

SECIA Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

Present: Ben Brummel, Karl Smith, Stewart Smith, Wendy Menken, Cody Olson, Jim Nyberg, Shannon Engstrom, Marlaine Cox, Phil Roban, Bill Dane, Joan Menken

Excused: Ramy Selim, Lee Hibbard

Absent:

Other: Jordan Nelson – Van Cleve Park Director, Cam Gordon – Ward 2 City Council Member

Meeting Called to order at: 6:36 pm

Introductions (5 min)

1. Committee/other updates (60 min)

a. Park (5 min)

- i. Ice is up and running – will try to stay open as long as possible, usually president's day
- ii. Very busy weekends, invested in a warm water cooler for hot chocolate and cider
- iii. Skating classes on Tuesdays ages 4-7
- iv. Yoga @ 6pm on Mondays, 15-25 people each week
- v. 3 park Basketball teams 13U girls undefeated, 14U team won Bloomington Tournament
- vi. Senior vision loss program last Thurs, 20-25 people from NE and SE, well attended and well received
- vii. New sports programs are not inconceivable to start, money is readily available, coaches and expertise are not

b. SE Como Website development - Shannon (10 min)

- i. Website Ad Hoc committee – Katie on housing helps with this (along with Charlie Lakin and Jim and Carole Drake)
- ii. Updated to new color scheme – blue banner
- iii. Shannon will contact Sean and shoot for 2-3 weeks
- iv. Sean is only making 2 pages, then Communications Intern, Ben Murphy and volunteers will make the others
- v. Might have a test drive of the website for friends and family

c. Livability – Katie (10 min) – UMN partner, Forestry class - Presented by Bill Dane

- i. Found partner for working on traffic diverters project (concrete sections with foliage in the middle of the road)
- ii. Will need to find funding and volunteers
- iii. University district alliance and Public Works might be involved
- iv. Neighboring organization wants our support to oppose CPM development
- v. Joan recommends we don't get involved right now and focus on our own issues
- vi. Wendy suggests that we stand united against CPM and try to make them follow the plans outlined by neighborhoods and the city rather than ignoring them and establishing precedent of ignoring
- vii. CPM has done bad stuff – filed a development plan and ignored it, was allowed by city of Minneapolis (Wendy)
- viii. Karl would be fine with writing a letter to East Calhoun or the City about making developers follow plans.
- ix. Shannon asked about why the size of the building matters
 1. Wendy – zoning is important for shaping neighborhood density and balancing the impact of housing density. There have been small area and city plans created over the last 15 years, but density has been allowed nonetheless. Traffic, livability, greenspace, parking – all these things have not been

considered. Families, individuals?, couples, parents – seem to be pushed out. We shouldn't be ignoring plans. Also, it's a shoreline issue – privileged people get to live on the shore in tall buildings and everyone else lives in the shadows. Joan – Diversity and Equity are also very important issues. There is a desperate need for housing for 'that group' in SE Minneapolis, the SW corner isn't being touched – this is an Equity issue. All of the density is coming into certain areas.

- x. Motion: Send a letter of recommendation that the city honor and support city approved small area plans when considering housing proposals – letter can reference ECCO project
 - 1. Mover: Wendy
 - 2. Second: Stewart
 - 3. Discussion: Shannon – what if we want to approve a development that goes against the plan (i.e. a tall building) – community will discuss and can approve a variance
 - 4. Passed unanimously
 - 5. Motion for exec committee to write this proposal
 - a. Mover: Joan
 - b. Second: ?
- d. University District Alliance Task Force Report – Bill (5 min)
 - i. Alliance between all businesses and neighborhoods near UMN to have input on the UMN
 - ii. Partners within the alliance help preserve historic areas
 - iii. University is unlikely to buy neighboring land and 'knock down houses' at this point
 - iv. Plan was put forward for University to follow the same guidelines that they have been following all along – checklist for evaluating 'things' – wants the University to commit to following guidelines – Karl: striving for commitment to community involvement early in the development process. Bill: It's always been the same, University tells you what they're going to do.
 - v. Other neighborhoods are presenting in the next meeting. Bill – we aren't going to be impacted in the near future, no need for SECIA to present.
 - vi. Same as before, the Alliance wants UMN to follow what they agreed to already
- e. Zoning – Wendy (5 min)
 - i. Whittier neighborhood is getting the word out about Jacob Fry submitting a notice of intent for occupancy regulation ordinance, basically reviewing the ordinance pertaining to occupancy. Whittier contacted Jason Whittenberg, one of the planners in city planning and said that they haven't discussed with Fry about his ideas or drafted new language or a timeline. Looking to make some changes around maximum occupancy. Currently occupancy maxes are spread between 3 codes, should be in one code. The definition of family and unrelated persons should be reevaluated – still want to maintain some regulations, but think limits on 3 unrelated people are unreasonable. Citizen is worried about it because this might be in violation of the intentional housing ordinance.
 - ii. Bottom line is that someone said that she did not want maximum occupancy in the code and that raised concerns.
 - iii. Cam talked to Jacob who admitted to lifting and increasing occupancy – Jacob doesn't see why all the safeguards are there.
 - iv. Wendy wants this on our radar, no need for action yet, but it could be necessary soon.
 - v. Joan has concerns about keeping our schools going based on enrollment and families being unable to find housing.
- f. Round Table survey results – Ben (20 min)

- i. Will send pdf/pptx with minutes
 - ii. Committees and individuals should review and provide feedback
- g. Other (5 min)
- 2. Cam Gordon – Ward 2 update (10 min)
 - a. Money for NRP plan should be liquidated shortly, ~\$60k/year over 2 years to SE Como.
 - b. City is taking a strong stand against Trump's executive order on immigration
 - c. Minneapolis is a 'sanctuary' city
 - d. Greek community at UMN is trying to expand and needs the regulations changed
 - e. Wendy – concerns about Frats/Sorors building on the 15th ave corridor, making a new 'Frat Row'
 - f. Bill brings up that abandoned greek houses have turned into illegal boarding houses
 - g. Joan brings up concerns about the Super Bowl next year
- 3. Review prior meeting minutes (5 min)
 - a. Review and approve January 10th minutes (attached)
 - i. Motion to approve
 - 1. Mover: Marlaine
 - 2. Second: Jim
 - 3. Unanimous Approval
 - b. Informational - Executive Committee Meeting notes February 1st minutes ([link](#))
- 4. Organization Business (30 min)
 - a. Board update – training, Board term allocations, etc. (10 min)
 - i. Terms
 - 1. Karl up next year
 - 2. Marlaine 2018
 - 3. Need MSA rep
 - 4. Shannon – 1 year term
 - 5. Ben, Wendy, Jim, Phil – 3 year term
 - ii. Training
 - 1. City needs 1 month lead time
 - 2. Date TBA over email - probably April (Jim out of town for part of April)
 - 3. Happens outside of board meeting
 - b. Staff update – new interns hired – Cody (5 min)
 - i. Community building – Kenos, UMN urban studies major, junior from China, started his own business and works for the Wahu apartments doing outreach and events.
 - ii. Communications – Ben Murphy, Sophomore in urban studies, excellent interview.
 - iii. Both will start getting set up next week with Cody.
 - iv. Will meet them at March board meeting.
 - v. Will have a service learner writing grants for 25 hrs next week.
 - c. Good Neighbor Fund proposal(s) – Cody (5 min)
 - i. Board vote on approval for work on Utility Box wrap project, Flowers are the Opposite of Grafitti.
 - 1. *Motion for SECIA support for the Arts Commission and Good Neighbor fund application and authorize Executive Committee and Staff to write and send appropriate letters of support.*
 - a. Mover: Shannon
 - b. Second: Ben
 - c. Unanimous Approval
 - 2. Lila is working on grant application for utility box project
 - a. Needs approval from the Arts commission and Money from Good Neighbor fund
 - d. Response to President Donald Trump's executive order that impacts immigration procedures for students, refugees, immigrants, and permanent residents from Iran, Iraq,

Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen – Karl (5 min).

i. Board vote on approval for following motion:

1. *The SE Como community is strong because of our diversity. Long-time residents and newcomers, students, refugees, and immigrants; people from all backgrounds are welcome in this community. We remain steadfast in the commitment to welcome and support people from around the globe. All are entitled to be treated with justice and dignity, and the SE Como Improvement Association stands with all of our community members.*
2. Posted on our website
3. Put in Commotion
4. Sent to places in our community
5. Shannon – make some signs or snazzy flyers to hang up at businesses
 - a. Post on bulletin boards (or telephone poles)
6. Wendy – define as resolution
7. Cody/Marlaine – post in multiple other languages (Hmong, Somali, Spanish)
8. Motion that SECIA approves a resolution supporting all of our community members, and designates Exec to finalize the language.
 - a. Mover: Wendy
 - b. Second: Marlaine
 - c. Unanimous Approval

e. Fundraising items – round table (5 min)

i. Brainstorm fundraising ideas

5. New Business

6. Adjourn (estimated time 2hr) (8:36 PM)

SECIA Minutes February 7, 2017:

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