

SECIA Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

Board:

Present: Stewart Smith, Ramy Selim, Jim Nyberg, Ben Brummel, Joan Menken, Phil Roban, Bill Dane, Wendy Menken, Cody Olson

Excused: Shannon Engstrom (Leave of Absence), Karl Smith, Marlaine Cox, Lee Hibbard

Absent:

Other: Katie Fournier, Kevin Reich

Meeting Called to order at: 6:36 pm

Introductions (5 min)

1. **Motion: Move July Board Meeting from July 4<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - a. Mover: Stewart, Second: Jim, None opposed
2. Committee/other updates (60 min)
  - a. Van Cleve Park – Jordan
    - i. Little Free library in process of being opened
      1. Book it to the Park, June 21<sup>st</sup> (2pm Van Cleve), Sunup to sundown
        - a. Dedicating Little Free libraries across city
        - b. Van Cleve Park is at 2:00 PM
      2. Pool is going to open soon after brief repairs
      3. 1-2 dozen trees added, mostly on north side of park, but a few by the pool and near the ball fields
      4. Heating and Ventilation and Air Conditioning will be redone soon
        - a. Park board notified Van Cleve of funding s
        - b. Part of 20 year plan
    - b. NE/SE MPRB Service area master plan update - Community Engagement Plan attached – Cody
      - i. SE Como, Prospect part and Mid City Industrial neighborhoods need to appoint one representative to the advisory committee
3. Review prior meeting minutes (5 min)
  - c. Review and approve May 2nd minutes (attached)
    - i. **Motion: Approve May 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes**
      1. Mover: Joan, Second: Stewart, none opposed
    - d. Informational - Executive Committee Meeting notes May 30th minutes (link)
4. Cam Gordon – Ward 2 City Council Member update (10 min)
  - e. Newsletter
5. Kevin Reich – Ward 1 City Council Member update (20 min) - Comprehensive Plan and the Meeting-in-a-Box engagement tool.
  - a. Comprehensive plan is updated every decade
  - b. This time, the city is going very deep into re-planning, and going beyond land use and instead interfacing community goals

- c. Kevin and other officials are on a multidepartment steering committee
- d. During the discussions, the purpose of neighborhood organizations and community groups was called into question
  - i. The primary goal upon inception of groups is to be partners with the city in planning
  - ii. The secondary goal is to help implement city plans
- e. Kevin and other council members still value community organizations – some still care about neighborhood groups (implying others don't)
- f. Meeting-in-a-box policy framework
  - i. Guide for how community organizations should function
  - ii. SECIA is ahead of other groups since we developed our small area plan (Como Blueprint)
  - iii. Rudimentary outline highlighting what city planning is trying to do with community organizations
  - iv. Included is a questionnaire that we should fill out for our organization/neighborhood
  - v. Kevin is on the steering committee and welcomes direct input from SECIA and the SE Como neighborhood
- g. Wendy – most people are unaware of the comprehensive plan and its impact on zoning
  - i. Went to a recent zoning meeting and only 2 people attended
    - 1. Kevin – this is embarrassing
  - ii. Because of the impact of the plan, people deserve to know about it
  - iii. How can we get the information out to the people?
- h. Kevin – The city is developing a significant update designed to have a real impact
  - i. Zoning is one item that can have a very high impact
  - ii. Knows that meetings aren't always effective
    - 1. In a small community, it works well
    - 2. On a city scale, it is much more difficult to distribute information and notify residents
  - iii. The planning commission will take into account comments from residents along with small area plans
- i. Joan – has 40 years of zoning experience, hears similar comments from Bryn Mawr
  - i. City Planning right now is top down, comes down from the city level instead of coming up from the citizens
  - ii. Could see the city wiping out community organizations completely
  - iii. Increasing the population density may be the biggest driving force for changes
    - 1. Density was lost due to Interstate construction
  - iv. Livability, green spaces and schools are very important and can be difficult to have in a 'high-rise' environment
  - v. There aren't good options for families
  - vi. There is nothing to do down town besides going to the theatre or sports events
  - vii. There are real issues about who the city is planning for – is it everybody? If so, things need to change

- j. Wendy – nostalgia – historical meetings used to be well attended, people were well engaged, city presented concepts
    - i. Kevin should go back and look at data (if it exists) from historical meetings
  - k. Kevin – Note that the plan is in an early phase
    - i. The council just agreed on initial parameters of comprehensive plan
    - ii. Neighborhood groups should take a piece of the city plan
    - iii. Ideas from neighborhood organizations should provide ideas – they will be heard
    - iv. Growth is happening differently than it was in the 1950s and is different in each neighborhood
      - 1. Plan has to address anticipated growth, whether to encourage or discourage growth, and account for different areas
  - l. Joan – Equity is important
    - i. Different neighborhoods have different equity
    - ii. Neighborhoods are important
  - m. Kevin – My door is open, City Hall welcomes help from us
  - n. Timeline:
    - i. This summer – incorporate as much information as possible from neighborhood groups
      - 1. SECIA
      - 2. Whittier
      - 3. Other less active neighborhoods
      - 4. If all neighborhoods are together, we will have a more active voice
    - ii. The website outlines benchmarks - <https://minneapolis2040.com/>
    - iii. Final comprehensive plan is due in 2018 for federal approval
    - iv. Near final draft due early/mid summer 2018
    - v. This summer is our window for us to express our ideas
    - vi. Core of comprehensive plan in on "the built environment", so mostly zoning, but other elements as well – the core is primarily "Land Use"
6. Community Building & Communications - Jim
- f. Meeting with Christina Kendrick, Senior Community Specialist and Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist, Neighborhood and Community Relations, City of Minneapolis, Wednesday, June 21st, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Van Cleve Park
  - g. Jim – We didn't meet last month, but will be meeting 1 week from today
  - h. Initial committee meeting will be Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at SECIA office in NE college prep
  - i. Second meeting with city members will be Wednesday, June 21<sup>th</sup> at Van Cleve
  - j. The first two meetings will be closed, future meetings will be open to the public
  - k. Karl and Jim went to the open house at the Mosque
    - i. Members seemed very open to increasing involvement and engagement
7. Environmental – Calder/Wendy
- a. Wendy – Passed out Cam Gordon's newsletter
  - b. Ramy – Solar Power Hour workshop series
    - i. Midwestern Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
    - ii. The workshop details all of the ins and outs of building and using solar power

- iii. Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup> at Insight Brewery (either 4 or 5pm, details will be confirmed shortly)
  - c. Wendy – people can sign up to finance wind power through Xcel
    - i. Users pay a little extra to help Xcel produce the amount of wind energy that is being paid for
    - ii. Xcel has built more wind farms as a result of this program
- 8. Livability & Housing – Katie
  - a. Sign Ordinance
    - i. Prohibits Rental properties from affixing signs to the front of homes
    - ii. The language of the ordinance is scheduled for the planning commission by the end of the month
    - iii. Once the language is published, Katie will distribute it
  - b. Chris Wilson, the PPL real estate manager, will present an update on PPL's plans for the Bunge headhouse site at the next Livability/Housing meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Focus redevelopment on ideas of meditation – there will be a labyrinth, opportunities for gardening, bird watching, building will have wings stretching out – artist lofts and multi-bedroom units
    - ii. Previous attempt at developing Bunge fell through around 10 years ago
    - iii. Public meeting June 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, Van Cleve Park
  - I. Diverter Project - Summary of UMN Student Presentation attached. Full presentation TBD
    - i. Still needs quite a bit of planning – city approval and negotiating
    - ii. Students have a number of interesting new ideas
- 2. University District Alliance - Bill & Katie
  - a. Katie
    - i. Duplex Task force – work out a solution for the four UDA neighborhoods
      - 1. Slow down development of rental duplexes on small lots
      - 2. R2 and r2b zoning areas (duplexes are allowed) exist throughout UDA area - City reduced required lot size last year in these zoning areas
    - ii. UDA board authorized a collaboration committee
      - 1. Either UMN or the community can bring development plans
      - 2. Both sides must know what is being proposed and have an opportunity to talk it over
      - 3. Committee includes nominees from a variety of locations – Business association, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), Community boards – Prospect Park, UMN planning department (2 ppl), and City of Minneapolis (2 ppl)
    - iii. Livability committee survey
      - 1. We all should have received it via email
      - 2. Preliminary round of survey: What are people concerned about?
        - a. Safety, Biking and Traffic Conditions were frontrunners in preliminary survey
        - b. Results should be useful at the neighborhood levels
    - iv. Community Engagement Zone

1. Graduate student is trying to identify how UMN and the community interact as a PhD project
  2. Put together a report a few weeks ago
9. Safety - MPD 2nd Precinct Police Advisory Council (PAC) meeting notes - <https://courtwatch2pac.com/>
  - a. Wendy – Beltrami newsletter has some good ideas about safety
    - i. Child safety education program
    - ii. \$100 Grant program for houses to fix safety issues like window locks
    - iii. Such a program can use housing money – we can use unfrozen planning funds
  - b. Cody – other org has a similar program
    - i. Program requires inspector to validate that homes need safety repairs
    - ii. Well-used: 12-14 grants issued per year
10. Zoning – Joan
  - a. 815 13<sup>th</sup> ave SE was sent to us despite being in Marcy Holmes – not something we would act on
  - b. CPM brought forward a project on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Como
    - i. One member received notice, zoning commission has not received formal notice
11. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
  - b. Utility Box Wraps - Exec approved release of funds to wrap GNF funded boxes immediately and continue fundraising for the project in the future
  - c. Order has been placed – not entirely sure how long it will take for them to do it
  - d. Gardens
    - i. All community gardens have started regular work days
    - ii. Fairshare Farm has workdays at 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 11am on Sundays
      1. FSF could use 5-10 additional members
12. Other
13. Organization Business (30 min)
  - e. Board update – (10 min)
    - i. Executive Director Cody Olson performance review in progress by the Executive Committee
  - f. Move August and September Meetings
    - i. National Night out conflicts with August date
      1. **Motion: Move August 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting to Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> due to National Night Out**
        - a. Mover: Stewart, Second: Joan, None opposed
      2. **Motion: Move November 7<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting to Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> due to elections**
        - a. Mover: Stewart, Second: Wendy, None opposed
  - g. Office and Staff update – Cody (5 min)
    - i. Moved to a larger space in NE College Prep, shared with speech therapy
    - ii. Commotion coming in 1.5 months
    - iii. Working mostly on community building and cookout
    - iv. Public art project → Kenos Leong

1. Proposal to promote public art in SE Como
2. Bring Artists and Neighbors together
3. Crosswalk Painting
  - a. Application deadline end of June
  - b. Application approved in July
    - i. Volunteers
    - ii. Event promotion
  - c. Implementation in September
    - i. Tentatively the 9th
4. Main opposition is street closure issue
5. May need to approve funds before next board meeting
6. Initial location deadline – June 9<sup>th</sup>
7. After initial approval, we could make an electronic motion about spending money and advancing the project
8. **Motion: Submit 15<sup>th</sup>/Como and 18<sup>th</sup>/Como intersection to City for Approval**
  - a. Mover: Wendy, Second: Steward, Unanimous

14. New Business

- h. a. Zoning - Variance request - 815 13th Ave SE - Cody

15. Adjourn (estimated time 2hr)

SECIA Minutes June 6, 2017: 8:26pm (1 hr, 50 min)

Note taker: Ben Brummel ; Exec reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ ; Board Approved: \_\_\_\_\_