

SECIA Board Meeting – Minutes

(Agenda finalized by Executive Committee April 7, 2021)

Tuesday, April 13th, 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, Karl Smith, Caitlin Johnson, Steve Peterson, Jim Nyberg, Andrew Norton, Kathy Knudson, Lynn Anderson, Phil Roban, Quinn Oteman
Cody Hoerning, Greg Thompsen

Other Participants: Lila Smith, DeWayne Townsend, Laura Schlotterback (intern), Nick Juarez, Cam Gordon, Grace Sweeney, Toni Pendergrast, Sina Saffari, Julie Roessler, Grant Vaith, Laszlo Marton (intern), Ryan San Cartier, Izzy Voigt (intern), Taya Gilmer, Mike Swedahl

MOTIONS:

Minutes of April 13, 2021 Board meeting

Moved: Steve

Seconded: Ben

Unanimous approval

Hiring of New Gardening Interns

Moved: Ben Moved to approve hiring

Seconded: Tom

Unanimous approval

2021 Good Neighbor Fund grant proposals

Karl moved

Tom seconded

Unanimous approval

Draft statement from SECIA regarding the killing of Daunte Wright and acknowledging the compounding impact of this with the timing of the Chauvin trial

Moved: Karl—moves to approve pending final copy edits

Seconded: Ben

Approved with one dissenting vote.

Remote-Vote Motions:

Approve Letter of Support for SE Seniors: “Southeast Elders: Safe, Engaged, and Connected”

Unanimous approval

Approve Letter of Support for Van Cleve grant for gym improvements

Unanimous approval

Approve University Area Overlay Zoning Amendment Support Letter

Passed 10 aye, 2 nay, one abstention

Meeting Called to order at: 6:35

Introductions (5 min)

Ben-- Acknowledgement of the killing of Daunte Wright by Brooklyn; consideration of SECIA response (New/emerging business)

Jessica—Draft statement to see later on to acknowledge the impact on the neighborhood, especially Black communities and our neighbors of color.

Community Updates (25 min; 3-5 minutes each for updates/Q&A, depending on number present + special presentation by Metro Transit guest)

MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative (if available)

Nick Juarez—14 for the year of catalytic converter thefts. Package thefts are up. 20 total auto thefts. So now we're just looking at delivery drivers and reminding them not to leave cars running.

Identity theft is up, computers have been hacked, and the IRS scams are up—a couple of students lost \$10k because of IRS thefts. Only 2 burglaries in the last month, so the neighborhood overall has been really quiet.

Stephen—like to thank Nick for joining us on our Safety Walk.

Thomas—Any word about the shooting at the rental down the street?

Nick—Since the landlord could not prove that the tenants were the shooters, they can't be evicted. One of the tenants is leaving but it's voluntary.

a. City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1;

Ryan SanCartier—Reich's aide. I'm a little scattered because of the Wright shooting, but I'm happy to answer questions. Had a great conversation with Jessica and Ben about the future of the Tuttle building.
Mike Swedahl—regarding the new building with the 9 bedrooms etc.—is there still an option to discuss that structure?

Ryan—Councilman Reich doesn't sit on the Planning Commission, so I haven't seen anything about this.

b. Cam Gordon, Ward 2

[Report to SE Como 4-13-21.doc - Google Docs](#)

-Cam: Just want to acknowledge the Wright shooting and the curfew last night and tonight. I'm going to promote another Ward 2 forum on Immigration Rights and issues. I also want to take a moment to mention the overlay ordinance—I'm working on an ordinance that would remove parking requirements for some buildings. Single, 2 and 3 family dwelling would be limited to not more than 9 bedrooms, but there's a potential for more if someone put lots together. I think this will easily be approved by the committee and better manage the increasing density in the neighborhood.

Also, there may be National Guard members driving around the neighborhood, and I'd like to know if anyone had problems with property being damaged in the SE Como/Dinkytown areas.

-Andrew: The Dinkytown Target Express location was looted last night, Cam. I have not seen or heard of damage to businesses in SE Como.

-Mike Swedahl—I was curious why 9 bedrooms per parcel and why the bedroom square feet calculations, where that came from and why? We're getting feedback from a bunch of people wondering what's the point of the 20/40 plan with these changes?

-Cam—Bedrooms have to meet certain size requirements in order to be bedrooms, but a den, or a dining room could also be considered a bedroom. There are some single family homes that have 9 bedrooms. By allowing the triplexes, we're accommodating density and doesn't touch the corridors. We don't want to lose affordable housing with the changes in the neighborhood plan. This is kind of a compromise to get people more comfortable with the idea of removing all off-street parking and accommodating the U students.

-Mike—It would be nice if the city could look at these projects as per-project instead of a blanket proposal.

-Lynn—They're still removing all street parking, so there won't be parking required?

-Cam--There will be no off-street parking required in developments.

-Andrew-- Have there been any discussions with renters regarding these regulations, as many of the housing regulations are directly affecting renters compared to homeowner populations?

-Cam—Yes, we got a lot of input from all, but it's hard to tell who's a renter and who's an owner in these discussions. I'd like to see a Tenant's Union put together to speak.

-Ben—Is there space in this process to allow changes, or is it locked in?

-Cam—Even once it's approved, we can go back and amend anything in the proposal.

c. MPRB, Julie Roessler, Updates on Van Cleve Site Improvements (10 min)

Multiple proposals for Van Cleve playground improvements and improved trail lighting. Survey Form on site to share feedback: [Proposed Van Cleve Park improvements and updates](#)

-Quinn--With all due respect, the rubber floors would be far more accessible. Although the chips may be ADA compliant, it is a bare minimum. The rubber allows for a smooth surface that anyone can access and it is less messy.

-Julie—I don't know offhand what that would cost, but it'd be very expensive. I don't see the way to do it currently unless we get more funding.

-Andrew--Given that the vast majority of the population in our area are college aged students and young professionals, what renovations at Van Cleve Park are directly reaching the needs of that population? It appears that most plans are for young families.

-Julie—The SW trail lighting project would be a universal improvement for all ages. With the play areas, Option 3 has a 13 and up area with equipment geared towards adults and teenagers.

-Greg: Are bike racks included in the plan?

-Julie—Not currently. I can look into it.

Announcements (5 min)

a. Meeting/Event Reports:

Neighborhood Network Mtgs / Neighborhoods 2020 update (Jessica)

1. Jessica--There are 2 proposals that will go before the Council to extend the current CPP contracts through the end of the year to allow neighborhoods more time to put together their neighborhood racial equity plans without losing any funds. The City Council is looking at four options to review in regards to increasing money for Neighborhood Associations. This requested extension of current CPP contracts would distribute funds according to the previously announced transition year neighborhood funding allocations (Neighborhood Network Fund and the Equitable Engagement Fund allocations) until December 31, 2021. Neighborhood organizations would still need to submit an equitable engagement plan as part of this contract extension, but all other program requirements would not be effective until January 1, 2022, and application forms would not be due until later in 2021. The funds allocated to the Partnership Engagement Fund and the Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund will move forward as planned on July 1. Application materials for this fund will be posted on NCR website by April 15 and informational sessions will be scheduled for the end of April. The City Council previously passed a staff directive for NCR and the Budget Office to identify potential sources of income to increase the budget for the City's neighborhood engagement system by \$3 million a year.

2. Oaks Hardware closing / Honoring Pat Clough 3.31.21 Proclamation for Pat Clough (and Frankie).

Karl—This was a nice presentation to Pat and signed by the mayor.

3. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- i. SECIA Land Use & Development Committee: Wednesday, April 14th, 7:00-8:30pm, Zoom meeting registration

- ii. Como Cares Team Work Group meeting, Thursday, April 15th, 7:00-8:30 pm, Zoom meeting registration

- iii. Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors - Como Cares/Marcy-Holmes Collaborative, Tuesday, April 20th at 9:00 - 10:00am, Zoom meeting link

- iv. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Next meeting
-- Tuesday, April 20th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference and
breakout small group meetings, [Zoom meeting registration](#)
 - v. Virtual Coffee Hour, Thursday, April 22nd, 10:00-11:00am, [Zoom meeting registration](#)
 - vi. Social Justice Study Community, Thursday, April 22nd, 4:00-5:00pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)
 - vii. Earth Day (COVID safe) Neighborhood Cleanup, Saturday, April 24th
1:00pm-4:00pm at Van Cleve Park; or DIY from April 22nd-April 24th
 - viii. SECIA Environmental Cmte, Tues., April 27th, 6:00-7:30pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)
 - ix. NEW! First of the series, SECIA Virtual Arts for Kids: "Stories About
Pets," for kids 5-12, taught by Holly Day, Thursday, April 29th,
6:30-7:30pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)
 - x. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group, Tuesday, May 4th,
6:30-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)
4. Other Developments: Garden Cleanup dates-- Accord Native Plant
Community Garden: May Cleanup, Van Cleve Park, Saturday May 1st , 10:00
am – Noon. Masks, garden gloves and tools will be provided. All are
welcome. Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden: Saturday April 24th 10:00 am -
Noon: Spring Cleanup: Gently uncover emerging perennials and trim back last
years' growth to about 6 inches. Wednesday May 12th 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm -
Gardening: Complete cleanup, plan and prepare a new planting area.
Saturday May 29th 10:00 am - Noon: Planting Day: For up to the minute info
and rain dates please join our Garden e-list with a request to secomo.org
5. Board Business (up to 45 min)
- a. Review and approve: [March 9, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2
min)
Minutes of April
Steve—Moved to approve
Ben—Seconded
Unanimous approved
 - b. Hiring committee updates:

Review & approve: Hiring of new Gardening Interns, Izzy Voigt & Laszlo Marton; and new Community Building Intern, Alex Kincaid-Beal - Welcome, Izzy, Laszlo & Alex! (Karl) (3 min)

Hiring of new Gardening Interns

Ben--Moved to approve hiring

Tom—seconded

Approved unanimous

c. Financial reports: (5 min)

Review periodic accounting report: Fiscal YTD, through March 2021; and CPP Draw #34 budget, 4/1/21 (Cody, Jessica) (3 min)

Review Q1 2021 payroll summary (Jim) (2 min)

d. Review and vote: final 2021 Good Neighbor Fund grant proposals -- in advance of final 4/15/21 GNF deadline (15 min)—total ask is under \$9k, which is not out of line with project proposals in the past

1. “Como Cares: A Support System for Neighbors in Southeast Como through COVID-19 & Beyond”
2. “SE Como Energy and Sustainable Living Fair”
3. “SE Como Organics Recycling Outreach”
4. “Works Museum”

Moved: Karl

Seconded: Tom

Unanimously approved

6. Affirm April 7th remote vote: Letter of Support for SE Seniors: “Southeast Elders: Safe, Engaged, and Connected”

Unanimously approved

7. Review Apr. 7th remote vote: Letter of Support for Van Cleve grant for gym improvements (2 min)

Unanimously approved

8. Review remote vote (scheduled week of Apr. 5-11th): University Area Overlay Zoning Amendment Support Letter (5 min) (Ben B.)

Ben--There is opportunity for amendments to this before and after it goes to the City for a vote.

Karl—Thank you for championing this process. We do need to hear from more renters in this process.

Passed 10 aye, 2 nay, one abstention

9. Draft statement from SECIA regarding the killing of Daunte Wright and acknowledging the compounding impact of this with the timing of the Chauvin trial DRAFT SECIA Statement of Response to the Killing of Daunte Wright Chauvin Murder Trial - Google Docs

Karl--Timing is of the essence in this—the sooner it's out the better.
Jessica—especially if we want to get it in the E-comotion

Motion Draft statement from SECIA regarding the killing of Daunte Wright and acknowledging the compounding impact of this with the timing of the Chauvin trial
Karl—moves to approve pending final copy edits
Ben—seconded
One dissenting vote.

Committee Updates (30 min) – Up to four (4) minutes per update

1. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group (Jessica, Laura)
Flyers and door hangers are being made to pass out to the neighborhood.

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

b. Land Use & Development (Ben B.)

c. Environmental: (Kathy K. / Peggy B.)

Stressing the Adopt-a Drain program this year. DeWayne's family went out and stenciled lots of the drains last year. We're hoping to get out earlier to do more stenciling this year.

Lila—starting our neighborhood gardens cleanup—tools and masks will be provided and everyone's invited.

2. University District Alliance (UDA) - Updates on exploring future collaboration potential with UDA neighborhood orgs (Jessica, Katie F.)—No new updates.

3. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.

a. Update: Virtual arts program launch & invitation (Holly)

Virtual arts curriculum proposal (will be up on SECIA site

[Spring 2021 SECIA virtual arts application - Google Forms](#)

Looking for proposals from teachers and people who want to be teachers in the neighborhood for an ongoing series of classes.

b. Update: Steering group on SECIA engagement with the future of Tuttle School (Ben, Jessica, Kathy K., Katie F.) The building is zoned in a specific way, but there's a lot of opportunity for SECIA in this building.

Lila—any limits put on what is possible here? Is a tour possible?

Ben—The school's not fully closed down now so that's not possible.

Kathy—the documents linked here list priorities the city has for the building. We can't get a tour until June.

[MPS "Considerations for a Possible Unused Facilities Framework" Tuttle Vacant Building Report](#)

Jessica--Let's not let the limitations guide our discussions of this project—let's see what the neighborhood needs and sculpt our plans around those.

Ben—I also don't want to start a conversation with what we can't do. There's a lot of possibilities with this property.

c. Update on mural project on west side of 15th Ave. & Rollins Ave. (Cody H.)
Cody is communicating with the artists involved in the last mural project and they might be interested in working on this. Parker and Trevor will be leaving soon and Cody is taking on all of the responsibility with this project at this point and could use more assistance with this.

Lila—The application process includes submitting a design to the city, to the

Ben: Anyone who wants to help this?

Minneapolis Art Commission, to scale, and the artists' resumes. There's quite a bit of paperwork to do with this.

1. Adjourn 8:38 (2 hours, 3 mins)

SECIA Minutes April 13th, 2021:

Note taker: Holly Day; Exec reviewed: 5/5/21; Board approved: _____