

SECIA Board Meeting –Tuesday, June 8th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

(Agenda finalized by the Exec Committee 6/2/21)

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

Other Participants: Lila Smith, DeWayne Townsend, Wasima Farah (intern), Cam Gordon, Grace Sweeney, Chris Lautenschlager, Izzy Voigt, Steve Weser, Allan Klugman, Kelly Agosto, Matthew Dyrdaahl, Taya Gilmer, Hannah Van Den Einde

Motions:

Motion to approve minutes of May 11, 2021

Ben—motion to approved

Steve—seconded

Approved unanimously

Motion to hire garden intern, Anna Novalany, to focus on community garden sustainability research project, funded by private donation

Steve: motion to approve

Ben—seconded

Approved unanimously

Motion to approve [SECIA's Updated Personnel Policy 6.7.21](#)

Jim Nyberg—moved

Tom—seconded

Unanimous approved

Motion: To approve [Draft letter of support for Glendale Townhomes Historic Preservation](#)

Ben Brummel—moved

Karl Smith—seconded

Motion approved with 8 ayes, one abstention, one objection

Meeting Called to order at: 6:36pm

1. Introductions (5 min)
2. Review [SECIA Meeting Norms & Agreements](#) (3 min)
Ben—Just like to reiterate: Maintain positivity and respect speaker/be an active listener.
3. 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)

- a. City Council Members –Cam Gordon, [Ward 2 Report](#)

Cam--Monday the 14, I'm doing a forum on civilian police ordinance that I'm amending. I also want people to know about the TCE mitigation efforts in the area. There may be superfund money coming from the government to deal with this. Also, a study is being made of the possible historic designation of the Glendale Townhouses, although I think I may have a difference of opinion on whether the site can be redeveloped or preserved than some Council members.

[Como Avenue Congregational Church Designation Study.](#)

- b. 4th Street & University Ave updates and Q & A, Steve Weser from Alliant Engineering and Kelly Agosto, project manager for Hennepin County.

- i. [Powerpoint presentation](#)

Steve Weser--Project objective is to provide bike lanes on one side of the street, improving pedestrian access and transit access. Bike lanes are still up to public discussion at online feedback forums on June and July, but some elements have already been finalized. Final design will be approved in June 2022 and construction will begin in 2023.

Steve Peterson—Why is a two-lane bike lane being considered for University when it's one-way car traffic?

Steve Weser—There's been a lot of interest from the City to have a 2-lane bike lane on University. The University community has expressed a preference for a 1-way lane.

Matthew—A 2-lane is more useful for the community outside the University.

- ii. [University Ave & 4th Street Improvements handout](#)

4. Announcements (up to 10 min)
 - a. Meeting/Event Reports:
 - b. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

i. Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden Care, Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 4:00-6:00 pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE

ii. Creating Crazy, Cool Characters - Virtual Creative Writing Class for Kids! (5-12), Taught by Holly Day, Thursday, June 10th, 6:00-7:00pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)

iii. Bike Fest! Saturday, June 12th, 1:00-4:00 pm, Van Cleve Park

iv. Social Justice Study Community, Monday, June 14th, 7:00-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)

v. Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors - Como Cares/Marcy-Holmes Collaborative, Tuesday, June 15th at 9:00 - 10:00am, [Zoom meeting link](#)

vi. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Next meeting -- Tuesday, June 15th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference and breakout small group meetings, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

vii. SECIA Land Use & Development Committee, Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 7:00-8:30 pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

viii. Como Cares Team meeting, Thursday, June 17th, 7:00-8:30pm: MEETING CANCELED

ix. SECIA Environmental Committee, Weds., June 23rd, 6:00-7:30pm, Van Cleve Park (inclement weather, via [Zoom meeting link](#))

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

xi. Save the Date: Public Forum with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency & MN Department of Health: Update on SE Hennepin Groundwater & Vapor Site, Weds. June 30th, 6:00-7:30pm, via Microsoft Teams, meeting link TBD

xii. Save the Date: Pollinator Party, Saturday, July 24th, Van Cleve Park, 12:30-3:00pm

Other Developments

5. Board Business (up to 20 min)

a. Review and approve: [May 11, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2 min)

Motion to approve minutes of May 11, 2021

Ben—motion to approved

Steve—seconded

Approved unanimously

b. Board updates:

- i. Farewell; board resignations received by Cody Hoerning, Andrew Norton

Andrew: Just want to thank everybody for letting me work with everyone and do some community service and outreach. I am actively reaching out to find a replacement for my position on the Board.

Cody: Thank you everyone—over the past 5 years, it's been great to bring a student perspective and a renter's perspective and form connections with all of the local stakeholders. I hope the work continues.

- c. Hiring/Personnel updates:

- i. Accountant transition upon forthcoming retirement of Elizabeth Raasch-Gilman; recommended hire of Claire King (2 min)

Jessica--Cody and I were able to meet with Betsy about helping train Claire in the neighborhood funding programs and other financial issues that might come up. She'll work with Claire for 2 months.

Cody—first meeting with Claire was great.

- d. Review and approve: Motion to hire garden intern, Anna Novalany, to focus on community garden sustainability research project, funded by private donation (2 min)

Karl—We had 4 excellent candidates for the original gardening plan, and after hiring the first two, we realized we had funding for one more. Lila and I are funding an intern ourselves to create and support the community garden sustainability research project.

Motion to hire garden intern, Anna Novalany, to focus on community garden sustainability research project, funded by private donation

Steve: motion to approve

Ben—seconded

Approved unanimously

Cody—Just want to point out that the gardens in our neighborhood are one of our greatest assets, and thank Karl and Lila for their generous support of this project.

- e. Financial reports: (5 min)

- i. Review periodic accounting report: (draft) [Fiscal YTD, through May 2021](#); and *CPP Draw #36 budget*, (Cody, Jessica) (3 min)

- ii. Review [April 2021 CEE Housing Program report](#) (Cody) (2 min)

- lii. Review and approve CPP 5th Amendment [contract](#) and [budget](#) documents (2 min)

Motion to review and approve CPP 5th Amendment [contract](#) and [budget](#) documents

Steve Peterson: approved

Cody—seconded

Movement passes

f. Other governance updates:

i. [SECIA's Interim COVID-19 Preparation Plan \(5/28/21-6/30/21\)](#)

Ben-- Staff and volunteers are still required to wear masks at events, but attendees are not. This could change as status changes.

ii. Updated employee time off policy

Jessica—our policy as it existed did address some time off for employees, but needed to be updated to include qualified sick and safe time off retroactive to April 2020.

Kathy—does this apply to part time and full time?

Jessica—yes.

Motion: To approve [SECIA's Updated Personnel Policy 6.7.21](#)

Jim Nyberg—moved

Tom Weist—seconded

Unanimous approved

g. Review and vote: Land Use Committee Letter of Support for Glendale Townhomes Historic Preservation: [Draft letter of support](#) (Ben)

Ben-Councilman Gordon has already expressed his support for this as previously stated in his report.

Ben—moved to support

Karl--seconded

Stephen voting against—MNHS authority hasn't joined in authority. The application seems to be originating from residents and not from a historic designation authority. Greg—abstaining

Passing with 8 aye, one abstention, one objection

Lila—I think on the reasons for supporting it was that it allowed residents to feel like they had their own place with a yard, and it fit into the neighborhood nicely and not just a low-income housing development.

Ben—It's been an important part of our city for many years as one of the first . Vets of WWII to current members of the black and brown communities.

Motion: To approve [Draft letter of support for Glendale Townhomes Historic Preservation](#)

Ben Brummel—moved

Karl Smith—seconded

Motion approved with 8 ayes, one abstention, one objection

6. Community Updates & Guest Presentations - Part II: Chris Lautenschlager, MHNA Executive Director, update on Exploratory Project on MHNA Expansion to serve University Neighborhood & Deeper Collaboration Amongst University Neighborhoods and Q & A (up to 20 min)

1. Chris—This is all still just ideas. Marcy Holmes has been looking at this for a couple of years. For the past 10 years, we've had the University District Alliance in response to the stadium. 10 years later, no one really knows the impact this alliance has. So we're looking at possibilities for neighborhood associations to work together, so Marcy Holmes hired a consultant to see the possibilities available to us. It's an opportunity for the Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association to work closer with the University community and the businesses of Dinkytown and Stadium Village, mostly because the businesses in Stadium Village don't have a specific neighborhood association to work with right now in regards to navigating park fees, events, etc. But this is still all in exploration. The University neighborhood is unrepresented right now. But I don't have a report or a Powerpoint to show you.

Ben—What are the 2 biggest takeaways you've gotten from the consultant?

Chris--The city is eager for the University community to be represented in some capacity. The University is also very skeptical of what this representation is and means, like someone is stepping on their turf.

DeWayne--I'm curious about the residents—I assume they benefit from representation?

Chris--The U of M hasn't given us access to the dormitories, the fraternities, and the student apartments that have no representation. We offered membership to the Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association to all the residents in these buildings, including board membership. But the U of M says they can serve all of their needs.

DeWayne--What about people not living in not-University-owned properties? There's a lot of construction going on right now, and if property owners are mistreating their tenants, I don't know where they can go.

Chris--A lot of the properties being built right along the edge of Prospect Park are having a hard time finding representation. I am happy to share more information on this when I have a real plan. This is all just an investigation. One thing our consultant was getting wrong tonight was that there's a July 1st deadline for this.

Karl--Discouraging but not surprising that the U isn't supportive of its residents.

Chris--50% of the U of M community is supportive of outside representation for the neighborhood, 50% is not.

Steve—It would be nice if Marcy Holmes would share some of their parking fees with us if we combined with them.

Karl—The other side of this is that Marcy Holmes has almost twice the population we have.

Andrew—Do we know why the University is against this plan?

DeWayne—The University just doesn't like being told what to do. This is one more organization contributing to the conversation and making things difficult for the U whether it's good or bad for the students themselves.

Karl—The majority of students live off-campus, and they don't really have representation. The U occupies a remarkable amount of space in our neighborhood, and pays no taxes for using so much resources.

Jessica—It's definitely a power struggle. I think it's important to continue these conversations. There are a lot more questions than there are answers at this point. It might even be a good idea to go back to the drawing board and start over collaboratively.

7. Committee Updates (15 min) – Up to three (3) minutes per update

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

1. Governance & Finance work group update

Jessica—last month we talked about splitting this into 2 work groups, and we've now got a Governance and Finance work group to explore how to finance some of the programs we're proposing.

2. Racial Equity / Equitable Engagement work group update

Jessica—We are designing a yard sign campaign as well as an online presence to connect with neighbors to see how to proceed with this. Alex and Laura will be heading up some volunteer training for outreach work and other community engagement projects in this late COVID post-COVID environment. Hoping to have CURA trainers come in the spring to work with us on our equitable engagement plan.

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

1. Update: Como Cares/gardening food sharing collaborative

Cody—Some of the projects Andrew and I created with Como Cares are : Food sharing gardens at Tuttle School, which will be to supplement a produce distribution plan with East Side neighborhood Service. We've been involved with Dinkytown Unsheltered neighbors, and that's been connecting with unsheltered neighbors on bimonthly drop-in dates. Our goal was to create a block-level group to meet the needs of people from each block.

Andrew: Moving forward, it would be great to bring people on board to help Jessica because I think this will end up being a lot of work with the two of us gone. Especially if we can get a Good Neighbor grant, there will be a lot of work moving forward.

Cody—If anyone know someone who would like to take a leadership role in this, please reach out to me, or Andrew, or Jessica.

Karl—A piece of the Good Neighbor Fund is going towards a needs assessment intern, so we will have intern support for this project.

Cody—One project we were hoping to work on with this is a violence prevention program for the neighborhood. Crime prevention specialist

roles are increasing with the changes in the police department--for example, minor noise complaints are being handled outside of the police department.

Jessica--Outreach volunteer sign ups - please join us!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12KrEOKWBKNg2ZWCnIfJ_zza6plo9P7BXDEASEi64IrY/edit?usp=sharing

c. Land Use & Development (Ben B.)

Ben--The primary topic for the land use meeting is Larry Crawford's presentation on the Como Congregational development project.

DeWayne--there's some talk about SECIA's office being in the building, but I don't know what are needs of an office are.

Ben--it would be nice to have something more forward facing with easier access. It's something that lets people know we have a physical presence in the neighborhood.

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

Kathy--We had our first in person meeting at Van Cleve. The big item on the agenda is the TCE meeting with the state and federal people, as discussed by Cam.

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

Kathy--We haven't set a regular schedule yet. We were planning on doing an outreach table at Bike Fest where people can take a survey with ideas.

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

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

1. Update: MPS Tuttle Garden Request/permissions process for Como Cares food sharing garden

Jessica--We may have some tomatoes, but we are still waiting for MPS on what's become a more involved project involving a schoolboard review, because it's a vacant building. Laszlo has secured and is caring for some plants that we'd like to put in the ground as soon as possible.

2. Update: completion of final 3 utility box wraps (designs voted on in 2019) (Lila)

Lila--All of the wraps voted on in 2019 should be installed this year. I'm really busy with the gardens, so if someone else wants to take over this project, I'd be happy to hand it off.

3. Update: Virtual arts program (Holly)

Holly--References on teachers checked--going to be presenting a sewing class and a drawing class in June and July. Applications for new teachers and class proposals is open on the site for the next round of teachers.

h.. Update: Como Cookout in September/October? (Jessica)

Jessica--It sounds like September and October dates are good for partners, but we need to figure out an actual date for the Cookout.

Ben--I propose an October date for extra time to set things up. Early to mid-October because of the weather.

Karl—when will the students be back?

DeWayne—Tuesday after Labor Day. They'll be deep into classes in October.

Ben—Let's come back with a date and get it in motion.

8. New project proposal: Como Kids! Tentative 1st meeting date: Weds 6/23, 6pm (Missy D.)

Jessica—This is a proposal for young school aged children with a regular playdate activity at Van Cleve. Wednesday June 23 is the tentative first date. We're going to do some door knocking and see if we can get a lot of the new young families involved in this.

9. New Business (5 min)

Quinn—I was just at Como Student Community Cooperative (CSCC)—I met this woman named Wendy who wanted to talk to people about classes on gardening. So I was thinking we could bring people from CSCC to the gardens to, with Wendy being our middle person, to offer classes on gardening.

Ben--We could put something together with FairShare, and maybe have people share their expertise.

9. Adjourn: 8:34

SECIA Minutes June 8th, 2021:

Note taker: Holly Day Exec reviewed 7/7/2021; Board approved: _____