

Columbia Park Meeting Minutes for Monday June 15, 2020 Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Board Members: Melody Devine, Vickie Jensen, Joy Johnson, Yusuf Mohamed, and Bob Wielinski

Other: Staff: Liz Wielinski, Jim Hasnik CEE, Anne Vogel, CM Kevin Reich, Rich Waryan
Bobby White

7:01 - Call to Order for Board Actions

- Approval of the Agenda as amended by Yusuf, 2nd by Bob, approved
- Introductions
- New Business

Changing the terms of our Home Loan Program: Jim Hasnik CEE

Jim explained our current loan and emergency loan plan. This is not being used very well. The state has a program and now their rates are lower than ours. MnHousing has a 5yr plan that can go as low 2.5%. We do not have an income limit and their cap just went up to \$154,000. Some of the other neighborhoods are going to grants. Jim would not recommend this. CPNA could use down payment assistance for home loans with a 15year payback forgiveness. Could structure all loans with the 15year payback (meaning, if the homeowner stayed in the house for 15 years the loan would be forgiven). We could lower our rate or even do a combination.

Melody asked, if we do make these changes what sort of approvals would we need to go through with the city?

Per Jim, as long as you avoid commercial loans it would be pretty easy and he can provide guidelines for CPNA. He can also go deferred payments at a certain income if they match it.

Jim suggests that we get the changes done now and then go to Stacy Sorenson at the city for arranging for the plan modifications. CPNA would sign off and then submit to the city via NCR.

Currently the closing costs the borrower pays for a \$10,000 loan is about \$150.

CM Kevin Reich: City is really busy dealing with the stresses with Covid-19, the Central AV fire, the aftermath of the George Floyd death and the events and civil unrest that followed. This is where the city is focused and includes the \$150,000,000 budget shortfall and the path forward with public safety. This requires the involvement of many parties and the funding to support this work.

The city is working with MNDOT about the changes at Shoreham. These changes may really affect the Central AV side. This will interrupt the bike lanes the pedestrians and the general traffic. There is also the fear of the 29th AV NE shortcut to 35W. There should theoretically lead to a lessening of the traffic on University.

Liz questioned the possibility of the traffic from University taking 37th to get to Central. Kevin will confer with MNDOT

Anne asked Kevin about the community garden in Holland. The gardeners are having trouble keeping in touch with HNIA. This is not the first year with this issue. They have also had coordinators quit in the middle of the year. The gardeners have issues and had wonder if they could switch and be adopted by CPNA. (Anne was a long time gardener at the 37th and University site before the sale) No one has been enforcing the rules. They have water, a shed with a lawn mower, and other tools. The gardeners on the task force would like to switch to management by CPNA.

Kevin will take this on and he can moderate this with Holland and CPNA. Want this to be coordinated so the RR does not get fussy. The coordinator is Christine Brown.

Rich Waryan: 3519 Architect AV, he may be interested in joining the neighborhood organization. Rich was very involved with the issues regarding the park in the triangle. When the Covid-19 stuff started Chris Meyer the park commissioner called him about closing the parkways. Rich explained how the parkway is often the only way around when trains are crossing Central (which Chris had no idea about) Rich is and want to remain invested in the community.

- Approval the Minutes of Monday February 24, 2020 moved by Vickie, 2nd Bob, approved

- Treasurer's Report- Receive and File Bobby moved, Yusuf 2nd, approved

-Comments from the outgoing board co-chair Melody Devine

-Conflict of Interest Policy and forms motion to approve by Joy, 2nd Bob, approved

– Old Business

Comment letter on Neighborhoods 2020 Draft

Liz talked about how the new format is much more specific and lays out what is expected by the city regarding outreach and meeting city policies for financial reporting and annual reporting. The city was very focused on outreach to under represented communities to get better board diversity.

Liz discussed.

37th and University OPUS check out their project at Northern Stacks (East River RD and 694) Liz called OPUS and spoke to the project manager for the 37th and University AV site. Joe Mahoney from OPUS said they are still doing the early due diligence (site issues like the steep and varied slopes on the site, water movement and storage etc... Liz let them know that the city expects them to

include the residents in Columbia Heights as well as CPNA in their outreach and mentioned that the pollution on site was an issue for the previous developers.

-Board Elections

The following have nominated themselves ...

Melody Devine

Cass Markovich

Bob Wielinski

Yusuf Mohamed

Joy Johnson

Vickie Jensen and

Rich Waryan (nominated by Melody)

Motion to approve this slate by Bob, 2nd by Joy, approved

8:30- Adjourn, motion by Bob, 2nd by Vickie, approved