

SECIA Board Meeting – Agenda  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

Board Members Present: Jim Nyberg, Wendy Menken, Joan Menken, Kathy Knutsen, Alex Farrell, Lynn Anderson, Brandon Ulvenes, Aaron Tilleson

Other Participants: Brennan Lauer (MN Green Corps), Aaron Tag (MNDOT), Miguel Octavio (MN Daily), Jordan Nelson (Van Cleve Park Director), Tess Nejedlo (HDR Consulting firm), John Griffith (HDR), Joshua Betts (UMN PD), Christie Nelson (Mpls PD), Adam Leligdon

Meeting Called to order at: 6:35 PM

Introductions (5 min)

1. Board Membership
  - a. Recommend Ben Brummel be appointed to fill remaining term of Will Roberts' board seat
    - i. **Motion: Approve Ben Brummel to be appointed to fill the remainder of Will Robert's SECIA Board Position**
      1. **Mover: Wendy, Second: Joan, Unanimous Approval**
    - ii. **Motion: Appoint Ben Brummel as SECIA Secretary**
      1. **Mover: Wendy, Second: Kathy, Unanimous Approval**
2. Community Updates (40 min)
  - a. MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative
    - i. MPD 2nd Precinct
      1. Top; three crimes:
        - a. Theft from motor vehicle
        - b. Burglary
        - c. Auto theft
      2. All are crimes of opportunity
        - a. Recommend keeping cars and house locked, valuables out of sight
        - b. Use auto start, don't leave car unlocked while warming it up
      3. Burglaries have happened both during the day and night
        - a. One incident involved a vehicle entering a garage
        - b. Home invasion mostly happen while people are at work during the day
    - ii. Sometimes open windows, evidence of tool marks ...
  - ii. UMPD
    1. Uptick in juvenile crime on campus
    2. Homeless people using facilities
      - a. Many spaces are public and this is allowed
- b. I-35W North Gateway Project – update and request for input (see attached)
  - i. 35W project is ongoing, some parts have yet to be updated
  - ii. MNDOT is conducting a study to inform how the project will proceed
    1. Many sections of pavement need replacement soon
    2. A number of bridges require replacement or redecking in the next 5-20 years
    3. The corridor passing through SE Como is part of the larger vision of the project and information is being collected about how this section should be developed
      - a. Neighborhood input
        - i. Help MNDOT describe what the problems are

- ii. MN DOT hosted a comment session during this board meeting - attendees wrote on post-its and added them to the map
      - b. MNDOT will return in future months with drawings of plans
      - c. Currently they are taking input prior to designing how the corridor will be developed
    - 4. Regional model that looks out till 2025 is used for the regional plans
      - a. Not everything plays out according to the model, but they do the best they can
    - 5. MNDOT is involved with and collaborates with Minneapolis city planning
  - c. Van Cleve Park – Jordan Nelson
    - i. Ice rink is still open
      - 1. Open until Sunday for sure, but may be open longer
    - ii. Summer program registration is open
    - iii. Spring egg hunt - Saturday April 13th
    - iv. Open Comment Session on East of the River Master plan
      - 1. Tomorrow 3/6 at park board meeting
  - d. Upcoming Meetings
    - i. SECIA Community and Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Next meeting – Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Van Cleve Park
    - ii. Como Cookout – proposed date – Saturday, September 21, 2019
  - e. Other Developments
    - i. Wendy - we should talk about Hawkings incident if we have time later
    - ii. The city is doing a neighborhood cleaning sweep to collect trash from around the neighborhood
      - 1. \$96/hr for a waste disposal truck to pick up any waste
      - 2. Available 4/13 - 10/12
- 3. Board and Organization Business (40 min) – Final Agenda set by Executive Committee, 2/27/19.
  - a. Board Business
    - i. SECIA: Home Improvement Programs (see attached guidelines)
      - 1. SECIA has had a revolving loan housing programs available for a number of years
        - a. Emergency deferred loans for home repairs
        - b. Not a large pool of funds ~100k
      - 2. SECIA is working on revising the program guidelines
        - a. Interest rate
        - b. Proposing to add a \$7.5k emergency grant for owner-occupied properties with an age requirement
          - i. At least one of the grant recipients must be at least 62 years of age
      - c. Wendy sent out proposed guidelines - needs board approval before we can implement the program
      - d. Acronyms (not written out in proposal)
        - i. MHFA - Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
        - ii. CEE - Center for Energy and the Environment
    - e. **Motion: Authorize the Executive Committee to approve revisions to the SECIA Home Improvement Program Guidelines**
      - i. **Mover: Kathy, Second: Brandon, Unanimous Approval**
  - ii. NEIS audit update
    - 1. SECIA previously did not have workman's comp insurance
      - a. Policy was renewed
      - b. Audit is ongoing - information has been submitted to the auditor

- iii. Directors and Officers insurance
  - 1. Wendy - this was previously done by the city, but changed about a year ago to be coordinated through a vendor, as of Feb we have to work with vendor directly
- iv. Update on hiring new interns
  - 1. Community Garden Intern - Hiring Committee - Alex Farrell (Chair), Kathy Knudson, Brandon Ulvenes, Lila Smith
  - 2. Community Building Intern - Hiring Committee - Alex Farrell (Chair), Emily Anderson (former community building intern), Jim Nyberg, Will Roberts, Karl Smith
  - 3. Many good candidates, should have new interns by next board meeting
- v. Good Neighbor Fund – seeking ideas for proposals
  - 1. Application process and forms - <https://government-relations.umn.edu/content/good-neighbor-fund>
  - 2. Deadline for applications is March 31st
  - 3. About \$45,000 total available
  - 4. Committee is working on a plan for a proposal
    - a. Had first meeting last Monday
    - b. Still looking for ideas and input
    - c. Contact Kathy Knutsen or Alex Farrell if interested
    - d. Exec and committees can examine proposal to prepare it before the deadline
- vi. Neighborhoods 2020 – Proposed framework – Public comment open until March 31<sup>st</sup> - <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/2020>
  - 1. MinnPost articles (attached)
  - 2. Wendy - recommend that everyone takes a good look at the plan and provide their comments to the city
    - a. Alternatively or additionally, we could construct a board response by the 31st
  - 3. Wendy - we've always had concerns about representation and membership - how do we get underrepresented groups involved? [Would rather see something where part of our community participation agreement program includes a neighborhood analysis tailored to each neighborhood audience and what we can expect from the city.] Suggest we recommend things we haven't already tried.
  - 4. Jim - [A cynical person could see the article as an attempt to eliminate neighborhood organizations, someone else could see it as a nihilistic approach to achieve neighborhood goals. We will find out what this really is...]
    - a. We should make an effort to understand the makeup of our neighborhood. Door knocking revealed that many people are unwilling to get involved because of temporary residency...
  - 5. The neighborhood diversity survey
    - a. Showed minneapolis is ~50% renters and SE Como is ~70%
    - b. Como has new immigrant populations ...
    - c. How can the city help us do a better job meeting our goals?
  - 6. Joan - The city has changed the diversity of this neighborhood by allowing a shift from single family homes to rentals. There is nothing in place to stop landlords from benefiting by converting the neighborhood to rentals. Como used to have incredible diversity.
  - 7. Wendy - we could come up with a list of ideas during committee meeting night.

- a. Send comments to Alex and several people with draft a board response.
- vii. Ward 2 City Council Member Cam Gordan
  - 1. The city council will look at the 2020 plan, and will make it more neighborhood focused
  - 2. Wendy - could the city provide updated demographic information publicly?
  - 3. There are concerns about term limits to the neighborhood associations
    - a. Might mean members have to take a year off every so often
    - b. Might be that old bylaws may be grandfathered in
  - 4. There could be a penalty if diversity isn't met
    - a. Cam - this may not be the right approach, instead the city may come in and help neighborhoods make a plan to achieve diversity
  - 5. Could use capital budget to help neighborhood projects
    - a. I.e diverter project
  - 6. Aaron - what does the city of Minneapolis think about UMN buying property and taking it off of the tax roll?
    - a. In a word, the city doesn't like it, but it's a bit more complicated. Some taxes are still collected ... longer conversation than we have time for
  - 7. Office hours will be 30 mins later - 10 to 11:30am this month
- viii. Review and approve February 5, 2019 Board Meeting minutes (attached)
  - 1. **Motion to approve February Minutes**
    - a. **Mover: Joan, Second; Wendy, Unanimous approval**
- b. Committee Updates (20 min)
  - i. Joint Committee - Alex
    - 1. January 15, 2019 – Meeting minutes attached
      - a. Talked about good neighbor fund proposal
    - 2. February 19, 2019 – Meeting agenda and UDA handout attached (waiting on meeting notes). Livability and Housing Committee handout attached
  - ii. Community Building & Communications - Jim
    - 1. Know your Somali Neighbors event
      - a. Wait until weather approves before advertising and opening event
      - b. Still in planning
      - c. Will likely happen sometime this spring
  - iii. Zoning – Joan
    - 1. Elmwood properties 1030/1040 Como
      - a. Project downsized to 29 units from 48 units, 4 story building
      - b. Public Hearing Monday March 25th, 4:30PM with the City Planning Commission
        - i. Planning variances and other changes
          - 1. Front yard minimum sidewalk setback
          - 2. Rear yard minimum requirement
          - 3. Side yard minimum requirement to allow surface parking
          - 4. Site plan review
          - 5. Petition to rezone property from R4 to R5
        - ii. Anyone with comments can come to the public hearing or contact - ?
- iv. Environmental – Calder/Kathy
- v. Housing – Wendy
- vi. Livability & Housing Implementation - Katie
  - 1. Matthew Dyrdaahl - Bike and Pedestrian Safety

- a. Name was misspelled on committee meeting minutes
- vii. University District Alliance - Katie & Alex
  - 1. UDA restructuring taskforce
    - a. They cancelled task force meeting due to snowstorm
    - b. Rescheduled for Monday, 3/11
      - i. Karl Smith will attend in place of Katie
- viii. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
  - 1. Diverter project – MWMO grant close out meeting. Final payment received.
  - 2. The city might be able to contribute from the public works budget
  - 3. Utility box wraps
    - a. Donations are being collected by Lila Smith
- ix. Safety
  - 1. Letter to CMs Reich and Gordon about crossing safety at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Como and 27<sup>th</sup> and Como (attached). This is a follow up letter to an earlier letter on crossing safety at 15<sup>th</sup> and Brook.
  - 2. Cam - letters have been sent to public works for them to come up with a response.
    - a. Public works responded that they received the letter.
    - b. Cam - public works needs to rethink how they handle pedestrian safety, with things such as these crossings
      - i. Pushing for a transportation plan to prioritize and keep things safe for pedestrians
- x. Other
  - 1. Joan - there are four new people here, can you comment on what you think of this meeting and why you're here
    - a. Brennan Lauer - full time americorps member, lives in Como, full time service for Freshwater society for clean water
      - i. Capstone project required and community engagement are part of the program, hoping to work with SECIA on water filtration projects
      - ii. Very interested in diverter committee
    - b. Adam Leligdon- 2nd year student in ChemE,
      - i. MN student association
        - 1. Works with grants for smaller communities
        - 2. Interested in neighborhood organizations, lives in Como
    - c. Brandon - filling in for Katy Baker as MSA student rep
      - i. Represents off-campus living
      - ii. Make connections between neighborhood association and students
    - d. Miguel - MN daily
      - i. Wants to inform people in our community
      - ii. There is more than just what's happening on campus
      - iii. Prefers talking and meeting people in person rather than over the phone, so comes to meetings
      - iv. Last semester at UMN
- c. New Business
  - i. [Last week we had another chemical spill at Hawkins chemical](#)
  - ii. Some of it got into the sewer system, most was neutralized and contained
  - iii. Made it quite far into the neighborhood
  - iv. Soda ash was used to contain the acid
  - v. Conflicting stories about how well the acid was contained

1. News reported full containment
2. PCA reported contamination in the neighborhood
- vi. Wendy - we should pursue a conversation with Hawkins to understand how this is happening.
  1. Drop a note to Calder, and contact Pollution Control Agency to try to host a meeting with Hawkins
  2. Start by finding out more information
4. Adjourn: 8:35 PM, 2hrs 0min

SECIA Minutes March 5, 2019:

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