

SECIA Board Meeting – FINAL Agenda

(Agenda finalized by Executive Committee March 3, 2021)

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93923944154>

Board Members: Present -Jessica Focht-Perlberg (Executive Director), Ben Brummel, Holly Day, Thomas Weist, Cody Hoerning, Karl Smith, Caitlin Johnson, Steve Peterson, Jim Nyberg, Andrew Norton, Kathy Knudson, Lynn Anderson, Phil Roban, Quinn Oteman, Greg Thompson

Other Participants: Lila Smith, DeWayne Townsend, Laura Schlotterback (intern), Larry Crawford, Wasima Farah (new intern), Nick Juarez, Cam Gordon, Wendy Mencken, Christina Morrison, Yumi Nagaoka, Walter Abrego, Pat Eliason, Grace Sweeney, Marcia Pankake, Toni Pendergrast, Jeff H.

MOTIONS:

Minutes of February 9, 2021 Board meeting

Moved to approve: Steve

Seconded: Ben

Unanimous approved

Talmage Triangle letter of support: move to send to Department of Public Works

Moved to approve: Ben

Seconded: Steve

Unanimous approved

Utility Box Wrap letter of support

Moved to approve: Ben

Seconded: Steve

Unanimous approved

Meeting Called to order at: 6:33 p.m.

Introductions (5 min)

Discussion of SECIA norms/agreements for civil meeting decorum (10 min)

1. Be respectful to people and their ideas:
 - a. Space for others
 - b. space for those who are not there.
 - c. Respect for what's on the agenda.
 - d. Listen to and show respect for the contributions of other members; be an active listener.
2. Main positivity.
 - a. CONSTRUCTIVELY criticize ideas
 - b. Speak positively about each other
 - c. If in doubt, check it out! Don't make negative assumptions about each other.
 - d. Additional thoughts: Use I statements, speak from your own experience.

Community Updates (20 min; 3-5 minutes each for updates/Q&A, depending on number present + special presentation by Metro Transit guest) Como only has three crimes.

Nick Juarez--The only place we've seen increases in autotheft, hopefully, since weather getting warming, people won't be leaving their cars unattended running. 122 police reports written regarding catalytic converters, license plates, and cars stolen.

Kathy--Any considerations for Chauvez trial?

Nick--Won't say anything that won't happen in Como neighborhood, but talk to your neighbors, keep communication channels open, so if stuff does happen it gets to everybody, including your neighbors that don't have a computer or attend neighborhood meetings. NCR is going to have neighborhood meetings every Wednesday night, so we're trying to get information out to neighborhoods as the trial is happening.

City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1; Cam Gordon, Ward 2

Cam Gordon's 3/9/21 SE Como neighborhood update report

Cam Gordon--There are lots of concerns about the trial---every precinct has fence around it, and there's going to be an additional number posted where you can call to report suspicious activity. I'm going to post an online form addressing energy issues and climate issues, I'm calling it the Green New Deal for Minneapolis. I'm hoping people can show up to those meetings. I also want to highlight a proposal about the University overlay district and housing developments. Parking requirements and maximum bedroom counts per unit are going to be discussed in any new proposed housing. I'm hoping people can come up with ideas on how many bedrooms can be in each new housing unit per lot size.

Greg--Does the "green new deal" include decommissioning the nuclear power plants?

Cam—I don't believe we can do that.

Walter--Can you give us an update about the Rent Stabilization Charter Amendment?
Where does that stand now?

Cam: That is going to be reviewed by the Charter Commission. (More information here)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f61YFnsphA7_aYbf8jSt5fjbGdm9PCuy/view?usp=sharing

Marcia--Cam, please tell us the regulations on parking in this area.

Cam--For new construction in the university overlay right now, we would require someone to build one off-street parking space for each two new units.

Metro Transit - Christina Morrison & Yumi Nagaoka: update, Q & A on proposed Line 3 bus stop improvements (10 min)

[Metro Transit Route 3 Proposed Improvement for Como & 22nd Ave SE](#)

Route 3 proposed stop relocation:

1. proposal: Moving from the east side of Como & 22nd to the west side by the garden. The stop will have a bench and encroach a little bit on the inside of the garden to keep from encroaching too much on the sidewalk.
2. proposal: placing the shelter where it used to be, on the west side by the corner near the garden. There's an existing pad there from the previous bus shelter.
3. proposal. Placing a brand new shelter on the curb—might obscure stop sign.

Lynn—Could the city hang a stop sign on a cable across the road to make it visible?

Christina —we are thinking about moving some signs around to explore that option.

Karl—Would making it a safer intersection make it a better shelter, like adding a zebra crossing?

Christina—We are looking for other places to add pedestrian crossing for safety.

Announcements (5 min)

Meeting/Event Reports:

Neighborhood Network Mtgs / Neighborhoods 2020 update (Jessica)

Review [Transitioning to new neighborhood funding programs](#)

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

SECIA Land Use & Development Committee: Wednesday, March 10th, 7:00-8:30pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Next meeting -- Tuesday, March 16th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference and breakout small group meetings, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

Como Cares Team Work Group meeting, Thursday, March 18th, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

SECIA Environmental Committee, Tuesday, March 23rd, 6:00-7:30pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)

Virtual Coffee Hour, Thursday, March 25th, 10:00-11:00 am, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

SECIA Social Justice Study Community: Intergenerational connection and social justice, Part II, Thursday, March 25th, 4:00-5:00pm, [Zoom meeting link HERE](#).

Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group, Tuesday, April 6th, 6:30-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

Other Developments

Latest news of CPP—we can roll over our unspent funds into next year and don't have to worry about using them as quickly as possible in order not to lose them. In the future, this funding will be limited to just 10% of funds rolling over to next year. This won't impact legacy NRP funds.

Board Business (up to 60 min)

Review and approve: [February 9, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2 min)

Move to approve: Steve

Seconded: Ben

Unanimous approved

Informational / review: letter to Aaron Tilleson, vacating his seat (1 min)

We'll be filling his seat with next election.

Hiring committee updates:

2021 Gardening Intern(s): Search updates (Karl) (1 min)

We had 46 applicants. We've made our initial choices and have 16 applicants being reviewed by all committee members. We plan to set up interviews for next week.

Financial reports: (10 min) (Cody, Jessica) (3 min)

Review: NPP Plan Modification (Jessica) (2 min)

SEE [new Contract Amendment](#) ; [Rubedor approval letter and NPP paperwork](#)

Review periodic accounting report: [Fiscal YTD, through February 2021](#); and [CPP Draw #33 budget, 3/4/21](#)--Changes in budget are reflected now that we know more about how CPP works.

[Feb 2021 CEE/NRP Housing Loan Program report](#)--There's been no activity on this this year, but we have had one new query regarding housing loans this week.

Review preliminary 2021 Good Neighbor Fund grant proposals (10 min)

Draft proposals for review: [SE Seniors collaborative proposal: SE Elders, Safe, Engaged, Connected](#) *SEE* [Request for GNF 2021 Applications](#); [GNF 2021 Application Form](#)

Jessica--Still waiting to find out about the extension for last year's GNF allocated funds due to COVID. We have until April 15th for final deadline of new applications.

Kathy--GNF proposal on Eco Fair--working on it with Rami. Hoping to do it in the spring of 2022. Smaller version of the fair they have in Wisconsin every year until COVID. \$3k-\$4k request, including renting huge tents and video. First draft is in Drive.

Karl, Tom, Cody--Assistance to neighbors GNF proposal. We're working on a proposal that

includes a needs assessment, and an intern to help people under 65 in the neighborhood. Tom--we'll have a little more challenge identifying people who need help.

The draft of the grant is on Drive.

Caitlin and Grace—Promoting organics recycling. We've done some organics outreach planning and making maps of people not signed up for the planning and working on marketing paperwork. We're also discussing reaching out to apartment and encouraging them to use the Van Cleve recycling site and providing them with bags. Getting prices finalized for that. Also looking for another drop-off location.

Karl—Quinn, does CSC have organics?

Quinn—We have a small compost bin.

Karl—You may want to work with them for your proposal. That might be a good site for organics recycling.

Holly—Works Science Museum GNF family grant for one night of the Works visit to Van Cleve Park—grant proposal on Drive

Review: [Talmage Triangle letter of support](#);

Move to send to Department of Public Works

Moved to approve: Ben

Seconded: Steve

Unanimous approved

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Review: [Proposed SECIA Racial Equity Resolution](#) as living document and implementation ideas (Jessica, Laura, UMN Graduate Civic Leadership students, Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group) (12 min)

Laura--The document begins with SECIA's mission and moves into acknowledgement of the

continued existence of racism and the many forms it takes, and the intersectional aspects of life and services that that also impacts. The document then discusses with racial equity is, and the working definition that we pulled from as the city of Minneapolis' definition. It affirms some of the inequities that SECIA has played a role in perpetuating

and its commitment of recent work to continue to include underrepresented voices in this work. The five principles listed in the Resolution have all been workshopped in our group. We have a place at the bottom for additional changes, and we really want to hear ideas of what can be tweaked from the community on how to make this a stronger document. Making this document accessible language-wise was one of the suggestions we received, and making sure the document was accountable was another.

Steve—I have reservations on saying that SECIA has played a role in racism. I'm not aware of any evidence of that.

Lila—I don't have either. We've always tried to reach out to minorities and new communities. So I don't think that's quite right. But I've only been involved in 12 years.

DeWayne—I don't think we've done a good enough job in recruiting minorities to the Board, so that's what I think of when I read that statement.

Lila—We have neighbors we socialize with from immigrant populations and had them come to meetings, but they didn't feel comfortable being on the only immigrants in the meetings.

Jessica—Systemic racism goes beyond intention and overt acts of racism and individual intention. We have an overrepresentation of white homeowners on the Board, which doesn't represent our community. And that's what this resolution is recognizing.

Lila—As a mother and mother of a black and bi daughter, and the grandmother of a trans child, I don't know what more you want. But to say that SECIA has been purposefully promoting racism isn't correct.

Ben: We're talking about unintentional racism--we're not saying the SECIA is a criminally racist organization.

Kathy—Can we change it to unintentionally played a role in systemic racism?

Laura—How does it feel for someone to come to this space, and if they're uncomfortable, how can we change our organization to make them welcome?

Tom—I guess I don't like the phrase, "played a role," and its ambiguousness. I think we can probably agree that SECIA has failed at something, failed to attract underrepresented communities.

Karl—Can we say that SECIA is complicit? The Board is not representative of the neighborhood.

Tom—Good intentions don't really count for anything.

Laura—We still have a lot of ways to grow institutionally to make people feel welcome and want to run for the Board.

Lynn—I have neighbors that I'm inviting to the meetings all the time, but they just don't want to come to the meetings.

Laura—How are we doing our outreach? How can we go out to the neighborhood a little bit more instead for asking folks to come to the meeting of their own accord?

Lila—The one time we get lots of people from the neighborhood is when we do events. Like the Como Cookout, or the Brazilian Arts event. When we have large events open to the public, we get a bigger percentage of underrepresented communities. Some people just don't want to come to talk.

Quinn-I would prefer if people didn't refer to their "LBGTQ" friend in these discussions.

Discuss: 1203 Talmage resolution proposal (Ben; Larry Crawford) (10 min)

[Larry Crawford's Proposed Better Como Resolution](#)

Larry--Cam needs SECIA to come forth and address this plan. The moratorium on new demolitions and new construction projects needs to be discussed.

We'd like to bring this to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible so that we can bring this to Cam to bring to the City Council as expeditiously as possible.

Steve—I appreciate what Larry's done, and I'm anxious to know if this subject is pertinent in the other university neighborhoods. I would hope that the other University neighbors would be coming to him with similar resolutions.

Larry--My understanding is that other representatives will see this and want to join in. You probably remember that Cam was broaching the subject of multibedroom constructions and how new city regulatory changes were going to affect neighborhoods like Como. I think it's strategically beneficial for SECIA to work with Cam before they eliminate the parking regulations, we should get the new housing regulations in.

Pat--The other side of this is that people who are in PPL (Project for Pride in Living) may be trying to buy houses in the neighborhood.

Quinn—Not everybody wants to be a homeowner.

Pat--We're very positive about rentals.

Larry--60+ neighbors have signed up for our petition, renters and homeowners, who support the Better Como proposal and the stated livability of the neighborhood.

Karl—The population of SE Como is 6,000, so 60 people is still a tiny fraction.

Committee Updates (15 min) – Up to Three (3) minutes per update

Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group (Jessica) We'll be meeting Tuesday every month to work on this project--April 6th is our next meeting.

Reimagining Community Safety / Como Cares Work Group (Cody H., Andrew N.)

Cody--We've gotten off the ground with GNF, and we're also looking at AARP challenge Grants to fund some of this work. Unsheltered Neighbors Group: At our last event, we have free haircuts for unsheltered people, sleeping bags and warm blankets to pass out, and a hot meal from Raising Cain. We'd like to continue working with this.

Andrew--We've received some information about small grants through Hennepin County for our projects that we're proposing.

Land Use & Development (Ben B.)

Ben: This meeting will be focused on some of the new projects mentioned, including 1203 Talmage.

Environmental: Talmage Triangle Rain Garden updates (Kathy K. / Peggy B.)

Kathy—We talked about the EcoFair grant, but nothing else.

University District Alliance (UDA) - Updates on exploring future collaboration potential with UDA neighborhood orgs (Jessica, Katie F.)

[University Area Neighborhoods Project - Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Organization - March 3, 2021](#)

[Berthelsen UDA Funding email - March 4, 2021](#)

Jessica—Marcy Holmes NA proposal to hire a consultant to do the full range of ways the UDA neighborhoods can work together—they have hired a consultant and gathering

information about everyone's thoughts and ideas about this. Amy Arcand wants our Top 10 organizational priorities from every neighborhood committee.

Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.

Update: Formation of steering group on SECIA engagement with the future of Tuttle School (Kathy K., Katie F.)

Kathy--Right now we're waiting to get a tour set up. I'm not sure when that's going to happen.

Update on new proposal for mural on west side of 15th Ave. & Rollins Ave. (Cody H., Parker S., Trevor T.)

New SE Como Tenant's Group (Walter A.)

Cody—No updates—still working on process with city.

New Business (5 min)

Como Tenants Group

Jessica: Walter Abrego has a lot of enthusiasm about starting a Tenants Group. They just had their first meeting last Monday.

Cody—It was a great meeting just to hear about people's positive and negative experiences as tenants with rental companies in the neighborhood.

Andrew--We just brainstormed some ideas of tasks that we might be doing in the upcoming meetings, some policies that we might advocate on top of that.

Ben—I hope that this group can collaborate with the Land Use Committee. I would like to have renters' voices.

Quin—Part 2 of our Social Justice Committee is coming up—we'd love to have you there.

Steve—What do we do about the absent member?

Karl—Our bylaws allow us to elect a new members now or just wait to the next election.
If we can diversify the board with a new member, let's do that.

Steve—I would nominate Larry Crawford to fill that spot.

Adjourn 8:29 pm

SECIA Minutes March 9th, 2021:

Note taker _____ Holly Day _____; Exec reviewed _____; Board Approved:
