









PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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Payne Phalen District Five Board of Directors
Draft MINUTES for September Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
722 Payne Avenue (Payne and Minnehaha)
Eastern District Police Department Community Room

Oertwig		Schwartz	E	Syers		Venem	E	Rippel	
Stone		Yang		Rybin		Evans		Noble	E
Zajicek	E	Theisen (NA)		Wilson		Lafloe	E	Hecht	E
Adams, C.	E	Adams, D.	E	Flowers	E	Klicker	E		

Staff: Leslie McMurray, Executive Director

Guests: Ramsey County Commissioner Rettman's office – Linda Jungwirth. Jimmy Gerding- resident.

Chair Al Oertwig convened the meeting. Board members approved the meeting agenda as it appeared on the agenda. Sharny V. Yang volunteered to record and draft the Board minutes in the absence of Secretary Schwartz who had an excused absence.

City Staff Presentation – Opportunities for District Council Learning and Improvement

Ms. Diane Wanner, City staff coordinator of District Councils, was present to discuss upcoming opportunities for workshops and district trainings. Ms. Wanner emphasized the city and local interests in inclusive engagement of all residents in our diverse community.

District Councils are working citywide to remain relevant and credible sources of citizen participation that authentically represent the broad interests of all residents. A data graph sheet showing St. Paul's demographic information from 1980 to 2007 was discussed. To build increasingly inclusive District Councils and neighborhoods, each District Council is asked to send representatives from staff/board (2 slots) to an upcoming training November 6th Saturday half-day session "Building Awareness of Race and Culture in Inclusive Community Work". Al Oertwig noted that he has asked Sharny V. Yang and Leslie McMurray to initiate this work and to bring action recommendations back to the board. Both have agreed to do so. K. Stone mentioned the Facing Race workshop which was previously sponsored by District Five. Ms. Wanner affirmed that effort and noted that this workshop would be led by Facing Race – but with a particular goal of focusing on District Councils. There are limited spaces in this training and so each District Council is limited in having two spaces. The real work will rest with the Board and its approved action plan. This work will occur

over time.

Chair Oertwig thanked Diane for coming to share with the D5 board. The Executive Director mentioned the importance of the citywide goals to assure that public resources of District Councils are available and used to engage all members of the community. Part of the D5 organizing commitment is to address issues of racism and disparities must be addressed in an intentional way with an action plan. This work will involve the Board in specific ways.

Community Event Evaluation

The Executive Director provided a visual presentation featuring key community events held over the previous month. The events were all deemed successful by planners and participants.

The three events covered included:

National Night Out – over 1500 residents participated in this crime prevention event and more than 18 events were hosted. Several new collaborative efforts were developed that were successful.

The NAC Picnic drew many residents, provided recognition for Block Clubs and neighborhood leaders. The event showcased some wonderful work that residents are doing to improve the neighborhood.

The Eastside Heritage Park Opening Celebration drew over 100 people and featured the Mayor and City officials and cultural contributions from the Native American community.

Each event represented considerable staff and volunteer input and work. The Board was asked for any comments regarding the ESHP event.

- We had broad, diverse resident participation from across the Eastside community. It was a good event enjoyed by all.
- Nice connections were made with city Parks and Recreation and St. Paul Fire Department staff, city officials etc.
- Great food! Good people! Good activities.
- Exec Director McMurray reflected comments from Parks and Recreation that the event was well attended and they were very pleased with the number of participants.
- Good turnout – would like to have seen more. Weather was overcast and this was a consideration. Good weather would have increased the crowd – maybe too much!
- Very positive input from partners and guests.
- NAC and D5 staff members were generously thanked for planning this major community event.

In light of the need to borrow personal equipment to provide a presentation Exec Director McMurray recommended that the organizations consider the purchase of a laptop and projector to support D5's community learning work. Visual "evaluations" are a helpful and practical way to support evaluation and the equipment would be used for training curriculum with adult groups in the neighborhood. The board moved to approve this purchase once necessary funds are identified. The Finance Committee will include these equipment needs when considering future budgets and fund development.

Board President's Report:

- Several handouts were created by AI and sent to the Board prior to the meeting. He reviewed the

key points in the reports. Al Oertwig represented District Five at the Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB) and he spoke of the plans and zoning changes slated for the Holman Airport Field. (Note: All Board members received the updates on this zoning plan in their e-mail and the decisions were reported by Alan Lovejoy at CPED. Mr. Oertwig noted he was updating the Board on the public meeting. McMurray noted a call from a West side resident concerned that their issues were not addressed. Hopefully the public process is the venue for airing these issues.

- Chair Oertwig also touched briefly on the 3M redevelopment site (BEACON BLUFF). He reported from the Community Advisory Task Force which Leslie and Al regularly attend.
- ESND – commercial committee (1) proposed Café “Palumbo” building at U and I Café and (2) possible enhancements of the old VFW building at 1014 Payne.
- PABA –has moved its meetings to the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- Payne Ave Paving project – the prep work has started.
- Buzz W. made a motion for D5 to do a letter of appreciation to Habitat for Humanity for a job well done. The motion was seconded, and moved. Board approved.
- Regina R. commented about concerns regarding the blockage of traffic near the former 3M entry between Forest & Minnehaha. Traffic is reduced to one lane and it is not clear why this is necessary – it is confusing and creates a potentially hazardous issue.
 - Exec Director McMurray will contact Councilmember Lantry’s office and she encouraged board members to call these resources directly.
- Kerry Stone is representing District Five on the Great River Park Community Advisory Group and Al Oertwig is the alternate. Both are active in the group. Kerry discussed community participation in the “Great River Park Master Plan” feedback meetings. This study is funded by the MN Legacy tax revenue. National funding will be sought when the plan is completed. Many groups, partners and consultants are engaged in this high profile project. The River unites Saint Paul neighborhoods and connects us all. August 17th, 2010 was the kick-off; D5 was not represented due to the NAC Community Picnic. Al O. and Kerry S will act as liaisons with the group and the people of District Five.
 - The Task Force is to help the project find out how various communities use the river and what constituencies want in the resulting plan. Several opportunities for public participation will be forwarded from the D5 office.
 - The best updated information can be found online at: www.greatriverpark.org
 - Regina R- made a comment that she would like to see increased public access, without any barrier to free parking so that more people can directly connect with the river. She would like for more walkways and trails near the river.

The Executive Director touched on highlights of the recent month (a short month due to one week of earned leave used for vacation). The three community events already discussed were a major focus of staff work. East Side Restorative Justice (ESRJ) is developing plans for program evaluation with support from Ramsey County staff. We are exploring potential partnerships with Metro State University. Several meetings are being planned to grow and improve the program.

Staff and Board leadership are involved in the 3M work and meetings. The ED has helped to secure options for local historians to collect “3M stories” for the historical interpretative elements of Beacon Bluff. The community can expect more historical storytelling events in the future. The Clean Up is soon arriving on October 23rd. The potential ownership change in the RRT transfer site created a problem in moving with the original timeline. This issue of ownership is now resolved, or is no longer an obstacle to having a cleanup event. The potential new site owner expressed the

will to work with the District Council if they purchase the site. The urgent need to get information is now resolved, and the timing resulted in shifting the event to the 23rd so that the whole community is well notified of the date. Extra efforts with clean up promotion are occurring so that all know well in advance of the date and the date change. We are mailing some 11,000 households informational postcards. This is time sensitive promotion work. This has put some other projects on the back burner. The Clean Up is roughly \$14,000 of our budget and a clear part of our work so it has been prioritized.

The Payne Maryland Project has been an ongoing focus of work. The Board and CPED have articulated views which have been conveyed to key public decision makers. District Five is publicly and positively committed to the project and its community benefits. The message being delivered at this time is that the project is vital to the neighborhood and that the community is eager to participate in the design planning and to get regular updates on the progress or obstacles to this complex and important project. McMurray and Syers had discussed having a letter come from CPED. Instead the message will include CPED's intent and will come from the District Five Board. The goal is to communicate the community's strong interest in hearing substantive updates on the schematic design process and the project as a whole. The City website has information but it is somewhat vague. The community meeting in January 2010 included a projection of a community feedback session in June 2010. No alternative or updated timelines have been communicated to the community or they get pushed back.

The project partners anticipated that they would reach milestone measures at an earlier date. There is no single determinant that has caused delays. There are many interdependent factors influencing the decision-making process. This is a unique project nationally and so there is no simple template design for the process or the end result.

The Project has not yet reached two key milestones in the development process where it would be productive to engage the broader community in a large meeting. Those two events are establishing the Development Agreement and reaching consensus on a workable Schematic Design. Much work is being accomplished and it involves key elements of establishing a development agreement, factoring in new information and developments, and working on the project marketing and funding front. Some of these elements of the process are ongoing and will be in play for some time to come.

There are many parallel tracks of activity that are occurring throughout the year. District Five has been at the Schematic Design meetings. The pace of those meetings is dependent upon other dimensions of the project planning. The next point of time to gather community input will occur when the draft schematic design comes back for community input and review.

From the community perspective – the shifting timeline without more explanation has unsettled some residents. Upon not hearing information of substance, people may have assumed there are delays or problems where none may exist. The Board discussed this. All were in agreement that having a public source of regular updates with specific facts about the process delivered by the public partners will help inform resident perceptions and will alleviate concerns.

David Syers emphasized that he hopes the Project group will generate timely and clear communications to the public and to the surrounding neighborhood. All were agreed that this would be of significant help. This needs to be clearly communicated to the Project group. While the

schematic design draft is to come back to the community – it is clear that community members expect and want to have input on the final design. The community does not want merely be witnessing an unveiling of a final design – rather they want to offer meaningful input that informs and shapes the project.

One board member noted that some residents simply do not want the project and are vocal in this respect. Most residents are quite interested and curious and want to be more engaged in the process. To overlook this is to overlook the potential base of support for the long term implementation of the facility. One Board Director noted that she heard that people simply don't know what will be built and there are some fears of a "monstrosity" that dominates the residential area.

A guest said that in her conversations – she hears perception voiced by some that the PMP project is somewhat "deceptive". She clarified that she meant that people thought they would be involved in June and then they were not. This raises questions for people "is there a lack of momentum?" "is the group developing a plan without community input?" and "are there problems in the partnership?" "People fear something will be taken away from them without their knowledge or consent". Bottom line "something needs to be said publicly about the current status of this project". The right people to make this statement are those with equity in the project.

McMurray reiterated that the Board and CPED are the key venues in which there have been regular and candid updates provided on the project. District Five has ably promoted the project and has given out realistic and factual information upon request. District Five Staff and President have been active in attending many meetings and have been consistent about the need for ongoing community participation. The reports back to District Five have been consistent and factual. Even so – it would be of great help to have more detailed project communication coming directly from the public partners. She noted that she occasionally fields calls from some residents. They are given facts and are then referred on to the appropriate city staff in charge of the project.

The Board will want to play a strong leadership role in giving out accurate information and encouraging residents to contact the appropriate partners. District Five is firmly supportive of the new facility for Payne Phalen residents. A motion was made to communicate to PMP the express need for more detailed, regular updates and status reports to the community. Passed by vote. Al Oertwig and Leslie McMurray will communicate this at the upcoming Project meeting.

The Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Project (Habitat for Humanity) is coming to the area and this is creating some excitement. District Five board members are asked to sign up to volunteer. Kerry Stone noted she was volunteering at the MOA for the kick-off of the project. Various e-mails with opportunities have been sent to the Board – and at this point everyone interested should just contact Habitat directly to get involved. Ted Hecht Sr. has been very involved in working with Habitat and he added some details to the information. Buzz Wilson moved to send a letter of appreciation. Seconded. Passed by vote.

The Consent Agenda was approved with several corrections to the minutes submitted by Virginia Rybin duly noted. (The corrections were for typographical errors and corrections will be entered into the permanent file).

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Drafted by Sharny Yue Yang and Leslie McMurray.

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "J. J. J."