

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

DRAFT MINUTES

Payne Phalen District Five Board of Directors Meeting
June 28, 2011 6:30 p.m.
722 Payne Avenue

The meeting was called to order by President Al Oertwig. He welcomed District Five directors and guests from the community.

Other directors present were Roy Evans, Sharny Vue Yang, Kelley Riley, David Syers, Kerry Stone, Darlene Adams, Suzan Forsberg, Virginia Rybin, Patrick Ruble, Bill Zajicek and Roger Allmendinger. Staff present: Executive Director Leslie McMurray. Others attending: Jimmy Gerding, Donald Gange of the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division and his wife, Candy. Directors with excused absences included Regina Rippel, Sheldon Schwartz, Jim Smith, Ted Hecht, Daniel Garcia Velez and Laura Torres. Antwan Flowers, Janice LaFloe and Tou Saiko Lee also were absent.

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE MASTER PLAN - Donald Gange, the project's manager, said its goals are making the parks and other amenities along the Mississippi River in St. Paul more natural, more urban and more connected. He said the plan calls for narrowing the four lanes and the shoulders of Shepard Road and reducing the speed limit to 35. This would create more park space along the road. New and expanded roadways and trails would make parks more accessible. The plan calls for expanding areas that feature native plants and wildlife habitat. Projects that would make the area "more urban" include creating several new gathering places along the river and an urban promenade through downtown St. Paul.

Development of plans for the Mississippi riverfront in St. Paul began in the 1970s and has continued under several mayors. The project was renamed recently; it was previously called the Great River Park. Gange, a landscape architect, said the latest plan includes new and expanded elements, such as the connections that will make it easier to get to the parks and more detail on plans within individual parks. He said the new roads and trails will increase usage of some parks. New recreational opportunities will include a water-filled barge for swimmers on the river near Robert Street.

District Five President Al Oertwig noted that the plan is not funded and should be viewed as a framework for future development. Oertwig and Vice-President Kerry Stone are District Five's representatives at the Great River Passage planning meetings. Gange said the plan would be formally released in July, and interested parties will have until May of 2012 to submit written comments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Al Oertwig reported on the Gateway Corridor project, which is exploring alternative transit modes (buses, light rail and commuter rail) along the route of Interstate 94 between St. Paul and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. A public open house on the plan will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 28 at the Metropolitan State University/Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 E. Seventh St.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Leslie McMurray said the neighborhood cleanup on June 25 was a success. About 240 vehicles were involved. District Five collected about \$5,440 in fees. She thanked the

506 KENNY ROAD, SUITE 130, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55130-4554

TEL # (651) 774-5234  FAX # (651) 774-9745

E-MAIL: DISTRICT5@PAYNEPHALEN.ORG

WWW.PAYNEPHALEN.ORG

48 volunteers who assisted at the event. McMurray noted that the recycling fees at these events are much lower than those charged by commercial dumps. District Five spends about \$10,000 on the cleanup and usually breaks even with the help of city of St. Paul reimbursement. Board Member David Syers said he was apprehensive because a new dumping site was used this year, but "much to my surprise, this worked fabulously."

McMurray said District Five has received complaints recently about traffic flow and parking issues. She handles these herself. She suggested that a committee, perhaps a subcommittee of the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (CPED), be established to work on these.

McMurray described Nice Ride, a new bicycle rental program. She said a letter from the board supporting the program might be a good idea. Board Member Suzan Forsberg made a motion that such a letter be drafted and sent. Treasurer Bill Zajicek seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Zajicek submitted and explained the two documents that non-profits like District Five file in lieu of tax returns – the Minnesota attorney general's report and U. S. Form 990. Board Member David Syers moved approval of the reports; Vice-President Kerry Stone seconded. The board approved the reports unanimously with a voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: The board approved the minutes of the May District Five Council meeting.

McMurray informed the board that CPED Member Cheryl Peterson had made a \$440, 30-day loan to District Five to cover the filing fee so an appeal of the variance for 674 Hawthorne Ave. could be pursued. Treasurer Bill Zajicek said he was concerned about the source of the money to repay Peterson. McMurray said appeal fees must come from unrestricted sources, such as donations, metal recycling and board fundraisers. She said the fee might be waived if District Five wins the appeal, but this is unlikely. Board Member Roger Allmendinger moved that the money to reimburse Peterson be taken out of District Five funds; the exact source will be identified later. Board Member Patrick Ruble seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote. David Syers dissented. He said the motion was unnecessary because there are systems in place now for such situations.

The Railroad Island Task Force is backing demolition of a poorly maintained, multi-unit building at 580 E. Minnehaha Ave. Acting on a motion by Syers, the board endorsed the task force's position.

Syers moved for adjournment, Forsberg seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.