

SECIA Board Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, August 6th, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95711076017>

Board Members: Present - Alex Farrell, Cody Hoerning, Bill Dane, Quinn Oteman, Karl Smith, Steve Peterson, Kathy Knudson, Wendy Menken, Jim Nyberg, Aaron Tilleson, Absent - Lynn Anderson, Katy Baker, Greg Thompsen, Excused – Phil Roban, Sloane MacSwain

Other Participants: Senator Kari Dziedzic, Aryca Myers, Jessica Focht-Perlberg, Lila Smith, Luis Mendoza

Motions:

- 1. Approve July 7th SECIA Board Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Mover: Steve, Second: Kathy, Unanimous approval**
- 2. Approve Hiring committee's decision to hire Jessica Focht-Perlberg as SECIA's Executive director.**
 - a. Mover: Steve, Second: Kathy, Unanimous approval**
- 3. Keep Alex Farrell on the payroll until Jessica's transition is complete. The executive committee will review the duration of the transition period.**
 - a. Mover: Wendy, Second: Bill, Unanimous approval**
- 4. Transition from Alex to Jessica as our UDA representative.**
 - a. Mover: Wendy, Second: Karl, Unanimous approval**

Meeting Called to order at: 6:30 PM

Introductions (5 min)

1. Community Updates (20 min)
 - a. Senator Kari Dziedzic
 - i. We need more low income housing.
 - ii. Police reforms were passed. Many already existed in Minneapolis.
 - iii. Money for COVID Relief was passed
 - iv. Wendy- We need affordable housing. SE Como could be a model
 - v. Cody- Disappointed about lack of Section 179 conformity. Was there any further movement on the catalytic converter bill? Things got put aside with COVID19 but still a priority.
 - vi. Quinn- What is included in the Autism training? Trying to work with Autism society to train officers on responding and noticing signs. Find out and have some sort of recognition of who has Autistic children/adults or those on the spectrum. Reduce bad incidents. Requiring training and partnering with POST Board.
 - vii. Wendy- Are there crime intervention strategies focused on juveniles? Yes, crime intervention with juveniles was included in the House bill, including violence intervention and youth programming, but this was not included in the package passed.
 - b. New executive director
 - i. Jessica Focht-Perlberg
 1. Has lived in neighborhood for 11 years
 2. Invested in the local community
 3. Lives in SE Como with three children and partner who serves as an educator
 4. Returning to community organizing work after she has done so in Wisconsin and California
 5. Legal Services work for many years as a lawyer.

6. Career shift, went to Marcy-Holmes as a community organizer for one year, has learned a lot about Minneapolis and Neighborhood organizations.
 7. Wants to make our neighborhood welcoming for everyone, especially the historically underrepresented
 8. Glimmers of hope for lasting change. Looking forward to working to stopping racial harm and navigating the Covid-19 crisis.
 9. Excited for SECIA re-envisioning process.
 10. Relational meetings, one-on-one meetings with leadership.
 11. Looking to improve SECIA's representative diversity and role in the community
 12. Starts August 24th in the new role of executive director. Currently wrapping up previous position.
- c. Aryca Myers- Neighborhood Specialist
- i. Holds on contracts and amendments for neighborhoods.
 1. Now preceding, with 1 month delay.
 2. > \$780,000 being distributed from neighborhoods to rebuild following social unrest.
 3. Need to have people be counted in the Census, especially underserved communities. Federal government making things difficult for counting.
 4. For COVID19 relief 500,000 masks distributed
 5. George Floyd memorial listening session
 6. COVID19 free testing for south Minneapolis. Monday and Tuesday
 - a. August 11th, 11-7, Fraser Early Childhood Center, 700 N Humboldt.
 - b. Sign up for appointment: www.primarybio.com/r/pica
 - c. <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/get-tested.jsp>
 7. Wendy- Has money been moved from neighborhoods for city budget concerns? Some money has been moved from neighborhoods due to City budget ~ \$700,000.
 8. Contact Aryca: aryca.myers@minneapolismn.gov
 - d. MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative- Not present
 - e. Van Cleve Park – Mike Fox- Not present
 - f. Park Commissioner – Chris Meyer (quarterly in-person updates)- Not present
 - g. City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1 (No report);
 - h. Cam Gordon, Ward 2 (See attached report)
 - i. Charter Commission held over the police restructuring.
 - ii. Cure violence model funding. (Chicago)
 1. Violence interrupters
 - iii. Como Congregational Church being designated as historic building.
 - iv. 2040 Plan Implementation
 1. Looking for University neighborhoods to give feedback on University Overlay
 2. Parking variances
 3. Rooming houses and number of units.
 - v. Cody- Are pilots and proof of concept coming in future months for some of these new public safety ideas?
 1. Yes. Will likely follow the co-responder program and violence intervention programs which pilot in small-scale areas first, then expand city-wide. We need to collect more data on what is working.
 - vi. Wendy- If rooming houses are coming, requests a house manager live on site per existing code, especially to avoid tenant exploitation.

1. Cam- they should be affordable or deeply affordable. How should we judge a building as a rooming house?
 - vii. Bill- Every single major landlord is renting by the bedroom. They are 12 stories tall. Students and parents like this. Although licensing fees are not accurately representing the number of residents present. FloCo still doing by unit, instead of by bedroom, but no other major landlords are doing so.
 - i. Meeting/Event Reports
 - i. Mannings (Luis and Toufic)
 1. Toufic operates Joe's market. A great operator. Exciting to reopen Mannings. A neighborhood treasure.
 - j. Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - i. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Next meeting – Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference
 - ii. Other Developments
1. Board and Organization Business (20 min) – Final Agenda set by Executive Committee 7/29/20
 - a. Board Business
 - i. Review and approve July 7, 2020 board meeting minutes (Ben)
 1. **Motion: Approve July 7th Minutes**
 - a. **Mover: Steve, Second: Kathy, Unanimous approval**
 - ii. Executive Director hiring process summary (Cody)
 1. Hiring committee went through a thorough process and unanimously recommended Jessica
 2. Process is documented on SECIA's drive for future reference
 - iii. Executive Director Hiring Committee recommended Jessica Focht-Perlberg. SECIA Executive Committee unanimously approved and offered her the position.
 1. **Motion: Approve Hiring committee's decision to hire Jessica Focht-Perlberg as SECIA's Executive director.**
 - a. **Mover: Steve, Second: Kathy, Unanimous approval**
 - iv. Executive Committee recommends keeping Alex Farrell on the payroll during the transition period
 1. **Motion: Keep Alex Farrell on the payroll until Jessica's transition is complete. The executive committee will review the duration of the transition period.**
 - a. **Mover: Wendy, Second: Bill, Unanimous approval**
 - v. Board business - Board Recognition of Executive Director Alex Farrell
 1. Everyone is very thankful for Alex's service to the organization
 - a. Kept the organization cool and collected
 2. Alex is very thankful for the experience, especially for the mentorship from Karl Smith
 3. New job starts on 8/17
 - vi. Cookout 2020 cancellation
 1. Como Cookout event is cancelled due to COVID19
 - b. Committee Updates (30 min) – Up to Five (5) minutes per update
 - i. Grant Writing and Interns – Alex
 1. Maribel Morales, Community Building Intern, resignation
 - a. Will be leaving in the next week or so
 2. Jessica has met and began working with the intern group
 3. Lots of new projects and ideas in the works
 - ii. Community Building & Communications – Jim
 1. Bike donation update
 - a. 25 bicycles donated so far

- b. Will get feedback/photos from some recipients and add them to Comotion
 - c. Quinn has people in Anoka who would also like bicycles
 - i. Program is specific to SE Como for now
 - ii. 8 bikes remain and may be given to Anoka after checking around the neighborhood again
- iii. Zoning – (TBD)
 - 1. Aaron Tilleson - committee Chair
 - a. Learns about new construction projects all the time
 - b. Will consult Joan (previous chair) and gather information
 - 2. UMN Child Development Center - 1600 Rollins Ave SE:
<https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/ls-cdc-unified-building>
 - 3. Plans to address new construction that saturates parking and violates area plans
 - 4. Can do training session with Joan and newer committee members
 - 5. May consider creating “Land use and development” committee similar to Marcy Holmes
 - a. Will be broader than our zoning committee
 - 6. Lila - consider how many bedrooms when defining a ‘4-plex’, rather than ‘units’, which could each have 5-6 bedrooms, making a ‘4-plex’ a 20+ bedroom building
- iv. Environmental – Kathy/Peggy
 - 1. Didn’t meet this past month
 - 2. Will be doing drain stenciling
 - a. Several volunteers have been recruited already
 - 3. Meeting with Paul Chelson to address Elm Street burm
 - a. People may not like it if mulberry trees are removed
 - i. Native mulberry is relatively rare
 - ii. Asian mulberry is invasive and very common
 - 4. Property on 25th ave
 - a. Planning commission would like developer to save ginkgo tree
 - b. We need to continue to push to save that tree and the apple orchard
- v. Housing - Wendy
 - 1. CEE grant amendment
 - a. 1 senior homeowner wanted changes to the grant program
 - b. If we want to change it, we would need to bring it to the next board meeting
 - c. Board members would be more supportive if it was broader than a single potential applicant
 - i. Quinn can help with data collection
- vi. Livability & Housing Implementation – Katie
- vii. University District Alliance (UDA) - Katie & Alex
 - 1. **Motion: Transition from Alex to Jessica as our UDA representative.**
 - a. **Mover: Wendy, Second: Karl, Unanimous approval**
- viii. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
 - 1. SE Seniors lawn care program - call for volunteers (ann@seseniors.org)
- ix. Safety – Cody Hoerning
 - 1. Austin - Como Student Community Cooperative Board
 - a. CSCC looking for crosswalk help and support for Hennepin at 29th and Como at 27th.
 - b. Hoping that SECIA board would write a letter of support

- i. Looking for other letters of support
 - c. Asking for multiple changes
 - i. Main goal is to have a crosswalk with better lighting
 - ii. Minimum is a painted crosswalk
 - d. Should let Council Member Reich know about this proposal personally
 - e. Bus stop helps make the argument
 - f. Could reference previous attempts by SECIA to get this crosswalk implemented
 - g. Would also be helpful to get UMN involved
 - 2. 2PAC meeting next Monday, 8/10
 - a. Uptick in burglaries recently. Nick Juarez (CPS) did a burglary prevention presentation
 - i. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdatjWDmQfk>
 - 3. Public safety reimaging discussion will be had at the next community project night
- c. New Business
 - i. Early voting stations open until election day

2. Adjourn: 8:42 PM

SECIA Minutes August 6th, 2020:

Note takers: Cody Hoerning and Ben Brummel; Exec reviewed: 8/26/2020 ; Board Approved: 9/1/2020