

April 18, 2017

Attendance: Craig, Tess, Hoka, Monica, Greg Whebbe (building NW Stryker and Annapolis), Carol S. and Robert Ferguson. Derek Johnson. Dan Haak

Introductions and approval of March 21 notes.

1. Parking variance: Greg Whebbe, owner of an automotive business, is trying to sell his building. Because of age, it may now require a special use permit and parking variance. The lot is zoned B3. The committee discussed the on-going issue of parking variances required in built neighborhoods. They were supportive of the variance and asked that the prospective buyers come to RDLU.
2. Dan Haak from Public Works attended meeting with design plans for Wabasha street upgrades. One block long, 9 foot median, grass trees, two lines south and north bound and bike lanes. Space coming from both sides will be taken to widen road. Start – advertise bids April work early July. Smith High Bridge will still be accessible. This work will be coordinate with water service work happening on Smith. Work on Wabasha should take 3 months or so. There may be an overlap construction schedule with Smith Avenue work. Road closures will be announced sometime in six weeks or so. Alternate routes? Robert and Smith. Dan went through the plans with committee. Carol asked for a wider sidewalk (6 feet rather than 5) on west side because of strollers and wheelchair access.

(Dan emailed Craig that the approved SAP calls for 10' sidewalks on each side of Wabasha, but they scaled it back to 5' on each side after our conversations with PED. Primary reason was trying to avoid the removal of trees on the west side of the avenue. Secondary reason was that 10' is part of a grander redevelopment plan for the area that can wait until it comes to fruition. ... But after discussions, no strong reason to wain on East side, so they revised the plan to put east side sidewalks at 10'.)

Monica will work with public works on getting link to city's construction website page.

3. Capital Deals has not contacted us about letter of support for the STAR proposal.
4. Updates:
 - a. Artist for Wabasha Street project: Councilmember Noecker reached out about hosting selection local artist for Wabasha Street project. Preliminary process for local artists, so more inclusive way for artist of color/west siders. City artist is handling the selection process.
 - b. Smith Avenue Bridge: Public works will come out next month to talk about the reconstruction. They will start in early fall. Open to talk about rerouting possibilities. They haven't gotten that far yet. They need to take into consideration a truck route. David Kuebler. St. Paul will be invited in May.

- c. RDLU will post on opportunity to Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. RDLU would like someone who will report back to RDLU/WSCO. Those present had conflicts. Karen said she would be interested in serving. Nancy Holman is requesting recommendations.
- d. Signage on George/State/Cesar Chavez intersection – to better direct people not to turn left onto State. A motion was made to have the committee draft a letter supporting better signage (also on Oakdale & King) second. Approved.
- e. Crosswalk area on Cesar Chavez between George and highway 52. Review should be made of cross walk needs between Ada and 52. There are a lot of families and bus stops, but no striped crossing. Motion and seconded that a study/review should be done. Approved. The person to contact on how to move this forward is Bill Lindeke, transportation committee member of planning commission. Monica will contact Bill.
- f. Monica announced meeting to improve CIB process. Meeting is on May 18th from 10-12 at ESEC.
- g. Monica commented about an upcoming meeting regarding Alamo Bar on Thursday 20th. 7 p.m.
- h. April 22nd is Earth Day. Celebration will take place on proposed greenway. Sunflower seeds will be planted in buckets to outline where park will be. Finally input session with Barr Engineering on park layout. Historian from Mendota Mdewakanton will be present.
- i. On April 26th James Rojas will be a Baker Center (6:00 p.m.) for an Urban Design through Art, Play, and activism workshop. Workshop suggestion apparently came from Mr. Rojas. Monica asked for volunteers.
- j. Monica on KMOJ 89.9 1 p.m. Sunday on equity in comp plan: “Community Voices”

Adjourned