

PPA Community Building Committee Minutes 12/6/19

Present: Jerry Stein and Susan Larsen-Fleming (Co-chairs), Britt Howell, Nellie Jerome, Amy Kaminsky, Kaaha Kaahiye, Vera Marshall, Lydia McAnerney, Bex Thomas, Lynn Von Korff

Jerry Stein introduced Kaaha who has started working on PPA Community Building efforts about six hours per week. Kaaha is assessing the potential for a PPA eviction and/or tenant's rights project. Funds for these projects would be eligible for PPA's remaining NRP phase 2 funds—funds which can only be used for housing-related efforts. These projects would be consistent with the racial equity resolution PPA's board of directors recently approved. Kaaha is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota and has lived in Glendale most of her life. She just received a fellowship to write a play to be performed at Mixed Blood Theater.

Kaaha will also be exploring the potential for an adult & youth education program at Glendale. At a recent Glendale community meeting, residents expressed strong interest in having a "Learning Dreams" project available again in Glendale.

The committee revised a draft letter requesting support for the food shelf at Glendale, approved at the previous Community Building Committee meeting. It will be presented to the PPA board on 12/9 for approval.

Susan Larson-Fleming will contact Pratt School to help ensure the City maintains the now open walkway between Arthur and Williams. Lynn will thank Jack Yusna for his work to help open the walkway.

Lydia McAnerney agreed to co-chair the "Fall Student Fest." It will be a joint event organized by PPA, U of MN student groups, and FOTHP. The event will primarily target U of M students but will be open to all. Students will be able to climb the Witches Hat Tower and register to vote on the grounds of Tower Hill Park. There will be music and food. Nellie will serve as PPA staff for the event. Nellie handed out a preliminary timeline of the proposed Fall Student Fest.

Bex updated the committee on progress made creating relationships between PPA and students residing in Prospect Park. Working with Jeremy Schlitz, University of Minnesota off-campus student housing outreach staff, PPA has created a map and spreadsheet listing and displaying the location, address, number of students, and housing manager contact information for each of the large off-campus U of MN student housing apartment buildings in Prospect Park. There are at least 6,000-7,000 students residing in these buildings. Bex has heard back from several apartment managers and is moving forward with focus group sessions to be held with students residing in these buildings. Bex has been working with CB committee members to create: 1) a purpose statement and 2) informal questions for these focus group sessions.

Jeremy Schlitz also provided contact names for the Korean Student Association and the Chinese Student Associations. Bex met with the Korean Student Association leadership and will soon meet with the Chinese Student Association leadership. She's identified several opportunities to learn from and work with both organizations and the students they represent. There are as many as 1,000 Chinese international students living in Prospect Park.

Britt is planning a CB event to take place on 4th street, possibly in conjunction with National Night Out - from the Link to the Louis. It will encourage 4th street residents to come outside on the street to meet neighbors in adjacent housing. There will be food, games, tables and more. We can obtain a free block permit to close the street as part of NNO.

Lynn let folks know to submit 2020 project budgets to her soon. This will be announced at the upcoming PPA board meeting on 12/9. The Finance Committee will meet 3:30pm Friday, January 17th at Luxton Park, just before Community Building, to review the proposed PPA annual budget to be submitted to the PPA board for discussion and approval at the January 27th meeting.

The next Community Building Committee meeting will be held 4:30pm, Friday January 17th at Luxton Park.