

Listen, learn, ask and transform how we do community work

Community Building Committee
Minutes
March 10, 2021
Susan Larson-Fleming, recorder

Attending: Jerry Stein, Lynn Von Korff, Susan Larson-Fleming, David Frank, Kaaha Kaahiye, Jenna Hoge, Amy Kaminsky, Ben Tuthill, Vera Marshall

Welcome to all, Agenda approved.

2. Renters group: Jenna and Ben

Renters who live in properties owned by Rick, Tim and Nancy Bergman, in the Prospect Park neighborhood, have been contacted to assess their experiences with the property management company, Parallel Realty. Renters have reported problems with getting repairs, feeling threatened by management company representative who are hostile to renters. Many female renters have indicated that the property manager makes them feel unsafe .

The Renters group is sending a letter to the property owners to make them aware of issues with the property management company, encouraging the owners to replace the management company. Other actions will depend on the owners' response.

How should PPA respond? First the Renters letter will be sent.

Motion put forth and approved: Kaaha moved, Amy seconded, that Community Building as soon as possible, send a letter of support for the renters' issues.

CB co-chairs will draft and Renters group chairs will approve.

Full PPA response will be sought, if warranted, after reply from owners is received. City of Minneapolis has Tenant Liaison program, a possible other source for help.

TOPA followup: no word since last joint meeting. Working draft promised has not been received. Cam has stated that any TOPA policy he writes will include public housing. SECIA is following what we are doing with the TOPA committee. Kaaha will followup on any TOPA action.

3. Glendale Historic Designation

Support documents from Cam, Charlene Roise have been produced. Kaaha noted that Defend Glendale is involved in an oral history project with the National Museum of Public Housing. Ladan has been interviewed. Can the Museum sign on to support historic designation. Kaaha will followup. There is urgency to get the historic designation issue resolved before June.

Unclear how the summer will unfold with the George Floyd trial and its aftermath.

The following excerpt from Charlene's support document for Glendale was quoted by Jerry:

Equity

Catalyzed by the events of the past year, preservationists are examining the preservation infrastructure, a product of the culture that has dominated our country since the colonial era. Not surprisingly, the existing system has led to a preponderance of properties considered historically significant for their association with people who are white, male, Christian, straight, and prosperous. Likewise, aesthetics weigh heavily on evaluations of significance,

favoring high-style buildings or vernacular properties with pristine features. These biases devalue properties that have, like the people associated with them, experienced different and sometimes difficult realities and expressed standards of beauty not conforming to “mainstream” parameters. Often unacknowledged, these people and properties have played significant roles in our nation’s history.

Many organizations and neighborhood supporters (some with **signs** and some without) must weigh in in support of historic designation. Light must be shone on the process. All will be needed when the hearing the City Council takes place. The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission has voted in support of historic designation but the City Council has final say.

Ben will contact Historic Saint Paul re: supporting Glendale.
Defend Glendale and the Housing Coalition will do a ZAP when hearing date is announced.

4. Jackson Project

Budget estimates are coming in. Fund raising is gearing up but first to be determined is who are the decision makers? Who is the fiscal agent? Looking now at a ca. 10 person representative board.

5. New/Old Business

Kaaha will send a draft of the Renters website to CB committee for feedback, in the next 2 weeks. Funds are still available for additional help. Would the Renters site have helped with the Parallel Realty issue? That was more repair focused. Good test case for website. Might be good to include more info on escrow and on 311.

Kaaha also mentioned the potential need for mutual aid this coming summer.

Next meeting: April 14, 4pm

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