





PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

Meeting Minutes Neighborhood Action Committee February 17, 2009

[**Present:** Brian Cooper, Robert Fox, Laurie Krivitz, Roy Evans, Jimmy Gerding, Linda Jungwirth, Aaron Shatton, Father Bill Neumann. **Staff Present:** Leslie McMurray, and Patty Lammers. **Excused Absence:** Dave Theisen, Tom Russ, Ryan Kapaun, Phil Sandro.]

Call to Order, Welcome, Roll & Introductions

- Chair Rob Fox called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., introduced himself, and welcomed those in attendance. P. Lammers was asked to record the meeting minutes.

Review of Agenda

- R. Fox reviewed the agenda. Rob noted that the scheduled guest speaker, Sharon Kluegel, 2009 President of PABA, was having car troubles and would not be able to attend. He asked L. McMurray to provide a Staff Activity Update in place of the Speaker Forum. The revised agenda was approved by consensus.

Staff Activity Update: L. McMurray

- Restorative Justice continues to move forward as planned. Training of moderators will hopefully take place in early June 2009.
- D5 is starting a youth organizing project with support from other youth organizations. The youth participants will learn organizing skills and will develop community projects of their choosing which benefit the neighborhood. There will be financial resources available and adult mentors to help facilitate the projects. District Five is working with Hands On Volunteers which has a service learning group at Johnson High School. We will build that collaborative partnership. When the Community Youth Allies volunteer job descriptions are completed, D5 will look to NAC to help get the word out so we recruit diverse advocates and supporters of our youth participants.
- D5 is participating in the Eastside Learning Collaborative which is working to connect youth to community organizations. District Five's role is not a direct service role but more as an advocate of overall neighborhood interests.
- The Board approved letter of interest for the Power grant will be submitted in March. R. Fox noted that 2009 NAC initiatives tied in well with the program objectives and suggested that the youth projects to be developed in conjunction with the CURA grant be tied to recycling education. This could put D5 in a better position to be selected for a Power grant and may help to perpetuate D5's work with youth. L. McMurray noted that the Power grant could be used to conduct specific outreach to immigrant and renter populations in the NW corner of the district. Toward that end, the suggestions of creating a swap meet event and a barter program were offered. The committee indicated that using the grant to reduce litter and littering behaviors in the district would also be a worthy project.
- Staff will soon be hosting a meeting of people interested in community gardens. Inquiries have been made at the district council office from various people interested in the concept. The main challenge to overcome right now is

acquiring the rights to use vacant lots and then testing the soil for contaminants to ensure it is safe for food production. D5 staff will not be supporting individual gardening plots at this time. Staff's current focus is to identify correct and efficient processes that support community gardening efforts across the District. This includes identifying potential plots that can be used and then obtaining approval to use them as gardens. A suggestion was put forward that all community gardens could be mapped across the district. It is possible that part-time staff may be hired to support community gardening during the summer of 2009 if funding can be found.

Work Group Strategy Session

- There were not enough committee members present to break out into work groups, and since much of the discussion that occurred during the Staff Activity Update had centered on restorative justice and community gardens/beautification, R. Fox asked all committee members to join in a group discussion related to strengthening community pride.

Strengthening Community Pride

- L. McMurray noted that staff has largely completed preliminary work on new neighbor welcome kits. This is a subset of a larger project tied to other D5 goals (specifically, the IPP project). McMurray asked NAC members to support "hands on" work in designing the form that the kit eventually takes. She suggested an evening workshop at the district council office. L. Krivitz suggested that the committee should develop a kit that could be printed on demand and web-based to reduce printing cost and to increase the ease of updating the info. McMurray noted that an electronic version would be maintained on the council's Website.
- K. Stone will obtain and provide staff with the handbook that the City of Bloomington has created to serve as a helpful example of a print-on-demand resident handbook.
- R. Fox suggested that the budget for this project (\$500-\$800) could be applied to the printing of a full color, glossy cardstock cover for the welcome kit that would display a new, flashy District Five brand and tag line. The committee agreed to this idea and asked the Executive Director to pursue finding a creative artist who could come up with a logo on a pro bono or reduced fee basis.
- L. Krivitz suggested that the committee could conduct a design contest to obtain creative cover ideas.
- R. Fox noted that his church, The Compass Covenant Church, will sponsor two National Night Out events on the E. Side. He encouraged other committee members to seek sponsorship from organizations with which they are associated.
- R. Fox noted that he had looked at some examples of neighborhood discount card programs. He thanked Patty Lammers for forwarding to him the research she had done in this regard. Mr. Fox mentioned his appreciation of the Web-based programs that allowed for easy and frequent updates to be made to the program.

Announcements

- L. Krivitz announced two upcoming workshops being conducted at the Arlington Hills Library by a local Master Gardener. The topic of the first workshop, being held on March 4, 2009, is Community Gardens. The second workshop, on March 11, 2009 will be about growing vegetables in an urban environment. Both workshops will start at 7:00 p.m.
- L. Krivitz announced that Restorative Justice Community Action had been selected as one of four candidates for the Baker of the Day fundraiser at Great Harvest Bread Company. Voting takes place through the end of February. To register a vote, people can stop by the franchise located on Selby and Como in Saint Paul.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, Chair R. Fox adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.