





PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

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DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday May 24, 2011
722 Payne Avenue
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Al Oertwig. He welcomed all members and community guests. Roll Call was recorded and the Agenda was approved.

A presentation was made regarding the I 35E improvements by MN DOT staff Dave Hall.

Comments:

Timeline for the project? Maryland in spring of 2012 and November 2012 for other sections.

One member did not like the interchange and felt it would not tie traffic to Phalen Boulevard. "cumbersome and impractical".

One member wanted more information on how the on and off ramps connect with Phalen Boulevard – a long anticipated improvement that was expected to create a community gateway impact for the Phalen Corridor.

Will there be takings? Only Public Storage site on Terrace Court is expected be subject to takings. No residential or additional business impact is anticipated.

It is important that the surrounding neighborhoods not lose the open views that currently are an asset to the neighborhoods of District Five. Hall responded that visual models will forecast what the drivers see on I35E. District Five wants to see models of how the higher road elevation impacts the visual site lines of the community which abuts the I-35E corridor.

Are there traffic volume projections and studies tied in with the design options? The community expects a significant improvement to the current congestion at the Pennsylvania on/off ramp.

Would be interested in knowing the cost differentials on design options. The public is interested in cost as a factor in making decisions on public infrastructure design.

What quality materials are planned to be used? Concrete will be used but will be impressed to give an appearance of stone.

The community fully anticipates that this costly project creates an inviting, efficient and attractive entrance to the Eastside communities served by the Phalen Boulevard – the impact goes beyond the immediate vicinity. The nearby residential neighborhoods need to be engaged and informed about the options and plans and modeling that reflects this residential perspective is needed in future discussions.

It is critical that these infrastructure improvements strongly attract people to the area for increased commercial and residential investment.

Regina Rippel noted that the beautiful and practical must be combined in the design so that we do not simply recreate what we already have. She expressed concerns that the design as presented seemed to not create the driving time efficiency that was expected.

Suzan Forsberg noted that the interchange as it exists is dangerous and impractical.

The visuals to describe the project to the public could more clearly indicate exactly how the interchange proposed ties into Phalen Boulevard. This was hard for Board members to understand with the graphics provided.

The Board emphasized that the neighborhood will not be left behind and that the design must enhance the neighborhood in measurable ways. It will be important that neighbors are told what is negotiable and what is fixed in the current planning process – for input to focus where it will matter the most. Mr. Hall was thanked for his presentation and more public process will be planned.

Board elections for officers were held per the By Laws. The Executive Director facilitated the election of the Board Chair. Al Oertwig was nominated and elected by acclamation. He was thanked for his past service to the Board. Mr. Oertwig resumed the role of chair and facilitated the remaining election process. Kerry Stone was nominated and elected Vice Chair by acclamation. Bill Zajicek was nominated and elected Treasurer by acclamation. Virginia Rybin was nominated and elected Secretary by acclamation.

Three At-Large members were nominated and elected by acclamation to the Executive Committee. They are Sheldon Schwartz, Sharny Vue Yang, and David Syers. Chair Oertwig noted that he was exercising his role as Chair in making the appointment of David Syers Chair of the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (CPED). Mr. Syers accepted the role. \

All were thanked for their willingness to serve District Five in these various volunteer capacities.

Chair Oertwig noted that CPED members would include non-Board members and that several had been accepted on the FY2011-12 roster – including Buzz Wilson, Cheryl Peterson, Ryan Kapaun and Ed Davis. Board members are asked to declare their key interests at the July Board meeting.

Per the Standing Rules of Order, the Railroad Island Taskforce needs to be re-established annually. A motion to re-authorize the RR Island Taskforce was offered by David Syers and seconded by Kerry Stone. Motion passed by vote. Chair Oertwig noted that Linda Arnesan was the current chair of the RRITF.

David Syers noted that he wanted a Vice Chair to assist him with CPED and he had asked Suzan Forsberg who has agreed to help.

Bill Zajicek presented the Finance Committee Report and monthly financials for April 2011. David Syers moved to accept the report and Schwartz seconded.

A motion to approve new check signatories (Al Oertwig, Bill Zajicek, Kerry Stone, and Virginia Rybin) for both the Bremer savings and checking accounts was made by David Syers and seconded by Regina Rippel. Sheldon Schwartz and Robert Klicker will be removed from the check signatory card. Changes will be anticipated to take effect by July 1, 2011. Motion was approved by vote.

Mr. Shawn Towle was introduced and he made a brief presentation. He had contacted the D5 office with a request to bring to the Board an issue relative to Eco Housing – a local developer. The planning concept he outlined included a block transformation approach to implementing new green energy technologies that eventually could remove a neighborhood from the grid and promote energy sustainability. He saw potential in the local renewal plans associated with NSP 3 rehab and marketing of vacant housing. The design focus would be on coordinating neighbors on a block to use alleyways as shared conduits for energy technologies and pooled resources.

Mr. Ian Houmas of Eco-housing – a local developer was introduced. Mr. Towle was asked to describe the business relationship. Eco-housing is a business that hopes to procure and broker the purchase of the green technology equipment at wholesale costs for such a development project.

Mr. Towle said that Burr and Case was a targeted neighborhood for improvements. He cited the potential to combine vacant lots and develop housing on a block with shared energy assets and amenities. \

Mr. Syers noted that a variety of local developers have found potential in the redevelopment of vacant housing and that District Five has to date worked with Habitat for Humanity, ESNDC, DNBHS and other groups to plan for implementation of green housing. He encouraged Eco-Housing to work collaboratively with these existing community partners.

McMurray asked specifically about Mr. Towle's interests in influencing the RFP process relative to the NSP 3 housing. She shared with the Board that the NSP 3 funds already were tied to a fairly high threshold of sustainability measures and quality criteria.

Mr. Towle noted that his presentation was to get initial buy in and enthusiasm for the concepts he was presenting and that a letter of support would d be of help.

Several board members commented that the requested broad support was too broadly defined. Some expressed discomfort at not knowing precisely how such broad support would be interpreted to others or for what purposes it would be invoked. Much more local resident input should be mobilized before D5 board support is used to support implementation of wind energy technology, geothermal etc.

Mr. Towle lives in Merriam Park and he is interested in finding a neighborhood which would support a pilot project to test ideas. He does not have funding to do this but feels some funding options may exist.

Sharny Vue Yang asked Mr. Towle to explain the impact if his project was on his block – just to make the impact concrete and specific. He asked how the plan would impact the vacant house next to him which has been empty for over a year.

Mr. Towle responded that there would need to be a working model so that decision makers like Bostrom and Helgen would see a model working. The project would then evolve and grow with spokes from this hub - the pilot project.

Darlene Adams noted that she did not hear a direct answer to the question. As a longtime resident of Burr and Case – she expressed concern that her neighborhood was being discussed without first engaging the immediate residents. She wondered by Burr and Case was being targeted.

Regina Rippel – suggested more local outreach to the groups and developers already working in partnership to identify green housing options.

A motion to draft a letter of generalized support for the broad ideas presented was proposed (Secretary does not have name of person who made the motion or a second).

A vote was taken with 8 in favor and 9 opposed. The motion failed for lack of support.

A late arriving request for D5 support for La Palapa outdoor liquor service extension for a 5 year anniversary celebration was brought to the Board by staff. A quick turnaround was required and it was not possible for the issue to be heard at CPED. David Syers moved to support the application and this was seconded by Ted Hecht. Staff was asked to reiterate the information on the cover sheet t which noted that 4 security officer and a police officer are on site and that beer only is served and that food sales accompany the sale of beer through the duration of the event. Motion passed by vote.

Draft Minutes created by Leslie McMurray.