

Skyway Governance Advisory Committee Minutes

September 27, 2019; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Introductions and Committee Business

- I. Call to order and introductions
- II. **Comments/additions/corrections to the September agenda or August minutes**
No comments or additions

Information items

- III. **DSI report – Tom Ferrara (will not include Skyway Hours Exception Application)**
 - The Downtown Alliance has requested copy of all easements of Skyways;
 - a delegation from Tokyo met with representatives of DSI, and the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to discuss skyways – they will be adding them in downtown Tokyo after the 2020 Olympics.
- IV. Police report – St. Paul Police representative – *No representative in attendance*
- V. Metro Transit Police report – Metro Transit Police representative – *No representative in attendance*
- VI. **Chair’s report – Linda McBrayer**
 - The Chair is working with Captain Richard Grates, Metro Transit Police Department, on a proposal for “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design” for the Vertical Circulator Building and Skyway. More information forthcoming at the October meeting.

Action Items

- VII. **Committee recruiting – Considerations for expanding committee representation**
 - The committee was again asked if anyone is connected to an organization representing our stakeholders.
 - Joel Franklin from the Community Ambassadors was in attendance, and was asked if there were any young adult (youths) in his agency who might want to participate? *The Chair will follow up with Mr. Franklin on this*
- VIII. **Skyway Hours Exception Application: 333 Sibley Street**
Action: SGAC resolution is required to process the application for a public hearing before the city council – materials are attached to meeting e-mail.

Public input on this specific issue will be accepted at this time to inform the committee’s resolution.

Overview of introductory testimony

- Representatives from 333 on the Park offered testimony regarding the application:
 - The request is that until the commercial space on the Street Level is filled, the Skyway Corridor should be closed to zero hours (of note: it is currently open Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 6:00pm only through a previous hours exception granted by the City Council);
 - The 2nd floor – the Skyway Corridor level – is where residents of 333 on the Park access residential amenities;
 - residents are nervous to use amenities due to “people stealing.”
 - Police have been called regarding people sleeping in the Skyway and for other incidents involving “resident only” spaces.
 - Because the building is currently 100% residential, there is no reason for public to walk through the Skyway Corridor;

Questions and Answers from the Committee and the public to representatives from 333 on the Park

Q: What would happen if you do get commercial occupants?

A: If commercial space was filled, we’d revisit opening the Skyway Corridor.

Q: What are the details of police calls?

A: Representatives did not bring dates or details of police contacts.

Q: What security do you have?

A: Residential staff and maintenance as security; DSI did security audit - no physical security, other measures in place.

Public Comments

- The Skyways are why people move to downtown.
- Each time there is a closure it effects the overall value of the Skyways
- Other residential buildings pay for security.
- When you close one Skyway you are decreasing the value on all buildings.
- It matters to have the overall value of St Paul be high.
- It is not fair for 333 on the Park residents have access [to the corridor] but no one else.
- Thank you to the Ambassadors; we need partnerships not closures.

SGAC Comments

- City Walk Condominiums is being used a precedent here and the concern is that this exception (333 on the Park) will be a new precedent.
- This doesn’t sound like an [hours] exception any longer - if you don’t have a need to go through it then you close it to everyone: public and 333 on the Park residents.

Committee Action

- Bill Hanley made a motion was made that the SGAC table this until the October meeting pending further study of issues of the incidents in the skyway and police calls.
- 2nd of the motion by Sana Towns

- Vote by Committee: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

The official motion reads as: “The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee moves to table the hours exception application for 333 Sibley pending further study of the issues raised by 333 Sibley regarding incidents in the skyway corridor and police calls.”

Committee Tasks

IX. Continued review and discussion of Sec. 140.09(4) – Safety requirements

The Committee has requested that the Chair meet with St. Paul Police Department, a stakeholder in this issue, to discuss recommendations on what to include.

Public Input

- X. The SGAC welcomes public input on agenda items, or new items of importance.
- A question was asked on details for the Downtown Development Plan Forum on the Skyways.
 - The Chair informed the Committee and members of the public that, rather than have a separate forum, we ask our community of stakeholders join the Forum scheduled at CHS Field on October 8th at 5:30pm where a table will be set up for input on Skyway issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27am.