

**Skyway Governance Advisory Committee**  
**August 23, 2019 – Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order and introductions – what is a strength you bring to SGAC?**

Thank you everyone for sharing. We had great responses and learned that everyone sees the Skyway system as a vital part of downtown, and their purpose on the committee to ensure the system's vitality.

**Comments/additions/corrections to the August agenda or July minutes.**

Will Travis indicated he was not at the July meeting; his name will be removed from the minutes. The chair will not send a new copy but will allow these minutes to stand as the amended record.

**DSI report – Tom Ferrara**

Tom Ferrara reported that a delegation from Japan would be visiting St. Paul to study our skyway system. Following the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, a redevelopment of downtown will take place and will include a skyway system.

Also, following a question from the committee, there is no indication that the Degree of Honor skyway will reopen sooner than December following the asbestos abatement.

**Police report – CI Wes Denning**

The skyways are reported as quieter due to the summer months with the anticipation that will change as the weather cools; St. Paul Police are working with Metro Transit Police to focus on the vertical when the weather changes; they are also working with Metro Transit Police on the Light Rail schedule change, but so far few issues.

**Metro Transit Police report – Metro Transit Police Lt. Rick Grates**

Eddie Frizell is the new Metro Transit Chief of Police; the Light Rail service hours have changed; resources have been made available to assist with homeless people on the train; will be able to report more on the hours change next month; in response to the question “What can we do or change?” Lt. Grates discussed a crime prevention through environmental design idea for the vertical that would add a film to make the view barred on the western half of the bridge glass to take the activity out of the skyway (i.e. people waiting for the bus, congregation, illegal activity).

*Update since last meeting: Lt. Grates will be providing an updated proposal on this project idea to the SGAC in October for consideration.*

**Downtown Development Plan: Skyways Public Forum; October 10; 5:30-7:00 p.m. –  
Tabitha Benci DeRango**

Downtown Development Plan has not been updated since 2005; so much has changed with usage of skyways; invite stakeholders of all realms to the forum.

*Update since last meeting: After much consideration, it has been determined that a stand alone forum focused solely on the Skyways may not be as productive as including them part of the larger discussion in the Downtown Development forums, which will allow them to be part of the larger picture discussion of Downtown's future.*

*The next Downtown Development forum will be on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at CHS Field.*

**Skyway Governance Advisory Committee**

## August 23, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

**Committee recruiting – it is important to see outreach and engagement as both people who attend the SGAC meetings but also as the people who should serve on the committee.**

**Considerations for expanding committee representation could include the recruitment of people/organizations:**

- a. Accessibility advocate**
- b. Youth advocate**
- c. Social service organization representative**
- d. Tourism/hospitality**

**Action: is anyone on the committee connected to an individual in one of these organizations they could reach out to?**

Committee members were asked to think of how we could expand our stakeholder base through either direct appointments to the committee, or by maintaining a list of who the appropriate contacts for Skyway issues are. This will be very beneficial as we begin the work on Code so that we will be able to get appropriate feedback on the changes.

### **Review and discuss Sec. 140.09(4) – Safety requirements**

**Is there a way for security to know where you are? Is there continuance means of notice (do you have to speak?) some go to 911 some go to security desk – 911 doesn't know what the skyway number is must have the address to know where to respond; no intuitive system, there a pattern but not really; may deal with what street it crosses over.**

The committee discussed its role in changing the code. There are several places throughout City Code 140 that specifically call out the SGAC's responsibility in advising the City Council on the Skyways. This is directly related to the "governance" and "advisory" term in the committee's name.

With respect to this specific code, the committee is not going to delve into requiring a 911 call box to be installed if one doesn't exist, but rather, it will focus on the esthetic nature of this code – for example, how does someone know what skyway bridge they are on (the committee was told that the skyway bridge numbers are not an indication of the location of the bridge).

This will be included on the next agenda so that discussion can continue.

**The SGAC welcomes public input on agenda items, or new items of importance.**

No input – but the chair would like to thank the members of the public who shared their vision of the work of the SGAC at the beginning of the meeting.