

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

AUGUST 11th, 2010 CPED MEETING MINUTES
722 Payne Avenue – SPPD
Acting Chair – Ted Hecht, Sr.

CPED Members Present:

Ted Hecht Sr., Acting Chair, Virginia Rybin, Roy Evans Sr. *Arriving later in meeting: Al Oertwig, Ed Davis*

Excused Absence: David Syers

Staff Present: Leslie McMurray, Executive Director

Community Members and Guests:

1. Ralph Jacobsen
2. Jan Greenfield,
3. Jimmy Gerding
4. Erin
5. Chad Leveque
6. Ben Johnson
7. Reverend Cher Moua
8. Peggy Finch
9. Louis Dachiss
10. Linda Jungwirth (Representing Commissioner Janice Rettman's office)

1. Mr. Ted Hecht convened the meeting, noting the planned absence of Committee Chair David Syers. Mr. Hecht greeted all community guests. He commended those attending and commented on the apparent absence of most CPED members and apologized on behalf of the Committee, noting that the date of the meeting was changed in light of the August National Night Out and August MN Primary date.
2. The minutes of the July 2010 CPED meeting were approved. Motion by Rybin. Seconded by Evans. Motion passed.

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3. Mr. Ralph Jacobsen spoke regarding solar water heaters as resources for residents. Mr. Jacobsen represents the MN Renewable Energy Society. The group is doing outreach to the District Councils to alert communities to the potential and savings available with the current bulk purchase program and incentives and rebates for home water heaters and solar energy. The group champions solar energy and seeks to help homeowners reduce their carbon footprint.
 - a. Costs are reduced with combined rebates, tax breaks and discounts designed to support residents in utilizing solar energy in their homes.
 - b. The technology is available and will recoup investments over a period of time. The technology augments existing water heaters – it preheats water that then is heated fully by the current water heater.
 - c. District Five offered to publicize the opportunities, noting that the technology holds great appeal for early adopters, but also noting that the average income level in the District might suggest that auxiliary equipment is difficult for many families to afford.
 - d. Mr. Jacobsen was thanked for his presentation and the D5 staff will work to include publicity about the initiative in District wide communications.
4. Mr. Alan Lovejoy presented updates on the Holman Field re-zoning in accord with FAA regulations. Concerns were raised in the early stages of the zoning study around height restrictions and restrictions on land use associated with air traffic safety. These concerns emerged through numerous community meetings – and are documented in the work of the Railroad Island Task Force. Mr. Lovejoy has also presented at CPED and the Board of District Five so the CPED Committee is well familiar with the issues. The update was that the concerns about height restrictions that would potentially affect the proposed Rivoli Bluff Development in Rail Road Island neighborhoods had been resolved. The current proposal for a 70 foot height restriction within that zone would still permit the proposed development. Additionally, current uses will be maintained in the proposed recommendations. This will permit concepts such as an event hall at the 506 Kenny location. Now a public process will ensue which includes a public hearing on 9/14/2010 and JAZB and MN DOT will have hearings and reviews. The entire public process and final recommendations would likely end next year in 2011 (2nd quarter). Mr. Lovejoy was thanked for his attentiveness to neighborhood input and was thanked for his thorough update. (The handouts provided will be attached to these minutes).
5. 899 Payne Avenue – the former Bingo Hall owned by Gerry Frisch. Representatives from the Union Gospel Mission presented plans to CPED for potential job training and restaurant and social service outlet at 899 Payne Avenue. The plans are considered innovative and will bring a street presence to Payne Avenue with the opening of a restaurant on the site. The restaurant will also serve as a training facility for people learning the trade of restaurant management, cooking and customer service. This program fulfills the broader programs for adult education, teaching work readiness skills and vocational training. The project has the support of Ward Six City Councilmember Dan Bostrom and the group has presented to a variety of local groups with positive input. The group is in a due diligence period with the building owner and plans a purchase in Fall 2010. Reverend Cher Moua was in attendance and he has provided community programs to support Asian Family Ministry at the site for several years under a lease arrangement. A question was asked about whether the Union Gospel Missions work to feed and house homeless residents would come from this location. Ms. Peggy Fink stated that this was not the intent of the program but that these important services occur at other locations. The Union Gospel Mission is sensitive to the neighborhood's goals to improve the commercial re—investment on Payne Avenue. They feel the restaurant component will be a great neighborhood

amenity. They are working with restaurateurs across the Twin Cities to assure a career ladder for program graduates, as well as having quality setting for job training and creating a positive business on Payne Avenue. The project is moving quickly but is essentially in design concept stage as funding is being assembled. District Five was asked to write a letter of support for the project to aid this funding effort. A motion to support the project was made by Al Oertwig moved to have full District Five support for the project written in a letter. Virginia Rybin seconded. The motion passed by vote.

Mr. Louis Dachiss was present in support of his application for a liquor license for Merwin Liquors at the current site named Parkway Liquors. He has presented at the previous CPED meeting and returned to answer questions as CPED voted on the matter. CPED did not vote at the past meeting on the application. Mr. Dachiss repeated that he was not able to voluntarily reduced the signage and wanted to preserve the branding of Merwin Liquors which is present at his other business locations. The business will be closing at 10:00 p.m. on weekends and at 8:00 p.m. on weeknights. He would look into turning off the lights on the sign during afterhours. Al Oertwig moved to support the application noting past uses at this location. A recommendation would be communicated to turn off the sign lights from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. when the business was not open. Virginia Rybin seconded. Motion passed by vote.

Discussion points within the Committee:

Attendance at CPED is not normally an issue. It was for this meeting which had been rescheduled. There are future CPED meetings which are re-scheduled. Numerous e-mails and phone calls were made to reinforce the meeting time changes. No communication was received at the office regarding people not coming to the meeting. Al Oertwig noted that Ryan Kapaun and Cheryl Peterson had contacted him and he had not thought to let the office know – thinking staff was on vacation. The guidelines regarding CPED attendance will be communicated again with a friendly reminder to call the office if one is not coming. It is preferred that this notice is given at least 2-3 days in advance or as early as possible. People from the community coming to CPED with a presentation would likely be re-scheduled if it were known that attendance would be light. Moreover, a meeting may simply be postponed or cancelled if the membership cannot attend. Some District Councils do not hold meetings in August or in December because of the light attendance due to other events and commitments.

Duluth Case Community meeting prepared by Grid 56 leaders: Leslie has communicated with organizers of a community meeting on August 25, 2010 at Duluth Case Rec Center. The Rec Center booster club and the Grid group have organized the meeting and have invited D5 leaders, and city officials. They hope to communicate the strong community interest in re-investing in the Duluth Case Rec Center. Some residents fear that resources are going to be pulled away from this popular Rec Center. Rumors were circulating in the neighborhood that resources would go to the PMP project and not to Duluth Case. Others saw a trend towards public investment in regional facilities and dis-investment in local parks. CPED members are encouraged to attend and listen to neighbors. We will report any facts or findings at the upcoming September 14th, 2010 Meeting.

Leslie reminded the Committee that the CIB process (Capital Improvement Budget) will be underway this year. Not only does this process provide opportunities to serve on City-wide

committees to rank projects, the process allows our area to submit proposals. It is very important that there is adequate lead time to submit a quality proposal – the process should include front end conversations with local public leadership and with city department staff for a well thought out proposal. So CPED members should be considering what capital improvements and projects should be considered within the Payne Phalen neighborhood.

Ted Hecht reported on the Jimmy and Rosslyn Carter Habitat for Humanity Project focused in the Burr Case or Vento neighborhood. The project has a large impact and scale and volunteers are needed to make the project all it can be for the benefit of the area. Habitat hopes to have some local residents involved as well as the corporate sponsor volunteers that also will be coming to the neighborhood. Ted is working with HFH staff on coordinating some local aspects of the project.

Ted is Hecht also working with Gambino Montoya and is representing PABA in efforts that bring a Mexican Independence Day Festival to Payne Avenue on September 19th. This community celebration will feature cultural dancing, food and a parade which begins at Aguirre Street on Payne Avenue at 12:30 p.m.

DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER CPED IS MOVED TO 9 14-2010 = the 2nd Tuesday of the month.