

CapitolRiver Council Minutes

March 20, 2019, Board of Directors Meeting

Location: 180 East 5th, Skyway Level Conference Room B

Board Members Present: Kati Berg, Jauston-Charles Campbell, Lupe Castillo, Barry Cipra, Nick Cusick, Sandra Erickson, Tom Erickson, John Ganey, Bill Huepenbecker, Emily Larson, Amy Lee, Channon Lemon, Paul Mandell, James McClean, Crystal Meriwether, Vicki Plaistow, Jonathan Reisetter, Erin Zolotukhin-Ridgway.

Board Members Absent: Tiffany Brace, Todd Gray, Jeanne Hall, Jennifer Hensley, Maria I. Raines, Chris Smith, Alesia G. Thompson Biro.

Others Present: Jon Fure, Emma Burns, Roger Fuller, Joe Spartz, Joe Spencer, Jai Winston

- I. Past Chair Tom Erickson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.
- II. Motion by Paul Mandell, seconded by Sandra Erickson, to adopt the agenda. Motion passed.
- III. Motion by Tom Erickson, seconded by Emily Larson, to appoint Erin Zolotukhin-Ridgway, Saint Paul Central Library (to replace Amanda Feist) to the CRC Board of Directors. Motion passed.
- IV. Motion by John Ganey, seconded by Sandra Erickson, to approve the Feb. 27, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.
- V. Jai Winston, Knight Foundation Goals / Vision for Downtown Saint Paul: Mr. Winston provided an overview of the foundation's work and examples of organizations that the foundation supports in Saint Paul. The foundation's focus includes civic engagement, and he said he is excited about the work that CRC is leading. Board members discussed projected growth in the number of residents living downtown and in the number of downtown workers, and the need for more green space. The group also discussed equity and social justice, and the changing ways that people consume news.
- VI. CRC Strategic Work Plan updates – Amy Lee said the Strategic Work Plan committee met and discussed ways that board members can get to know each other better, so at the next meeting, there will be time for discussion, which will be used to create a skills, assets and interest inventory. The April meeting will be at 333 on the Park, in the Community Room, in an effort to invite more people to engage in our work, in an environment that might be more inviting than our normal conference room.

The committee will also be leading grant-writing efforts, so anyone who is interested in helping with that is encouraged to contact Amy Lee or Jon Fure. A board member mentioned that the board had made a motion to encourage all board members to make a donation to CRC, and now would be a good time to do that. Amy Lee also said the group will work on creating a board member position description.
- VII. Staffing Updates: Jon Fure informed the board that Anna Lavanger has been hired for the internship, and her working job title will be Policy Analyst. Her duties will include providing support for committees, and helping them identify priority issues and potential solutions, and then developing specific recommendations. Tabitha Benci-DeRango has been hired as the Engagement Program Manager, and her duties will focus mainly on engaging downtown residents in our work.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report: Finance Committee Motion to Hire Harrington Langer & Associates for CRC's accounting services. Motion passed.
- IX. Pedro Park Update: Kati Berg provided an update on the legal proceedings involving Pedro Park.

X. Committee Information and Action Items

- Development Review Committee: Paul Mandell, Co-Chair. The board voted in support of the following committee motion:
Motion requesting the City Department of Safety and Inspections to conduct a zoning study related to signage regulations, and to engage the Downtown Alliance and other stakeholders. Motion passed.
- Other committee information / action TBD. Paul also asked if anyone wants to be the co-chair, due to the anticipated resignation of Todd Gray.

XI. Other Staff Updates

- Jon Fure said there will be an event on March 27, called a Community Conversation with City Dept. of Safety and Inspections regarding Special Events, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Creator's Space.
- The CRC Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, at the Cabaret @ Camp. More details will be provided as they are available.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.