

SECIA Board Meeting – minutes Tuesday, July 13th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

(Agenda finalized by the Exec Committee 7/7/21)

Board Members: Jessica Focht-Perlberg (Executive Director), Ben Brummel, Holly Day, Thomas Weist, Karl Smith, Steve Peterson, Jim Nyberg, Kathy Knudson, Greg Thompsen, Quinn Oteman, Caitlin Johnson. Absent -- Phil Roban

Other Participants: Lila Smith, DeWayne Townsend, Wasima Farah (intern), Cam Gordon, Grace Sweeney, Taya Gilmer, Anna Novalny, Kari Dziedzic, Alex Kincaid-Beal

Meeting Called to order at: 6:30

Motion: Approval June 2021 SECIA Board Meeting minutes

Steve approved

Ben seconded

Approved unanimously

Motion: Appointment of Grace Sweeney, MSA appointed undergraduate student representative (pending requested MSA appointment letter)

Ben approved

Karl seconded

Approved unanimously

Motion: Review and approve contract hire: *proposed* [Independent Contractor Agreement for Bookkeeper Claire King](#)

Steven approved

Karl seconded

Approved unanimously

Motion: Board President appointment of DeWayne Townsend and Patricia Eliason as new Land Use & Development Committee Co-chairs

Steve: approve

Tom--second

Unanimously approved

Motion : Review and approve [CPP 6th Amendment contract](#) and [budget](#) documents

Ben—approved

Stephen—seconded

Unanimous approved

Motion: Approve Ben Brummel and Jessica Focht-Perlberg as UBS account authorized signers

Ben Brummel as US Bank authorized signer

Approve SECIA tax filings

Updated [7.8.21 SECIA COVID Preparedness Plan](#) (following updated COVID guidance after July 1, 2021)

Motion: approve as a slate and approve

Stephen approved

Tom seconded

Unanimously approved

Motion: updated SECIA COVID plan

Ben approved

Stephen seconded

Unanimously approved

MOTION: Co-sponsor Joint Ward 2 Candidates forum in collaboration with Longfellow Community Council and potentially other Ward 2 neighborhoods; League of Women Voters, not to exceed \$300 in contribution.

Steve—I support the collaboration

Ben: I second it.

Unanimously approved

Introductions (5 min)

Review [SECIA Meeting Norms & Agreements](#) (3 min)

Community Updates & Guest Presentations - Part I (up to 20 min; 3-5 minutes each for routine updates/Q&A, depending on number present + up to 20 minutes each special guest presentations/Q &

a) SD60 Senator Kari Dziedzic, 60A Representative Sydney Jordan, 60B Representative Mohamud Noor (if available)

1. Kari—we finished a special session, so no shutdown was required. My goal for the budget this year is to concentrate on people and businesses who functioned well during the pandemic with government support. We've made small steps on climate change, which is hard to do when some people don't want to discuss climate change. We made some very small progress on the judiciary budget, including regulating no-knock warrants, but there's so much more we need to do. Minnesota Student Association led an initiative lending aid to sexual assault victims, particularly underage people who might be afraid to call 911 because they might be intoxicated. We had a housing crisis going into the pandemic, it didn't get better during the pandemic, but we did extend the eviction moratorium. We're looking forward to having some outdoor town halls in the future as well as more on Zoom.

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

[Como neighborhood update 7/13/21](#), submitted by Nick Juarez

c) Van Cleve Park – Mike Fox (if available)

7/13/21 Update from Mike Fox: Van Cleve Park reopening for programming 7/19/21; for the public after Labor Day, September 7, 2021

d) City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1; Cam Gordon, [Ward 2 Report](#)

1. Cam—It was nice attending the TCE vapor pollution meeting—it's discouraging that it's still a problem. It sounds like our ordinances already require any landlord to have the EPS come in and do testing if a tenant requested it. The restoration of Como Congregational Church has not been approved by the Heritage Commission, but even though the architect was famous and some

famous people were involved with the church, there are other better examples of architecture worth preserving. Also, with some restrictions, single room boarding houses will be allowed once again, dependent on lot size.

Greg—what is the lot sized required?

Cam—7500 square feet required, or as small as 5000 feet depending on location.

2. Announcements (up to 10 min)

a) Meeting/Event Reports:

1. Bike Fest (GNF grant project) - June 12, 2021

Jessica—first in-person event. The bike repair station was very popular and we estimated maybe 30-40 bike repairs were conducted. The bike tour was very popular.

2. First Como Kids! Meetup / joint Arts programming (GNF grant project) - June 23, 2021

First Como Kids was a success—lots of kids came and did crafts and picked up free books and hung out. Holly Day made nature journals with the kids.

3. MPCA & MN Dept of Health Virtual Public Forum - June 30, 2021

b) Upcoming Meetings/Events:

1. Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden Care, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 4:00-6:00 pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE

2. SECIA Land Use & Development Committee, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

3. Drop-in Day for Unsheltered Neighbors, Thursday, July 15, 5:00-7:00 pm at University Baptist Church - Dinkytown

4. Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors - Como Cares/Marcy-Holmes Collaborative, Tuesday, July 20th at 9:00 - 10:00am, [Zoom meeting link](#)

5. Como Corner Community Garden Care, Tues. July 20, 2021, 6:30-8:30 pm, 1000 22nd Ave SE

6. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Next meeting -- Tuesday, July 20th, 6:30–8:30 pm, Zoom video conference and breakout small group meetings, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

7. Project poll for July 20th meeting: a. Como Cookout/Community Building; b. Fall Housing Forum Series; c. Como Cares Projects; d. Others?

8. Como Kids! Meetup, Wednesday, July 21st, 6:00-7:30pm, Van Cleve Park Diverter Rain Garden Care, Wednesday, July 21st, 6:00-7:30pm

9. Social Justice Study Community, Thursday, July 22nd, 4:00-5:00pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)

10. Pollinator Party, Saturday, July 24th, Van Cleve Park, 12:30-3:00pm, [Sign up HERE to volunteer!](#)

Lila—Lots of events planned—looking for volunteers for the event.

11. SECIA Environmental Committee, Weds., July 28th, 6:00-7:30pm, FairShare Farms (22nd & Fairmount) (inclement weather, via [Zoom meeting link](#))

12. Produce Distribution event, Thursday, July 29th, 5:00-7:00pm, Van Cleve Park, [Sign up here to volunteer](#)

13. Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden Care, Saturday, July 31, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE

14. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group, Tuesday, August 2nd, 6:30-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

15. Other Developments

3. Board Business (up to 40 min)

a). **Review and approve:** [June 8, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2 min)

Steve approved

Ben seconded

Approved unanimously

b). Board updates: (4 min)

Farewell and thank you; board resignation received by Caitlin Johnson,

Appointed undergraduate student representative

Caitlin—My advice for Grace: If you decided to do a GNF grant, maybe decide to apply sooner than I decided on one.

Grace—I live on 22nd and I'm majoring in Urban Studies and Economics. I'll also be helping with the Como Cookout so I'll see you all at that!

Review and approve: Appointment of Grace Sweeney, MSA appointed undergraduate student representative (pending requested MSA appointment letter)

Ben approved

Karl seconded

Approved unanimously

c). Hiring/Personnel updates:

Review and approve contract hire: *proposed* [Independent Contractor Agreement for Bookkeeper Claire King](#) (2 min)

Ben--Our current bookkeeper is stepping out and Claire King has stepped up to take over. We already voted to start that transaction procession. We have the contract to review tonight.

Steven: approved

Karl--Seconded

Approved unanimously

d). Review: upcoming intern staffing transitions

Jessica--Luis and Laura have been very gracious to give very long notices—they'll be here until the end of August. Laura will be filling in the Exec Board seat at Brook Ave Co-Op and term left empty by Andrew, so she will still be with us.

Also want to introduce Anna Novalny as our new gardening intern. Anna's role will be to study the long-term sustainability of our community gardens.

Anna: I'm at the U of M right now as an undergrad, and my role will be to compile documents and learn what resources will be needed to maintain our community and pollinator gardens for the next 20 years.

e) Committee updates:

Review and approve: Board President appointment of DeWayne Townsend and Patricia Eliason as new Land Use & Development Committee Co-chairs (2 min)

DeWayne: I see this position as a chance to confront equity issues and climate issues.

Steve: approve

Tom--second

Unanimously approved

f) Financial reports: (8 min)

Review periodic accounting reports: (draft) [Fiscal YTD, through June 2021](#); and [CPP Draw #36 budget](#); [#37 CPP Draw budget pending approval](#)), (Jessica) (3 min) Ben--With Cody stepping down, I'm leaning more on Jessica for the reports. Jessica—With no treasurer, Ben is taking the crucial role as second signer for our financial documents.

Review [May 2021 CEE Housing Program report](#) (Jessica) (2 min)

Discussion: CEE contract up as of September 1, 2021 -- Options: 1) To continue as is (but move to \$2,500 / year plus a 10% origination fee per loan (minimum = \$500, maximum \$1,500) and \$500 per grant); 2) "Pause" the contract for a set period while further considering options to modify or replace the NRP housing funded program; or 3) End the contract? (5 min)

Ben--I think we need to move this at the next board meeting after we've had time to discuss this. I think we can utilize this money effectively but I think we need to take time to plan it.

Tom—I agree—we're spending money and we don't know what we're spending it on. I think pausing would be the best thing to do so we can really plan to achieve something to do with the money.

Kathy—We could publicize this during the Como Cookout and see what people are interested in doing with the money.

Karl—Is this something that might be in the per view of the Land Use Committee?

Ben: I think there might be some overlap.

DeWayne—I think the point of the program is to bolster home ownership within the community, so maybe we can find some way to utilize the program in the Land Use Committee.

g) Q2 2021 Staffing report (Jim) (3 min)

We had 7 interns at the beginning of the quarter, and we have 7 at the end. So far as pay for the second quarter, there's been a steady progression in the increase in hours and the increase in pay. Considering that our interns have more to do this year than last, it reflects in the increase in pay.

[payroll-summary-2021-04-01-to-2021-06-30 - Google Sheets](#)

h) Financial items: (up to 10 min)

Review and approve [CPP 6th Amendment contract](#) and [budget](#) documents (2 min)

Ben--move

Stephen—second

Unanimous approved

Motion : Review and approve [CPP 6th Amendment contract](#) and [budget](#) documents

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Stephen—seconded

Unanimous approved

Motion: Approve Ben Brummel and Jessica Focht-Perlberg as UBS account authorized signers

Ben Brummel as US Bank authorized signer

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Updated [7.8.21 SECIA COVID Preparedness Plan](#) (following updated COVID guidance after July 1, 2021)

Motion: approve as a slate and approve

Stephen moved

Tom seconded

Unanimously approved

Karl—Can we do these as a slate and approve the whole slate instead of one by one?

Kathy—do we need to approve a treasurer?

Ben: Yes, but no one wants to do it.

Grace: Depending on the work, I may be able to do it.

Ben: We can talk about that later.

Ben: We updated the COVID plan which eliminates the mask requirement. It still acknowledges that we provide masks and sanitizers and requires that people let us know if they have been exposed to COVID during SECIA events.

Ben moved to approve updated SECIA COVID plan

Stephen seconded

Motion moved unanimous

Kathy—Do the people volunteering at SECIA events still need to wear a mask?

Jessica—now it's not required, after July 1.

Ben—This plan makes it optional for volunteers.

Lila—I agree but children under 12 haven't been vaccinated yet.

4. Committee Updates (20 min) – Up to three (3) minutes per update

a) Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group (Jessica, Laura; Work Group)

Governance & Finance work group update

Jessica—we are continuing to meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday of every month to brainstorm to see how we can address needs and strategies for more equitable opportunities in the neighborhood. Staff do continue to go out and work on our doorknocking/canvassing campaigns, to push our survey and see what concerns the neighborhood might have and how to connect SECIA with neighborhood.

We're also reaching out to new folks in the neighborhood and handing out welcome packets to new neighbors. The governances of the committee has been the Exec Committee plus Karl and Wendy.

Stephen: What have learned from the interns doorknocking and outreach?

Jessica—it's still a work in process. We've had a handful of sessions so far and we're tracking our conversations and compiling data. So I don't have any findings to report yet.

b) Racial Equity / Equitable Engagement work group update

Como Cares Work Group (Jessica)

Update: Call for volunteers & garden veggie donations - 1st Produce Distribution event with ESNS, Thurs Jul 29, 5-7pm at Van Cleve!

Land Use & Development (Ben B.)

Environment: (Kathy K. / Peggy B.)

Kathy—we met Tuesday the 22nd at Van Cleve and are attempting to start having speakers on specific subjects, such as solar power. We will be having pizza at the Fair Share Farm and doing a presentation of trees on the 29th, at the end of the month. In August, there will be a presentation on some of the research projects we've been doing, and we'll have pizza again.

c) Tuttle Ad Hoc Committee (Ben B., Kathy K., Katie F.)

Kathy---I tabled at the bike fest to ask people what they wanted for the future of the Tuttle building. There's a physical survey and an electronic survey. That needs to be advertised more. We need someone to table at the pollinator party as well. We're still waiting to hear when we can get into the building to take a look.

Jessica—now that the school is out of there, I think it's more possible to arrange a tour.

Lila—I know we were talking about having a table at Tuttle as well, so that people understand what building we're talking about.

d) Update: Gardens (Lila, Kathy, Laszlo, Izzy)

Lila—We had a really good group of students who showed up at the Accord Garden and the Pollinator Patch. We are all really excited to get started. We've got our water set up for the gardens, including the 400 feet of hose needed to water the Accord Garden, but the Diverter Garden is taking less than an hour of work twice a month to maintain. We're going to have a dedication soon but we don't have a date yet.

Kathy—we've got 3 people certified for the oven so far.

e) University District Alliance (UDA) (Jessica, Katie F.)

UDA support for UDA funding for feasibility study for joint University-area Business Improvement District.

Jessica—At this point, it's focused more on Dinkytown, Stadium Village, and Prospect Park businesses and exploring a potential collaborative business improvement district. I asked about the Como businesses and was told that's still a part of the discussion, but my feeling is that it's more focused on the major business districts mentioned.

f) Prospect Park Association interest in exploring shared resources structure (staff, office space) with another neighborhood organization.

Jessica—Prospect Park is hoping to do this but keep an independent board and staff for the neighborhood organizations, like Marcy Holmes does with Nicollet Island's neighborhood association.

Kathy—one of the hardest parts about collaborating with them is that they're the hardest neighborhood to get to because the Grand Rounds aren't completed.

Jessica—there's a definite interest in collaborating with us.

g) GNF 2021 - delay in grant response/approvals - expected mid-July

There's a new staff handling the GNF works, so things are delayed.

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

a) Update: Arts program (Holly)

Holly--We've folded the virtual classes into the in-person programming with Como Kids.

b) Update: Como Kids! Meetups (Jessica, Missy D.) Arvonne Fraser library's coming in August to bring a pop-up library to the event.

c) Update: Como Cookout: October 2, 11:00am-3:00pm (Jessica)

Jessica—we're having a planning meeting on the 14th

6. New Business (5 min)

Review and approve: Co-sponsor Joint Ward 2 Candidates forum in collaboration with Longfellow Community Council and potentially other Ward 2 neighborhoods; League of Women Voters? We have 2 candidates in our neighborhood.

Ben--This collaboration would not require significant work from us.

Co-sponsor Joint Ward 2 Candidates forum in collaboration with Longfellow Community Council and potentially other Ward 2 neighborhoods; League of Women Voters, not to exceed \$300 in contribution.

Steve—I support the collaboration

Ben--I second it.

Karl—we are mostly Ward 2 in our neighborhood.

Ben—I would still like to see both Wards represented.

Adjourn 8:27

SECIA Minutes July 13th, 2021:

Note taker Holly Day; Exec reviewed 8/4/2021; Board approved: 8/10/21