



PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): October 24, 2022 6:30pm

Board Members Present: David Frank, Lynn Von Korff, Susan Larson-Fleming, Dan Cross, Amy Kaminsky, Jerry Stein, Laura Preuss, Jane Stockman, Eric Amel, Jeff Barnhart

Board Members Absent: Ben Tuthill, Jenna Hoge, Britt Howell, Reed Coffin

Community Members Present: Heidi Swan, Tawana Brown, Florence Littman, Anni Simons, Isaiah Denis, Victoria Balko, Aloida Zaragoza, Qannani Omar

Call to Order. *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and reviewed the agenda with the attendees. Item #3 (Proposed Motion: to support a letter on worker's conditions at the University of Minnesota) in Announcements will be moved to Other Business as the presenter, *Britt Howell*, will be late to the meeting. *Eric* moves to approve the agenda with this modification. All in favor.

1. Announcements/Updates

Board Survey. *Victoria Balko*, Neighborhood Specialist from NCR has created a board representation survey for all neighborhood organizations. NCR completes this survey every two years. The meeting is paused for five minutes so board members can fill out the survey.

Ward 2 Update. *Qannani Omar*, assistant to *CM Wonsley*, presents updates on Ward 2. This next Wednesday there will be a public hearing for the new police chief that everyone is invited to. Ward 2 is trying to coordinate a date later in November with *Britt Howell* to have a public safety event that the community will be invited to.

2. Organizational Business: Committee Reports

Transportation and Safety Report. *Eric Amel* brings the following motion to the board on behalf of the Transportation and Safety committee chair.

Proposed Motion: The Transportation & Safety Committee recommends that the Board approve the attached letter to be sent to the City of Minneapolis Public Works, Mayor Frey, and CM Wonsley. *Susan Larson-Fleming* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

The letter about speed and safety on Franklin Avenue was included in the board packet along with archived legacy letters that were sent in 2019 and 2020.

Land Use Committee Report. *Eric Amel* gives an update on the last Land Use committee meeting letter regarding the Soo Line railroad project. Land Use was approached by a legislative advocate for the Sierra club about a merger between Canada Pacific and KCS railroads. CP corporate headquarters would be located in MN. Legislators are looking for consideration on the economic drain that it puts on MN. One leverage that emerges is that we could ask for access across this railroad bridge to continue to Midtown Greenway across the Mississippi into St. Paul. That was the point of this letter. The letter was approved by the Land Use committee and sent forward in the essence of time. The letter is part of an appeal mechanism provided in these types of transactions.

The UGarden site developer has pushback from CPED on the minimum height of the building.

Community Building Committee Report. *Jerry Stein*, Community Building co-chair, shares updates from the CB committee. On November 15 the school board will vote on naming the playground at Pratt “The Jackson Family Playground.” Susan is writing a grant for MN historical society for the photo preservation part of the project. They are going to proceed with the naming and significant fundraising for redesign of the playground and the memorial.

The committee also continues to assist PPA staff, *Liza*, with editing and input on the Welcome Packet.

Finance and Admin Committee Report. *Lynn Von Korff* speaks on the “Financial Position” document included in the board packet.

The Finance and Admin committee has been navigating the fund deficit after the 80% funding cut from NCR. We’ve gone from \$64,000 to \$13,581 total, \$10,000 base funding plus our Equitable Engagement funds. The finance committee has been working on a proposal that could get us through the next few years. PPA has increased the amount of individual gifts for this year so we are close to being on track. We only need to raise \$2500 on GiveMN. We are proposing that PPA use one time funds that we’ve spread out for several years, that we can draw on for admin and outreach. We’re proposing to spend about \$4500 from that for the next few years. Another way we are managing is by dropping staff hours. We’ve reduced them from 100% to 50%. Now we’d be dropping from 20 hours a week to 15 hours a week. If we deficit spend roughly \$1500 we can navigate roughly for the next few years until we figure out the long term.

What we need from the board now is the approval of this approach on how we will manage this decrease.

Proposed Motion: Approve 2023 financial plan. *Susan Larson-Fleming* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

NCR has a collaboration grant that encourages mergers between neighborhood organizations which would mean greater funds for infrastructure. The grant requires three organizations to get together for \$20,000 infrastructure funding.

The idea of merging with St Anthony was discussed. Lynn adds that if we were to merge with another neighborhood organization we still get the same amount of funds from NCR. The funds with the neighborhood, not the organization. Whereas, if we do a partnership, we get the same amount of money but we have the same amount of work that NCR requires. We still need individual sets of books, brands and have the same amount of work requirements.

3. Other Business

A. Appoint two PPA representatives to the University District Alliance (UDA) board.

Draft UDA University Business Improvement (BID) feasibility study. *Susan Larson-Fleming* notes that these are two-year appointments. *Lynn* and *Susan* are coming to the end of their appointments. There was a discussion with the UDA board members about the Business Improvement Study which is a response to the increasing crime and deterioration of Dinkytown and Stadium Village. The conclusion of the discussion was that this is a moment in time when the University is interested and can be tapped. One of the hopes is that Joan Gable will be directly involved. The University is interested in installing additional lighting. The intent of UDA as the umbrella organization, is to work with the University and the neighborhoods. There are funds to hire a director who will be working on this all the time rather than relying on volunteers.

Jeff Barnhart is interested in engaging with the task force but not being appointed as a representative to UDA. It was suggested that *Dick Gilyard* may be interested in the position. At this time there are no other attendees interested in being a representative to UDA.

B. Proposed Motion: to support a letter on worker's conditions at the University of Minnesota. *Lynn* proposes that we table the item until Britt is available. It is noted that the strike has settled at the U of M so the response needs may change.

C. Eric welcomes guest, Heidi Swan, from Rethos (not on agenda). Rethos is the new producer of the 2023 Doors Open Minneapolis. Rethos staff person, *Kelly Fischer*, will be working on the project full time and is available to talk to PPA about location participation. *Susan* adds that there were about 7,000 people who went to the top of the Witch's tower for the 2019 event.

D. Request for Board Member Fundraising Quotes: Why do you give/volunteer to PPA?

We are looking for two board members or committee chairs to give quotes for our fundraising letter. *Evan Roberts* and *Laura Preuss* have previously submitted quotes. *David Frank* and *Eric Amel* volunteer to submit quotes.

E. Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes

Eric Amel moves to approve the following meeting minutes: Board/Community: September, 26, 2022, Environment Committee: August 9 and September 13, 2022. All in favor. The minutes are approved as distributed.

4. Adjourn. *Eric Amel* motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. *Lynn Von Korff* seconds. Motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes written by *Liza Davitch*, PPA Staff

Respectfully submitted by *David Frank*, PPA Board Member and Secretary