CapitolRiver Council Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 05:15 p.m. (via Zoom videoconference)

CRC Board Chair Shevek McKee called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. City Council Member Rebecca Noecker was among the attendees, and she expressed appreciation for the work of CRC, and thanked those who are serving as board members and who are seeking to join the board.

- Overview of ground rules: CRC Executive Director Jon Fure asked attendees to agree to the following:
  - Keep your microphone muted unless you are speaking
  - To ask a question, make a comment, or make a motion, post a comment in Chat and wait for your turn
  - Only one person speaks at a time
  - Keep comments and questions to the agenda item that is being discussed
  - 1 minute time limit per person for discussion on motions
  - If you have already presented your opinion on a motion, allow others to present their opinion or ask a question before speaking again
  - Unless otherwise noted, decisions are made when a motion is made, seconded, followed by discussion, and then voted on
  - Avoid making personal attacks or using disrespectful or offensive language

- Request for changes to the agenda, or for a motion to approve the agenda: There were no suggested changes, and the agenda was approved.

- Board Member candidate introductions. The candidates were (in alphabetical order): Joe Baierl, Tiffany Brace, John Ganey, Jess Grams, Bill Huepenbecker, Richard Johnson, Lee Knutson, Mia Laufer, and Amy Lee. Each briefly explained their interest in serving on the board.

- Other candidate nominations: No additional candidates were nominated.

- Motion by Crystal Meriwether, seconded by John Ganey, to elect all of the candidates to a 2-year term. The motion passed, and the candidates all were elected to serve as board members through the 2022 CRC Annual Meeting.

- Ideas for improving our work together: The group discussed the article from a July 2018 online publication, Strong Towns, Most Public Engagement is Worthless.

Attendees discussed their experiences working with CRC and / or other public engagement experiences. The group also discussed CRC’s work generally, and about issues that have been discussed at committee meetings and in other conversations. For example, the closing of the YMCA was discussed, which, combined with the closing of the Passport Community Center several years ago leaves Downtown with fewer places to socialize and to enjoy active living. There are some other options, such as yoga in the parks, but as we approach winter, that won’t be possible. A board member said that Creators Space offers yoga classes, so that is a potential option for people who are interested. An attendee mentioned that CRC had formed a child’s play area task force in the 1990s that eventually led to the creation of the playground at 4th and Sibley streets, so that is an example of how CRC has responded to community needs to advocate for solutions. CRC has a form on its website that allows people to submit ideas for those kinds of initiatives. A board member said an important question for us to ask in our work is, what is the expertise that the residents have? For example, based on a person’s observations, how does Downtown feel, and how do they want it to feel? Other attendees mentioned the importance of creating a culture of respect, so that people with all different perspectives feel free to fully participate in discussions and help generate ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.