



Prospect Park Association (PPA) Community Meeting

January 27, 2020

Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Avenue SE

Board of Directors Present:

1. *Eric Amel*
2. *Jeffrey Barnhart*
3. *Devan Blanchard*
4. *Becca Cowin*
5. *David Frank*
6. *Britt Howell*
7. *Amy Kaminsky*
8. *Susan Larson-Fleming*
9. *Laura Preus*
10. *Joe Ring*
11. *Robert Roscoe*
12. *Lynn Von Korff*

Board of Directors Absent:

1. *Will Watkins*
2. *John Wicks*
3. *U of M Student Representative (TBD)*

Community Members Present for Community Meeting (and possibly part of Board Meeting):

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Julie Cross</i> | 10. <i>Heather Vietz</i> |
| 2. <i>Mary Britton</i> | 11. <i>Peggy Rejito</i> |
| 3. <i>Jay Benedict</i> | 12. <i>R. Rain</i> |
| 4. <i>Jerry Stein</i> | 13. <i>Jasmin Kemp</i> |
| 5. <i>David Rubedor</i> | 14. <i>Josh Beits ??</i> |
| 6. <i>Anne Sechter</i> | 15. <i>Cam Gordon</i> |
| 7. <i>Ryan Linne</i> | 16. <i>Bex Thomas</i> |
| 8. <i>Lydia McAnerney</i> | 17. <i>Kaaha Kahiye</i> |
| 9. <i>John Orrison</i> | 18. <i>Lupe Castillo</i> |

Draft Minutes. Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm

Voting in the special election was postponed until later in the Community Meeting, in hopes that quorum would be met.

1. **City of Minneapolis guests: David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, and Casey Carl, City Clerk.**

David Rubedor introduced the Census and the 2020 US Election. The Census sets the stage for the next ten years, and it's critical we get it right. The Census is used to set legislative districts from the state level all the way down to the park board. In 2010 we almost lost a congressional seat, and in 2020 we could lose a seat in the House of Representatives if we don't get everyone counted. The Federal Government also allocates funding based on population. A lot of different groups of people are undercounted - estimated to be around 20-25%, which is around 96,000 people -

equating to \$2.7 billion in federal aid over the next ten years. Children under 5 years are the most undercounted group in the Census - this affects every community. The burden of Census outreach is now on the local level - Minneapolis has hired a coordinator to lead this effort (Alberder Glespe) to help build a base of grassroots organizations in the community to share information on the Census with residents. The Census is in English and Spanish (but cannot officially be translated into any other language!) The City is translating information into Somali and Hmong, and will have translators at events around the city to get trusted faces into the community. The Minneapolis Foundation has a \$750 grant for communities to do this work (which can be used for food). The University Alliance is also working on strategies for Census outreach.

Census postcards go out to all physical addresses in mid-March (three postcards and then an enumerator will show up April 1, if postcards go unanswered). In 2010 the enumerators were very effective, but may not be as effective in 2020. The Census will close this summer.

2. **Upcoming elections.** Casey Carl presented on the Presidential Primary (first time in MN since 1962). MN Absentee voting is 46 days long - you can request a ballot by mail, or go cast your vote in-person. There are two different ballots - one for the Democratic Party, one for the Republican Party. You must sign an oath that you are in general agreement with one party, then you get that ballot. Personal data will be “not-public,” except it will be released to the party for which you voted. Caucuses are still happening on Feb 25, then March 3 is the Presidential Primary. Census and elections are being tied together because people who are undercounted are often the same as those who don't vote. Check your registration status through the Secretary of State website.
3. **Guests from the Pillars of Prospect Park.** Jay Benedict and Anne from Pillars announced that the Pillars of Prospect Park will open soon and will welcome 283 new or existing Prospect Park families to their building. They have senior living, assisted living and memory care. They are offering an upcoming Seminar for Memory Loss Caregivers on April 2. The website is <https://pillarsseniorliving.com/prospectpark/>
4. **Climate Action Plan Presentation and Discussion.** Mary Britton, Environment Committee Chair, presented the Climate Action Plan that has been 3 months in the making. The Mission is to achieve sustainability and resilience through a local, strategic, and measurable initiative. The initial focus is on reducing residential energy use, as this is a good focus for a residential neighborhood. The Environment Committee is going to encourage households to get energy audits, to get household data collected, and to work with homeowners on reducing energy consumption and sharing data. This will include sharing info on solar panels, renovations, and other home-related energy projects.

Becca Cowin asked about options for renters, as they often are not able to make home energy decisions. The options proposed were to help motivate your landlords, get home energy audits, and investigate other resources. Laura Preus shared that, as a MN Department of Natural Resources employee, she has learned about climate change

efforts at different scales. She is interested in how neighborhoods fit into the bigger picture. She shared a page of weblinks for what is happening with climate change initiatives at the city, county, state, and national level. It would be nice to think of PP as “feeding in” to these larger initiatives.

Check out the PPA Environment Committee Website! We only reach 2,000 of the almost 9,000 residents in the neighborhood. Please email Mary if you have ideas, want to get involved, etc. Come to the Environment Committee meeting!

5. **PPA Special Election.** Eric announced that there was not a quorum to host an election. Lynn Von Korff asked all attendees to try to bring a few more people to the meeting. Julie MacKenzie, candidate for the vacant board seat, introduced herself and told a bit about her experience in working with the neighborhood, the State Legislature, developing recycling standards, etc. She is also an author and a technical writer.
6. **Community Announcements.** Jan Nelson talked a bit about the Fire and Ice Festival at Luxton Park, this Saturday, February 1, 5:30- 8:00pm. She also let the community know about the Community Connections Conference (Saturday, February 1, at the Minneapolis Convention Center) and that the Arvonne Fraser Library (SE Library) is now Open.
7. **Ward 2 Update.** City Council member Cam Gordon talked about a Carbon Tax proposal at the City, as well as a potential Sustainable Building Policy for any developers who utilize City resources. He also reported that the December City budget got some more money for SE Seniors. Vermillion development (now called the Wallis Project) will go to the Planning Commission on February 10; the project is hoping to break ground in April. The Glendale community residents discussed parking and seemed to land on the all-day, all-week Critical Parking. MPHA was potentially willing to purchase all the permits for residents in the first year. PPA can sign on, and this will help the case. Jerry Stein announced that there is still discussion on parking in one part of that neighborhood.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50

Written by Nellie Jerome and reviewed by Laura Preus.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Preus, PPA Secretary.