

WSCO Board of Directors Meeting
June 8 2015

Present: Salina Amey, Matthew Bergeron , Lewis Dixon, Kathy Larson, Alicia Lucio, Armando Luna, Dan Martinez, Nancy Negrette, Nicholas Novacek Bundt, Krysten Ryba-Tures , Carol Swenson, Pam Welisevich. Guests: Tara McBride (MnDOT), Tom Goldstein (Connect St. Paul), Grit Youngquist, Jon Kerr, Diggitt McLauhlin, and Gilbert de la O.
Staff: Christine Shyne, Mason Wells

Absent: Joe Gould, Amelia Holcomb, Alice Martin, Benjamin Mike, Ruth Lott, Melissa Johnson (alt.),.

6:40pm – Called to order.

Consent Agenda (discussion)

- June agenda, May minutes, May finance report, May Fundraising Report, May Cashflow. Discussion was held about decisions made in the May Board meeting, whether policy was followed in not asking interested parties to exit prior to voting. Other discussion was held about whether Sustainable Living Committee should weigh in on development project. Monica explained that the committee had not been involved in those decisions in the past.

Board reviewed documents. Motion to approve agenda by Matthew, second by Dan.

- Unanimously approved.

MnDOT Smith Avenue Project

Tara McBride presented on a proposed project on Smith Avenue starting the spring of 2017 (tentatively), including redecking the Smith Avenue/High Bridge, five signal replacements, and removal of ash trees (due to ash borer). Tara was not sure about re-planting plans.

MNDOT will be looking for ideas as to how the avenue can be improved and will get back to WSCO about kinds of engagement that will be available for the community .

Action: Tara will check about possibility forming a task force including community members and will get back to Christine (E.D.)

Task Force Updates/Committee Updates

- RDLU
 - Sherman and Associates applied for a 6' variance for upcoming project. They will be back at next RDLU meeting with a view shed analysis.
 - A new developer came to talk about a new project 3 years out south of Fillmore (on the Flats). It will be residential, near Plato it will be higher and commercial property. A shared street for bicycle/pedestrian is being considered.
 - WSFM – RDLU voted against Dave Thune's Amendments
 - George Stryker Plan update: Hally created a current conditions memo. The Committee presented to the Sustainable Living Committee about having a community conversation about Stryker Garden as talks of development in the area take shape.
- CRIME AND SAFETY
 - A discussion about Community Impact Statements – influencing judges decisions in cases of crimes committed on the West Side.

- Potlucks: A potluck was held at 76 Baker which was successful, although a smaller group than previous potlucks. Christine is working to finalize the STAR grant for purchase of the lot, working with Dave Thune's Office. This will be a collaborative effort between Humboldt, OWL, Youth Farm, WSCO, and West Side gardeners to create an urban farm and outdoor classroom.
- There will be an SPPD –sponsored picnic in Douglas Park on July 9th – free hotdogs, etc.!

New Board Member

The newest full board member, Nancy Negrette, was introduced. Phillip Espinoza Day stepped down the previous month due to work obligations.

Connect St. Paul-Broadband proposal

Tom Goldstein presented a proposal to urge the City of Saint Paul to adopt Broadband cable for the whole city, seeing internet as a utility and a right that is necessary for jobs, students, etc.

A task force is being formed. Tom will follow -up with information and opportunities to participate in the effort.

Tom asked for the board's support on a resolution to send to the city council to adopt a plan to provide fiber optic internet access for everyone home, school, and business in St. Paul.

A discussion ensued. There was general support but it was decided the board would vote on the resolution next board meeting, when it had a chance to review the document.

Task Force Updates/Committee Updates (cont.)

- Art on the Avenue July 25th
 - Mini grants available (10 \$300 grants), deadline to apply June 17th
 - Call to artists – free for artists to show – deadline June 26th
 - Smith Hall owner open building to public – wants community input on what should happen there (currently planned for rental hall facility)
 - Volunteers needed – photographer, site management, greeters, etc. (more information after July 3rd meeting)
 - Hired Sara Udvig as Artist Organizer (through Mardag and FR Bigelow grants)
There was a discussion in the board meeting about whether the board needed to approve staffing/hires. The grant provides staff time for programming, which is what is being used for Sara's time.
- Sustainable Living
 - MPCA air quality report discussed
 - Pollinator project discussed (chemical free plants such as milkweed) to create a flyway for birds, bees, and butterflies
 - Hawkins work discussed
- Hawkins Work Group
(Matthew Stepped out at 7:40-his law firm represents Hawkins)
 - Exec Committee and community members met with Hawkins Rep and Joe Otte (from Wenck & Associates) about CUP appeal and response to questions about project and impacts. Meeting was recorded.
 - Jon Kerr presented on effort to petition for EAW – close to 500 names – to stop construction process and hold off the vote at City Council and stop appeal. Hawkins will be required to comply, hire consultant

- Petition goes to Environmental Quality Board to determine who will do assessment (likely MPCA). EAW would be fuller study answer questions
- Community Meeting held at Our Lady Of Guadalupe
- Petition was passed around for individuals to sign
- Krysten Introduced letter drafted to City Council asking for support in doing fuller environmental study of Barge Channel Road, improvement of process and asked for motion for letter to be submitted to city. Motion to approve by Armando, second by Pam.
- Unanimously approved.

By-Laws and Procedures Committee

- Creating committee to look at by-laws and procedures to update, look at election practices from other district councils and present proposed changes for Annual Meeting (December)
- Asking for volunteers: Matthew, Nicholas, Carol, Kathy, and Salina (Carol Neumann-Community member)
- Will put ask on website (The Voice Article) for additional input from community, hold community feedback sessions

Baker Center Updates

Renovation beginning July – to be done by mid-December. Christine is meeting with SPPS about moving to Baker, updates on plans (availability for meeting space, co-office configuration, etc) Will update more at next board meeting.

- Hawkins (revisited) Motion by Salina to vote in favor of EAW petition.
Discussion about signing on to document that was not available at time.
It was moved to wait until next meeting after Hawkins group provide EAW document to review.

8:40 pm – Meeting adjourned.