

SECIA Board Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Board Members: Present - Karl Smith, Cody Hoerning, Ben Brummel, Bill Dane, Quinn Oteman, Alex Farrell, Phil Roban, Jim Nyberg , Steve Petersen, Kathy Knutson, Katy Baker, Wendy Menken, Greg Thompson, Lynn Andersen

Absent - Aaron Tilleson, Excused – Sloane McSwain

Other Participants: Ashlee Lange (UMPD), Joan Menken (Zoning Committee), Lt. Eric Dison (MPD 2nd Precinct), Erick Garcia Luna (UMN), Sydney Jordan (60A MN House), Laura Schatterbach (Community), Caitlin Anderson (MN Daily), Cam Gordon (City Council Ward 2), Katie Fournier (Livability Committee), Kevin Reich (City Council Ward 1), Maribel Morales (SECIA Community building intern), Jason Chavez (60B Legislative Assistant)

**Motions:**

- 1. Approve March 10 SECIA Board Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Mover: Steve, Second: Quinn, Unanimous approval**
- 2. Resend letter to the Park Board including redesign and ADA accessibility to West end of park including sculpture and native plantings**
  - a. Mover: Kathy, Second: Steve, Unanimous approval**
- 3. Approve Peggy Booth and Kathy Knudson as Co-Chairs of the Environmental Committee**
  - a. Mover: Ben, Second: Bill, Unanimous approval**

Meeting Called to order at: 6:33 PM

Introductions (5 min)

**4. Community Updates (20 min)**

- a. MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative

- i. MPD [Lt. Eric Dison](#)

1. Catalytic Converter Thefts are happening, especially in Marcy Holmes
2. Burglaries of objects in plain sight inside vehicles
3. Large numbers of people at Van Cleve Park
4. Hennepin county made an arrest of someone stealing converters
  - a. Converter thefts continue, multiple individuals are stealing
  - b. Suspicious individuals turn in multiple converters to the scrapyard
5. [Metro Metals Recycling](#) near 280
  - a. In St. Paul near Minneapolis border
  - b. Some scrappers are using this company
  - c. Piles of scooters have been scrapped here
  - d. Difficult to manage since it's outside of Minneapolis
    - i. MNPD is working with St. Paul and St. Anthony Park on this

- ii. UMPD Officer [Ashlee Lange](#)

1. Very quiet at the University
2. Walk program is up and running
3. Research Labs and hospitals are open
4. Also getting catalytic converter theft reports
5. "Ring of masters" stealing parts metro-wide
6. Are there issues with vacant houses and break-ins?
  - a. Most of the student population is back with their parents

- b. UMPD is aware of this potential, no major issues yet
- iii. Erick Garcia Luna (Director of Community and Local Government Relations)
  - 1. [UMN Covid 19 Site](#)
  - 2. 600 Students remain in student housing
    - a. Regular check-ins
    - b. Weekly meetings every Thurs to check number of people
    - c. 30-90% occupancy
      - i. Many international students remain
    - d. Sends regular newsletter - Alex and Karl are on the distribution list
    - e. Paying attention to items coming down from state and federal gov
      - i. Things are changing rapidly
      - ii. Good neighbor fund might change
      - iii. Most recent meeting was about funding for census
        - 1. Before the disease, group had allocated \$10k to the census
        - 2. Received applications for this census funding, voting is ongoing, results in the next few days
- b. Van Cleve Park – Mike Fox (No report)
- c. Park Commissioner – Chris Meyer (quarterly in-person updates)
- d. Minnesota State Representatives - Sydney Jordan, 60A; Mohamud Noor, 60B;
  - i. Sydney Jordan - MN 60A Representative
    - 1. Special regular session working remotely
    - 2. Conferences and committee meetings on Zoom
    - 3. Helping Emergency workers with Covid-19 compensation
    - 4. Apply for unemployment
      - a. Often the first step is getting rejected
      - b. Contact your rep
      - c. 60A- [rep.sydney.jordan@house.mn](mailto:rep.sydney.jordan@house.mn)
    - 5. Session is all Covid all the time right now
    - 6. Will be working on bipartisan legislation in the next session
      - a. Right now there is no time for these items
      - b. Disaster response taking precedence
    - 7. Working on a Bonding bill
    - 8. Ban on TCE is being worked on
    - 9. Rep. Noor is working on responses around UMN
      - a. Housing bill for students
      - b. Reach out to his office
    - 10. Working on compensation for hourly school workers
      - a. Salary workers are still paid, but many hourly workers are not
    - 11. Working on voting system
      - a. Don't want to pull a "Wisconsin" (in reference to today's primary and Supreme court election)
    - 12. Can request ballots next month for upcoming primaries
    - 13. Hopefully this isn't our new normal, but we have to be flexible and make changes in response to the situation
    - 14. Quinn - Does Minnesota have a (Language Assistance Community) LAAC?
      - a. Polling places allow translators
        - i. You must bring someone with you for language assistance
      - b. Some even have translators on site
      - c. Right now we do not have ballots in different languages
        - i. Can request a vote-by-mail ballot

- d. Adding more language assistance to voting is a great idea
  - i. Sydney is willing to work with Quinn and others on this
- e. Strongly in favor of increasing voter participation
- 15. Erick Garcia Luna - What populations would the LAAC serve?
  - a. Quinn - community organizations can survey to understand the community they would be serving to know all of the languages present in each neighborhood
    - i. i.e. San Diego has many languages and has a committee to translate resources into all of the languages present
      - 1. Not sure whether committee members are paid
    - ii. Erick - is it limited to elections?
      - 1. Not sure, Quinn learned about it in the context of elections
    - iii. Erick - this could take resources away from other purposes
      - 1. Basic English comprehension is a prerequisite for citizenship
      - 2. Katie - there are voters with limited English skills
      - 3. Subset of voters needing these services could be minimal
      - 4. Quinn - could take anxiety away from potential voters even if they can speak English
- 16. Minnesota offers ballots in Braille, voting is important, we should continue this conversation offline
- e. City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1; Cam Gordon, Ward 2
  - i. Kevin Reich - Ward 1
    - 1. Recognizes Sydney for stepping up and filling a needed role on short notice
    - 2. The city has an expansive list of what is deemed essential
    - 3. Public works - waste management, water, road repair are all essential items
      - a. Put in amazing protocols for how workers can get out and manage water pipes and road work without health risk
      - b. Very experience foremen heading up these crews
      - c. Going above and beyond strict federal requirements for who needs to be out there
      - d. 600-700 people are still out working because of the broad view for “essential workers”
    - 4. Southeast Como is a motivator for Kevin as an example for why we need to fund and support neighborhoods
  - ii. Cam Gordon - Ward 2
    - 1. Emailed an update (attached)
    - 2. City has done quite a bit of restructuring
      - a. Drinking water is safe - no concerns there
      - b. Police, fire, reconstruction - all moving ahead
      - c. State of emergency has been declared
        - i. Lower fees for license renewals
        - ii. Forced many businesses to close down
          - 1. Helping restaurants with drop off and pick up sites
      - d. Council meets weekly on Monday mornings
      - e. Police chief has seen increase in racially oriented crime
    - 3. Call 311 for social distancing
      - a. Save 911 for actual emergencies
    - 4. Funding gap - grants for rental assistance and local businesses

5. Business assessments are going out
    - a. Based on 6-months ago
    - b. Call the assessor with any concerns
  6. Concerned about city finances
    - a. Losing millions in sales tax and other revenue
    - b. Hiring freeze at the moment
  7. Census is still going on
    - a. Minnesota is doing great
    - b. Please respond online
  8. Neighborhoods 2020 comments delayed to mid-July
    - a. Kevin and Cam working to ensure all neighborhoods have enough resources to survive
  9. 14th Ave Congregational church has been identified as a historic resource
    - a. Cam is considering nominating it
    - b. Cody - how should we express the neighborhood support for the historic designation
      - i. However we choose
      - ii. Helpful to have board action - letter is very effective
    - c. Historic designation doesn't necessarily protect it from demolition
    - d. Steve - Would historic designation provide additional funds available to the developer for improvements to the property?
      - i. Local designation doesn't necessarily bring any funds
      - ii. Maybe there is a creative way they could get funding
  10. Steve - I understand that the mayor is making some provision for families with children in the Minneapolis public schools; does that exclude families with children in charter schools; is there any basis for that distinction?
    - a. Cam
      - i. \$2M in support for poor families + additionally \$1M for certain families
      - ii. Expanded to be open to all students in public school system
      - iii. Approved budget item targeted towards public schools - there is already infrastructure for public schools
        1. Mayor is hearing from charter schools and homeschooling
    - b. Kevin - Cam made a good point - this is an infusion to an existing institution
      - i. Could support individual families as needed
      - ii. This program is about housing stability
      - iii. Really about housing stability with Minneapolis Public Schools as a partner
- f. Meeting/Event Reports
- i. University Engagement Zone - meeting organized by Merrie Benasutti and Jenny Collins
  - ii. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference
- g. Upcoming Meetings/Events
- i. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Next meeting – Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, TBD
  - ii. Earth Day - 50th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration, Wednesday, April 22, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Van Cleve Park (Cancelled).
    1. Kathy will add an article to the E-Commotion

- a. A member of the community was at the original Earth Day
    - 2. Cody - University is making marketing materials around Earth Day
  - iii. Bike Fest - Saturday, April 25, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Van Cleve Park (Postponed, TBD)
  - iv. Como Pride, Como Clean, Clean-up Day, Sunday, April 26, 2-4 pm (Individuals/Family Units Only)
  - v. Other Developments
- 5. Board and Organization Business (20 min) – Final Agenda set by Executive Committee, 3/25/20.
  - a. Board Business
    - i. Review and approve March 10, 2020 Board Meeting minutes
    - ii. **Motion: Approve March 10 SECIA Board Meeting Minutes**
      - 1. **Mover: Steve, Second: Quinn, Unanimous approval**
    - iii. Interns
      - 1. Current projects and activities
        - a. Expansion of intern hours approved by Executive Committee
          - i. Online work for the interns allowed them to increase hours past the 10hr weekly limit
            - 1. Worked on website, document management, [Covid response on SECIA website](#)
            - 2. Maribel - able to brainstorm more, partnering with Southeast Seniors
              - a. Looking at ideas, avenues and resources the neighborhood could benefit from
              - b. Renter assistance
                - i. SECIA is limited as to what resources we can provide
            - 3. Steve - It might helpful, if the interns need work, if they would leaflet the neighborhood with notices to complete the survey and give them a phone number they can call if they do not have computer access regarding the census
              - a. Maribel and Alex are working on this
                - i. Applied in GNF Grant to get people counted
              - b. Looking into using a community location as a space for people who do not have internet access to complete the census
              - c. [Households that do not fill out the online census will be sent a mail-in form](#)
  - b. Ideas for projects?
- 2. Recruitment and Hiring
  - a. Positions posted on Handshake (closed April 1, interviews next)
- iv. Park dedication fees - Board letter for ADA accessible entrance (Cody H.)
  - 1. 3 elements of our original letter can move forward
    - a. Lighting on the southern path - safety issue
    - b. Volleyball courts
    - c. Nature playground
  - 2. All of these are in the master plan
  - 3. Other recommendations that cannot be stand-alone:
    - a. Native planting
    - b. Sculptures

4. Accessibility issue at the west end of the park was something the community at large wants to address
    - a. Both sculptures and native plantings could be incorporated into an ADA accessible entrance
  5. Would like to request resending letter with four requests: Lighting, Volleyball, Playground, and ADA entrance
    - a. **Motion: Resend letter to the Park Board including redesign and ADA accessibility to West end of park including sculpture and native plantings**
      - i. **Mover: Kathy, Second: Steve, Unanimous approval**
  6. Park board liked the idea of a pocket park
    - a. Look for places where we could place a park
      - i. Especially east end of the neighborhood
      - ii. Email Cody with ideas
    - b. Kathy - area on Talmage crossing is a good place
  7. May get lighting request in mid year, June
  8. Full request processed in December
- b. Committee Updates (30 min)
- v. SECIA now has a Zoom Subscription
    1. Contact Alex to use it for committee meetings and other board business
  - vi. Project Night/Joint Committee – Alex
    1. March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting (next meeting: April 21st)
      - a. Figured out how to Zoom
      - b. Rescheduled and cancelled events
      - c. Next meeting will focus on what we can do remotely
    2. UMN TC Campus Arboretum Plant Communities Survey (closes 4/17)
 

[https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6VwoKpYggVeVAqh](https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VwoKpYggVeVAqh)

      - a. Take this survey
  - vii. Grant Writing Committee – Alex
    1. Bush Foundation - Ecosystem Grants - (not funded)
 

<https://www.bushfoundation.org/grants/ecosystem-grants>

      - a. Will keep trying and apply for other grants
    2. Good Neighbor Fund - 2020 – \$64,000 available - due April 30
 

<https://government-relations.umn.edu/content/good-neighbor-fund>

      - a. Pushed deadline back from March 31
      - b. Adding 1-2 additional applications
      - c. Grateful for help from writers like Kathy, Holly Day, and our interns
  - viii. Community Building & Communications – Jim
  - ix. Zoning – Joan
    1. City holding applications and permits for zoning.
    2. 1035 14th Avenue - see updates from Larry Crawford
      - a. Historic resource (letter attached)
        - i. Doesn't prevent it from being torn down
        - ii. Developers have to have preservation committee review as part of the process
        - iii. Offers more protection from teardown - makes it a little harder
        - iv. May or may not restrict rehab of the building
        - v. Cam - would like to know SECIA's position
      - b. Correspondence from Como Concerned Neighbors (attached)
      - c. Pocket park idea

- d. Cam - if the building is nominated, it will be difficult for a developer to do anything in the next 6 months
        - i. A designation will produce guidelines about what can be done with the building
        - ii. If we want it torn down for a pocket park, this historic designation will hinder us greatly
        - iii. Must be a health and safety hazard for it to be torn down
  - 3. 1108 and 1104 25th Ave
    - a. DJR Architects - same ones working on 15th ave across from Van Cleve
    - b. 4-units/building, 20 beds/building, 3 stories each
    - c. Asking for parking variance
    - d. Along East Hennepin on a mixed use corridor
    - e. Not necessarily as student area - mixed with Industrial
    - f. City planning isn't accepting any applications at this point
      - i. Needs to figure out process for application processing during Covid-19
      - ii. Everything on hold at the moment
    - g. Joan will follow up with DJR Architects to get the plans
- x. Environmental – Calder/Kathy
  - 1. Peggy Booth and Kathy Knudson to Co-Chair the Environmental Committee
    - a. **Motion: Approve Peggy Booth and Kathy Knudson as Co-Chairs of the Environmental Committee**
      - i. **Mover: Ben, Second: Bill, Unanimous approval**
  - 2. Trichloroethylene (TCE)
    - a. General Mills – letter to AG Keith Ellison update (submitted)
    - b. Great Batch facility tour (postponed)
      - i. Primary reason they failed the last test is because the state changed TCE requirements after incident in White Bear
      - ii. Greatbatch is replacing processes that include TCE
    - c. Letter supporting TCE ban - update
- xi. Housing - Wendy & Alex
  - 1. Management of neighborhood housing loan programs
  - 2. Future land use and built form workgroup
  - 3. We recently had someone use one of our loan programs
- xii. Livability & Housing Implementation – Katie
  - 1. MWMO Grant Update
    - a. Grant was received to implement plans for diverter on 15th and Talmage
    - b. \$20K from MWMO, matching funds from Minneapolis \$16K for most of the infrastructure work
    - c. Can't start work until the agreement is signed
      - i. Don't see any problems at this time other than Covid-related
    - d. Meeting with Metro Blooms and Park board tomorrow to find out what their plans are for how to implement this - might not go as quickly as we thought
      - i. Will decide whether to make revisions to the timeline
        - 1. Must be approved by MWMO
    - e. Project has 1-year deadline
    - f. Thanks to Katie for her work and Kathy for preparing the budget

- 2. Housing strategy committee - Next project is to find community residents with connections to university departments
  - a. Need ways of reaching into university community and connecting them to neighborhood websites
  - b. Live near your work website
    - i. Have responses from all neighborhoods except prospect park
- xiii. University District Alliance (UDA) - Katie & Alex
  - 1. University District Alliance Workgroup: Potential for independence
  - 2. Park board and other agencies are leading a coalition on the Grand Rounds
    - a. Identified a route for a bridge over railroad near Highway 280
    - b. 6 different agencies have put \$40k for an engineering study
    - c. This project is still in the Governor's bonding bill
      - i. Reps Noor and Jordan are working to keep it in
- xiv. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
- xv. Safety – Cody Hoerning
  - 1. 2PAC
    - a. Online interview with advocacy group for different types of crime including sexual assault
      - i. Minutes will be posted on the 2PAC website and sent in newsletters
    - b. Indecent exposure incident on 18th ave
      - i. Person involved is a known individual with history of criminal actions - substance abuse, etc
      - ii. Affected board member Lynn Anderson
- b. New Business
  - i. Wendy - Email about [Twin City Die Casting](#) working with [Ventech](#) producing ventilators
    - 1. Should the board send a thank you letter?
      - a. Wendy will write something up
  - ii. Question from Karl about how this meeting went
    - 1. Laura - thought this meeting was very good
    - 2. Should we continue these zoom meetings?
      - a. Bill - has been using it for the last 1.5 weeks
        - i. This meeting is as smooth as it has ever gone
      - b. Could be a method for getting public officials involved on a regular basis
        - i. Maybe putting them up on a projector
    - 3. Katy - spending lots of time on Zoom with classes
      - a. How are we informing people about the community meeting?
        - i. Could we post the link on social media
        - ii. Need to prevent hackers from getting on and messing it up
          - 1. Can share code and password via email
          - 2. We can set up a waiting room to screen participants
        - iii. Maribel - will communicate via Facebook and Instagram
    - 4. Need to have agenda accessible without taking up the main zoom window
      - a. Can adjust window size and setup in zoom
      - b. Can also just open agenda in another tab
    - 5. Could set up a hybrid meeting in the future
      - a. People far away can attend - elected officials
    - 6. Phone users - Phil



- a. Sound quality is good
  - b. Could release the meeting info to the public, then screen users
  - c. Phil was able to identify who was speaking since he knew everyone and could hear them clearly
- iii. Wendy - Park board announcement wasn't clear about closures
    - 1. Are the buildings closed?
      - a. If we are, we lose our meeting space.

6. Adjourn: 8:24 PM, 1hr, 51min

SECIA Minutes April 7, 2020:

Note taker: Ben Brummel; Exec reviewed 4/29/2020 ; Board Approved: \_\_\_\_\_