

SECIA Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

Present: Wendy Menken, Marlaine Cox, Phil Roban, Joan Menken, Katie Fournier, Cody Olson, Ben Brummel, Karl Smith, Stewart Smith, Ramy Selim

Excused: Jim Nyberg, Lee Hibbard, Shannon Engstrom, Bill Dane

Absent:

Other: Lynn Anderson

Meeting Called to order at: 6:38 pm

Introductions (5 min)

1. Committee/other updates (60 min)
2. Park - Jordan
 - a. Spring Event Sat April 8th morning was a big success
 - i. ~350 people
 - ii. Egg hunts, Naturalists, basket making, snacks, games
 - b. Basketball wrapped up in March
 - i. 13U girls won tournament
 - ii. boys took 3rd in a tournament
 - c. Little Free libraries are being added to all parks, June 21st
 - i. In the process of scheduling opening ceremony/reading for each little library
 - ii. Southeast Library will supply books
3. Community Building & Communications - Jim & Ben
 - a. SE Como website – status and next steps – Shannon & Ben
 - i. Site is in our hands, Ben, Cody, and Karl have editing privileges
 - ii. Development site address is <http://new.secomo.org>
 - iii. We still owe Sean half of the bill, needs to go live first
 - iv. Goal: Finished by next board meeting
 - b. Suggested initiatives from staff – Garage sale, Pop-up events – Cody
 - i. Garage sale event has been done in the neighborhood before.
 1. Potential dates
 - a. Spring, pre move-out to avoid curve junk
 - b. August
 - c. Middle of summer – height of garage sale season
 - d. After the cookout – use cookout to advertise
 2. Staff just needs to advertise and make a map
 - a. Website, tidbits, Star Tribune
 3. Wendy – can we get the word out now to gauge interest?
 - a. Tidbits, survey monkey, commotion
 - b. Ben – we should prepare it so it can scale down to even just a few houses, or up to dozens
 4. Last garage sale was many years ago, sign-ups dropped off dramatically
 5. Board gives blessing to pursue garage sale idea
 - ii. Pop-up events at Student Housing and other housing communities
 1. Need to tune events to population
 2. Incorporate ideas from community building document
 3. Community building committee should spearhead
 4. Resolution was sent to schools, mosques and other organizations
 - c. Recommendations from Jay Clark at CURA (attached) - Cody
4. Environmental - Wendy

- a. Vapor Mitigation
 - i. Pushing for remediation by General Mills for TCE pollution
 - ii. Class action lawsuit dropped, additional plaintiffs lawsuit is going through
 - 1. General Mills is claiming they have cleaned their TCE pollution
 - 2. Other businesses may be accountable, GM may still be responsible through federal laws
 - 3. May become a Federal Superfund site
 - 4. MN PCA will contract more tests
- 5. Livability & Housing – Katie
 - a. City is getting closer to amending sign ordinance
 - i. New version will include prohibition on permanent rental signs
 - ii. Rental signs will be governed under the same rules as Realtor signs
 - iii. Doesn't apply to multiunit housing, just residential zoning rentals
- 6. Safety - See Emilie Quast's 2nd Precinct Advisory Council notes - https://secomo.nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=45804550
 - a. Wendy – if it's important, we should be able to post it to a website that is more broadly available and doesn't require memberships
 - b. Joan – should be on our website – we can
 - c. Karl will ask Emilie to provide text to post on SE Como website
- 7. University District Alliance - Bill & Katie
 - a. Duplex lot size task force
 - i. How can the university neighborhoods communicate more effectively to avoid conflicts?
 - ii. Task force recommends ongoing “joint-planning committee” about community engagement and coordinating.
 - iii. Neighborhood associations will be getting an invitation to nominate representatives to this committee
 - 1. Chair –University District Alliance – VP for community engagement
 - 2. Neighborhood Reps – Resident, Student Resident, Business representative
 - 3. City of Minneapolis – Planner, Representative
 - iv. There will be a letter released soon asking for nominations from the neighborhoods
 - v. Board should start thinking about potential nominees
 - b. Another task force of neighborhood residents, city staff and university
 - i. Working on an alternative way of handling the overlay district to try to improve this problem of duplex zoning and renovations.
 - ii. Joan to Cam – notify important people about this
 - iii. Hoping for this to be handled in under 4 meetings
 - iv. Wendy – thought there was a grandfathering-in with parking regulation
 - 1. Is there any way we can get a list of granted exceptions for local houses?
 - 2. Houses on 13th appear to be in violation
 - 3. Wendy – We need clarification after multiple rule changes by the city.
 - a. A nice little synopsis of the current rules would help with this duplex regulation task.
- 8. Zoning – Joan
 - a. Blue Door patio – update on Public Hearing and request for variances – SE Como letter attached
 - i. Meeting Scheduled for May 4th, Mei-Ling Smith is the contact
 - ii. Joan met with James Brown, who is frustrated, Bluedoor has submitted no new plans
 - 1. Most of current plans center on parking issue

- 2. Losing 4 spaces alongside the business
 - 3. City recommends denying all variance requests
 - b. 1721 Como development proposal – update on project
 - i. 3 story brick building – 1st floor retail
 - ii. Concerns with parking and visibility
 - 1. Plans are to build out to street corner with minimal parking spaces
 - 2. Recommendation that the building makes an angle-cut entrance on the corner
 - 3. Public hearing on April 24
 - 4. Greg Jansma, Developer is looking at the angle-cut design and will hopefully forward some plans out before the next meeting
 - 5. Cody – recent update, they are planning on incorporating some design ideas like the corner-cut
 - iii. Joan encourages us to send out individual letters about these issues – may have a greater impact than a single letter from SECIA
 - 1. **Motion: Draft SECIA letter listing points about 1721 based on Blue door letter and Joan’s Recommendations**
 - a. Mover: Wendy, Second: Ramy, Unanimous support
 - c. Bike Lanes are proposed for several major thoroughfares in the neighborhood that will reduce parking on the streets, Rollins and 18th
 - i. Meeting is 6:30 PM on April 20th, at Van Cleve Park
 - ii. Wendy – we should give out targeted invitations to the meeting on this infrastructure change to give residents the chance to provide feedback
9. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
 - a. Fairshare Farm opening day April 8th was a success
 - b. Several new members have signed up already
 - c. Utility boxes – recommendations going out on the 26th of April
 - i. City boxes have been approved, others might need some work (Comcast)
10. Cam Gordon – Ward 2 City Council Member update (10 min)
 - a. Bluedoor – Patio proposal is likely dead, city staff advised that all variance proposals be rejected, Blue Door may revise their proposal, but seems unlikely at this stage
 - b. State Legislature has several bills in the works that would limit city control, e.g., plastic bag ban
 - c. We can message the governor to ask for a veto for the Senate Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget Bill, S.F. 723, which targets the city’s bring-your-own-bag bill
 - d. Neighborhood and community engagement commission will have some community dialogues
11. Review and approve March 7th minutes as amended (attached)
 - a. **Motion: Approve March Minutes:**
 - i. Mover: Joan, Second: Wendy, Unanimous Approval
12. Informational - Executive Committee Meeting March 28th
13. Organization Business (30 min)
 - a. New letterhead includes anti-discrimination statement and contact info in multiple languages
 - i. Facebook logo can be removed
 - ii. Wendy: Mission statement looks good, but the first bit should be looked at again
 - b. Women’s march huddles - Marlaine
 - i. Focus on implementing national changes in Women’s rights
 - ii. No other board members are aware of any local huddles
 - iii. Karl – Nextdoor might have something already or be a good place to check
14. Board update – (10 min)

- a. **Board Training on April 26th 6:30 or 7:00 PM** likely at Van Cleve
- b. Neighborhoods 2020 Community Conversations – Sorensen invite attached - <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/WCMSP-192856>

15. Adjourned- 8:37 PM

SECIA Minutes March 7, 2017:

Note taker: Ben Brummel; Exec reviewed _____ ; Board Approved: _____