction fundraiser was organized by the Nominations Committee and the event was conducted during the Annual Meeting. All meeting participants were encouraged to view the donated items and participate.

BYMORE Super Mercado was thanked for its generous donation of food in excess of \$200. Additional food was purchased from local businesses; Asian Express on Arcade, Golden Harvest Deli on Maryland, and food was purchased from BYMORE Super Mercado. Many residents brought donations of food and all were thanked for this generous hospitality.

2010 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2010 Annual Meeting was convened by Board President Al Oertwig who opened the meeting with a welcome and announcements. Board Secretary Trista Matascastillo was introduced. She stated the central purpose of the Annual Meeting and the public notice efforts which conformed to the By-Laws directives for Annual Meetings. She encouraged all present to consider the upcoming elections and she indicated where individuals could find more information about Election Rules in meeting materials.

President Oertwig acknowledged and welcomed key public partners who attended the Annual Meeting and invited them to come forward. Representing

Chief Harrington (SPPD) was Assistant Chief Matt Bostrom, City Council Members Lee Helgen (Ward 5) and Councilmember Dan Bostrom (Ward 6). MN Representatives John Lesch, Representative Tim Mahoney and Ramsey County Commissioners Jim McDonough and Janice Rettman were in attendance. Several other local government representatives and officials had extended greetings to the assembly while sending regrets that they could not attend.

President Oertwig introduced District Five's Executive Director Leslie McMurray who led a brief recognition ceremony to honor the contributions of resident leaders. The 2009 Neighborhood Honor Roll awardees were recognized – including; Mark Gallagher, Anne Briseno and Laurie Krivitz and Brian Cooper.

All District Council Board Directors give tirelessly in their service to the community. McMurray acknowledged the hard work of all Board Directors in 2009 through April 27th. Roy Evans, Sr., Daniel Garcia-Valez, Ted Hecht Sr., Ryan Kapaun, Laurie Krivitz, Brian Cooper, Janice LaFloe, Jerry Livesay, Kerry Stone, Dave Syers, Dave Theisen, Mike Venem, Buzz Wilson, Bill Zajicek, Steve Lee, Antwan Flowers, and special recognition of the Board leadership of President Al Oertwig.

The East Side Restorative Justice Program has flourished in the past year, due to the strong commitments of community members who were trained to lead neighborhood "conferencing" wherein court referred participants who commit nuisance crimes in the neighborhood are diverted from the Court and enter into a restorative justice process. Trained volunteer facilitators lead the conferences and additional community volunteers serve to reflect on the harm caused by the incident and actions of the referred participant. This program is the result of community leaders bringing the ideas forward, of dedicated volunteers who sustain the process and the community at large. The City Attorney's office is a collaborative partner and the work of Community Prosecutor Tony Tedesco was recognized with appreciation. District Five Neighborhood Safety Organizer Patty Lammers has applied great efforts to the start up of the program and her good work was honored. The following ESRJ trained volunteer facilitators were recognized; Wanda Bublitz, Chris Newton, Jennifer Newton, Ted Hecht. Sr., Kerry Stone, Tony Tedesco, Patty Lammers, Leslie McMurray, Sue McCall, Yamy Vang and Jill Radman. These volunteers received 22 hours of formal training in restorative justice principles and practice. Importantly, "concerned citizen" volunteers were also trained and regularly serve to give voice to the community concerns and impact in the conferencing process. These individuals include: Joann Ellis, George Johnson, Kim Mathes, Al Oertwig, David Theisen, Leeann Pomrenke, Edd Brown, Danette Allrich, and Wayne Wittman.

Neighborhood Clean Up volunteers were celebrated with a reminder of the May 15th, 2010 Clean Up. A record 57 Clean Up volunteers served in 2009. Ralph Liebsch was called upon and he indicated he had worked more than 12 Clean Ups.

Block Club leaders work around the year to keep lines of communication open, to work on neighborhood projects and to contribute to larger events such as National Night Out. District Five thanked all who help to make the neighborhood a great place to live, work and play. City and County officials added their thanks to all volunteers

Committee and Task Force Reports

President Oertwig introduced the following Committee and Task Force Chairs who gave reports on accomplishments in the past year.

Neighborhood Action Committee (NAC) Co-Chairs Kerry Stone and Sheldon Schwartz offered updates from the group. Key themes of “place-making” and mobilizing residents around neighborhood improvement projects while building community and having a good time were highlighted. The NAC Committee has played a strong role in reaching out to new constituencies and being present at a variety of community events and celebrations. Several upcoming projects were highlighted and the community was invited to get involved.

Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (CPED) Chair Dave Syers gave a brief overview of CPED’s successes and work over the past year. Of notable importance was the community’s work to secure the US Postal Contract Station at Seeger Square. When threatened with losing this vital public service, the community mobilized to give voice to the importance of this key public service to the neighborhood. The contract station remains open as a result. Larger developments occurring across District Five require vigilant neighbor participation and CPED aims to channel community input to public decision makers. All are encouraged to get more involved in the work of CPED. The Committee Members were thanked. In addition to the Board members, CPED Committee Members Cheryl Peterson and Ed Davis were recognized.

Railroad Island Task Force (RRITF) was represented by Mary Brauer who serves with RRITF Chair Linda Arnesen (Written report attached). .

Key Redevelopment Planning Efforts

President Al Oertwig offered a brief overview of the significant new developments occurring in the Payne Phalen area and he highlighted the critical importance of ongoing citizen participation in each project.

Payne Maryland Project – 14 million in City funds was secured for a joint-use, multi-purpose facility that will blend recreation, library and a host of community services for residents at the site of the current Arlington Rec Center (augmented with site acquisitions in the vicinity). The District Five Planning Council has voiced strong support for improved services for families in District Five and is eager to have citizen participation be a keystone of this exciting opportunity for our neighborhood.

Beacon Bluff – the former 3M site is being redeveloped by the St. Paul Port Authority. Through District Five efforts and collaboration, a community review and input process was established as the plans for the site redevelopment emerged. All residents are strongly encouraged to stay apprised of this significant development which holds the potential and promise to secure and retain East Side jobs and represents a very important re-investment for the East Side of Saint Paul.

Keller-Phalen Lake Regional Park Master Planning Task Force – District Five is at the table in the Master Planning process, formally represented by President Oertwig and Ray Ogren, with Bill Zajicek and McMurray serving as Committee Alternates.

Habitat for Humanity is a key partner as they bring the **Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter Work Project to the Vento neighborhood (Burr and Case)** to perform housing rehab and construct new housing for East Side residents. The first week in October of 2011 will be an important time to bring visibility to our neighborhoods. Efforts will take place throughout the summer to strengthen and beautify this valuable neighborhood in District Five. HFH has several housing projects underway in District Five and the Council is proud to work with their staff and volunteers.

Key District Five Neighborhood Accomplishments

Executive Director McMurray noted several key events and programs that occur across District Five that are important to the functioning and well-being of the neighborhood. This includes Youth Organizing work and the East Side Tennis

Coalition, the area's recycling program as well as the two Neighborhood Clean Ups, numerous efforts with Block Groups, Neighborhood Watches, community workshops on a variety of themes, citywide work on policies affecting neighborhoods, constituent information and referrals, creating summer employment for youth and work with the East Side Learning Collaborative and support for the Circulator bus option, close work with the SPPD Eastern District on crime prevention matters, publishing information and disseminating information to the community in a variety of formats and languages, working in collaboration with area agencies and business associations, and establishing and supporting community gardens.

The **East Side Heritage Park** is now completed and opened. Trail connectivity is being developed with this park to increase recreational benefits for residents.

Increasing the positive community marketing has been a theme of the Council and two **Welcome Home Tours** were successfully conducted with the help of St. Paul Area Association of Realtors (SPAAR). The Council has upgraded its capacity for regular communications with neighbors, and wrote materials for marketing website MSPLIVE and the Saint Paul Home Tour.

In 2010, the **ISP (Invest Saint Paul)** work will continue with new funding received. This organizing work will occur in the area bounded by Maryland, Lawson, Edgerton and Arcade. Numerous opportunities will exist for residents to get involved and make a difference. The goal will be to lift up the neighborhood and work on issue sin the areas around the re-investment of the Payne Maryland Project.

In 2009, **District Five's Gateway Trail Community Garden** – established with the leadership of Laurie Krivitz and Brian Cooper was awarded the coveted **Saint Paul Golden Bloom Award**. District Five thanks all the gardeners who participated as well as the partnership with the MN Department of Natural Resources who offered the land and planning support and Gardening Matters.

In 2009, **Saint Paul Parks and Recreation** awarded **District Five its Annual Community Partner Award**, in recognition of the work to mobilize community response to the vandalism that threatened to destroy a valued sculpture at Lake Phalen.

McMurray highlighted that none of District Five's varied accomplishments could occur without the strong leadership of residents and volunteers.

Presentation of Financial Report

Board Treasurer, Janice LaFloe presented the 2009 Financial Statements to the General Membership. Of note was the recent retirement of some longstanding debt which the organization incurred in 2002-2003 when District Five undertook charitable gambling in relation to the 899 Payne Avenue "Bingo Hall" property. While conceived as an economic development engine, the enterprise was unable to recoup its costs and failed. Significant debt was retired with careful management as well as fundraising. The community and staff were thanked for these efforts. A motion to approve the report as presented was made and seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair, Cheryl Peterson detailed the work of the Nominations Committee per the By-Laws. She read to the assembly the rules of election and nominations. She called for Nominations and candidates were introduced. Fourteen seats were available. Seats not filled will be appointed by the Board.

The following nominations were made and found to be in order.

Ted Hecht Sr.
Dave Syers
Kerry Stone
Cleveland Adams
Darlene Adams (Nominated in absentia).
Janice LaFloe
Sharny Vue Yang
Virginia Rybin
Robert Klicker
Al Oertwig
Regina Rippel
Andrew Noble

Each candidate gave a 1 min speech about their interests, commitments and reasons for seeking Board election.

The Election was conducted by paper ballot and a Balloting Committee was formed to oversee the counts.

All nominees were elected. The following elected Board Directors were elected to one year terms; Cleveland Adams, Andrew Noble, Robert Klicker.

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction fundraiser was conducted throughout the Annual Meeting. Cheryl Peterson announced the winners and thanked all businesses and individuals who donated goods or services to District Five.

Adjournment

President Oertwig thanked all who participated and planned for the event and he called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by vote.

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