

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG SAFE WELCOMING CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

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Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (CPED)

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, September 14th, 2010

6:30 p.m.

722 Payne Avenue, Saint Paul

CHAIR: David Syers Cped@paynephalen.org

1. Chair David Syers opened the meeting and noted that a quorum was not present. He greeted community guests and issued a round of introductions. Several community guests present included Ms. Bao Vang, Executive Director of Hmong American Partnership, and Mai Xiong, owner of Checkerboard Pizza, Jimmy Gerding, and Linda Jungwirth (Representing the office of Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman).
2. Agenda Review. The issue of the HAP development was added to the agenda.
3. Approval of August Minutes was deferred until a quorum was established. (Note> Rybin and Davis arrived later establishing a quorum).
4. Ms. Bao Vang introduced herself as Executive Director of Hmong American Partnership (HAP) on Arcade Street. HAP has been through an internal and external assessment process that included listening to the needs of those they serve and the broader community. They determined that their mission included doing economic and housing development. They have 250 people known to be looking for affordable housing. They have been working with the City of Saint Paul PED staff and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to identify vacant homes that may be suitable for larger families and which could help revitalize the area. HAP intends to provide rental housing to families and support them in a possible move to homeownership. The area has many duplexes and duplexes are preferred for many families where extended family lives together but within the separate residences. Three homes have been identified for rehab and HAP will be presenting to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to begin this process.
5. Discussion points:

Will the Fair Housing Act be upheld and due diligence completed in a selection process for who will rent and then have eligibility to own one of the homes? Answer: Yes, all applicable laws will be upheld and a committee is defining the program criteria for applicants. There is a committee that is charged with defining this criteria and their work is not yet done. Community members may be welcomed on the Committee. David Syers agreed to serve on the Committee that selects participant criteria and which assures an equitable approach to filling the new housing.

Will the homes be rehabbed with attention paid to the surrounding area? Will the architecture reflect the character of the surrounding area? Ms. Vang assured CPED she was interested in making sure that the design worked well for everyone and she noted her own interest in preservation.

What is the timeframe in moving from rental to homeownership? That process may be 3 to 5 years out. Many families are working to gain the economic footing to move towards home ownership.

Mr. Syers noted his own view that some parts of the process need to be better defined and he accepted the invitation to serve on the HAP Committee. He also said he appreciated that Habitat and HAP with their separate initiatives are bringing some concrete change to housing in the face of the vacant housing crisis.

Al Oertwig moved that CPED send a letter of support to the HRA and other entities involved in the HAP project. Rybin seconded. Motion passed by vote.

CPED was invited to an August 28th, 2010 community meeting hosted by Grid 56 and the Duluth Case Booster Club with public officials and Parks and Recreation present. The meeting was held to explore the future of upgrades to the Park and to generally affirm the strong affiliation that neighbors have with the Duluth Case Rec Center. CPED's Regina Rippel went to the community meeting. She noted she was the only CPED member she saw present. She gave a report back to CPED. She noted that the

- 1. 2011 Process Discussion - Capital Improvement Budget – preliminary discussion of potential projects**
- 2. Follow Up Issue Regarding MTC issue:** July's CPED guest, Scott Thompson, of the Metro Transit Council has provided an update on the peak usage rates and times of the Rte 71 bus route. MTC is not recommending any change in service at this time based upon findings and data. Chair Syers noted this and said at this time he did not see a need for further action. Hearing no objection the issue was closed.
- 3. The Great River Park Master Plan.** District Five was invited to participate on the Great River Master Plan. The request came in early August, with the first meeting being September 15th (day after CPED). Three people indicated an interest – Virginia Rybin, Ed Davis and Kerry Stone. The Standing Rules allow the Board Chair to make appointments to external committees on behalf of the whole board. Each of the interested parties was asked to say a word or two about their interest. Kerry Stone stated the River is a key natural element, central to the ecology and development of the City. She is interested in helping to assure good and broad outreach to the whole community to give input. She has read the website and is familiar with the project and what is being attempted in the process. She would like to serve. Ed Davis noted an interest to advocate for the interests of the whole river ecology and to “listen for the voice of the river” and bring an awareness of the natural resource dimension to the planning process. He has an urban planning background and would like to make a contribution to this citywide team. Virginia Rybin expressed interest in the project and she has in past done journalistic work on the river and would like to be part of this current phase of design work. Al Oertwig said he'd reflect and decide who will best link the Board to this work. He appreciated the interests expressed by all.

4. Committee “Housekeeping” - Attendance and schedules

An attendance sheet was passed out for members to review and amend if necessary. Chair Syers noted the importance of regular attendance and early notification of planned or excused absences. By e-mailing to cped@paynephalen.org members will reach Leslie, David and Al. This assures that attendance is tracked well and that the right folks know if a meeting needs to be postponed or cancelled, etc.

5. Announcements or emerging issues and initiatives:

Eastside Heritage Park Opening Celebration - September 25, 2010 11:00 – 1:00
Neighborhood Energy Challenge
Habitat for Humanity Carter Project
Payne Maryland Project
Preliminary design concept for Greenbrier as bike and pedestrian route and greenway
Other Business

Adjournment

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