

## CapitolRiver Council Skyway Governance Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, April 26, 2019, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

180 E Fifth Street, Skyway Level Conference Room B

Attendees: Charles Barklind, Wes Denning, Tabitha Benci DeRango, Tom Dillon, Andy Flamm, Jon Fure, Mark Gaertner, John Ganey, Bill Hanley, Bill Huepenbecker, Ann Idzik, Mark Jones, Kathy Kapoun, Nancy Kehmeier, Jean Krueger, Anna Lavanger, Linda McBrayer, Shevek McKee, Will Travis, and Joseph Voyda.

1. Chair Andy Flamm called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. He announced that Linda McBrayer has agreed to serve as associate chair to take on outreach and marketing initiatives.
2. Motion by Bill Hanley, seconded by Will Travis, to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed
3. Approve prior meeting notes -- a question was asked about the resolutions that were voted on by the committee. Approval is tabled until the notes are revised.
4. Chair report -- Chair Andy Flamm reiterated the role of the Skyway Governance Advisory Committee within the city. Encouraged engagement whenever concerns about the skyways arise.
5. CRC staff report – No report.
6. Hours exception request, Madison Equities -- Madison Equities representative Tom Dillon, project manager for the Degree of Honor building renovation, requested an exemption to the skyway hours of operation through March 1, 2020. Skyway bridges 33 (to Press Apartments), 43 (to Walsh and Gaertner building) and 46 (to Intercontinental Hotel) need to be closed during asbestos abatement. Dillon said the process is anticipated to take from May to the end of August, and construction after that through March 2020. Discussion ensued, centered around the initial approval of this request on July 27, 2018. The committee members emphasized that the skyway could remain closed through the abatement process but preferred it to be open during construction.  
  
Motion by Jean Krueger, seconded by Linda McBrayer, that the committee recommends to extend the hours exception through asbestos abatement or August 31, 2019 at the latest. Motion passed.
7. DSI update/Q&A -- Joseph Voyda, City of Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections, presented an update which included discussion about escalator operation hours and the Wells Fargo building fountain. He also mentioned there would be a school visiting the Speaking of HOME art project within the next month.
8. Police update/Q&A -- Commander Wes Denning, Saint Paul Police Department, updated the committee that there has been much more action on the streets because of the warmer weather. Some repeat offenders have been put in jail or gotten treatment. Winter safe space is over at the end of April, so the department is working to find housing for people who have been staying there. The ambassadors will have more of a presence after school releases for the summer. There will be a trial project with a group called Block by Block, which will put representatives out on the streets as a presence: cleaning, helping with directions; hopefully they will also be in Speaking of HOME skyways during the day.
9. Project updates
  - a. Wayfinding (follow up March resolution)
  - b. Arts & Events (follow up March resolution)
  - c. Skyway Closure Signage -- The committee discussed the resolution and made two minor changes: adding in the first paragraph, “with reasonable notice,” and adding to the end of the second paragraph, “and posted within a reasonable timeframe prior to closure.”  
  
Motion by Jean Krueger, seconded by Will Travis, to approve the committee’s Resolution. Motion passed.

- d. Street Access (Ingress) (consider resolution) – Motion by Peg Guilfoyle, seconded by Bill Hanley, to approve the resolution. Motion passed.

#### 10. Outreach presentation and discussion

The group discussed that outreach is critical to the work the committee does on behalf of the skyways. Members and audience were asked if they had any suggestions or ideas for outreach. The group brainstormed ways to include more downtown workers and retail workers, who are underrepresented in the work. This is a work in progress, and in the future there will be a discussion about outreach every meeting. Tabitha Benci DeRango, Engagement Program Manager for CRC, said she is working on updating a database and requesting permission to contact people with meeting notices and other community engagement activities. She will be collecting contact info using a Google form.

#### 11. Additional public discussion

A comment was made about doors being locked in one of the skyway bridges before midnight.

#### 12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.