

Columbia Park Draft Meeting Minutes for Monday February 22, 2021

Board Members: Vickie Jensen, Joy Saengmany, Cass Markovich, Yusuf Mohamed, Rich Waryan and Bob Wielinski

Other: Staff: Liz Wielinski, Dan and Linda Karst, Kevin Reich, Ryan SanCartier, Gregg Graton, Jared LaLonde, Elliot Fisher and family

6:30 - Call to Order for Board Actions

- Approval of the Agenda moved by Bob, 2nd Joy, Approved
- Approval the Minutes of Monday January 25, 2021 moved by Bob, 2nd Cass, Approved
- Treasurer's Report- Receive and File- none to report -noted by board
- Open Time

Rich asked about accident on Lowry: Per the police there was a shooting, now a homicide as the victim died at the hospital following the incident.

Highlights from Ward 1 office CM Reich. The State (MNDOT) is working with the city regarding future plans for Hwy 47 (University) and Hwy 65 (Central). The need for more BRT is advancing quicker (it uses electrified buses) more lightrail like stations and Central is next on the list. Hoping to have real upgraded stations at Lowry and Central so seeking funding for that. Because the neighborhood has so much frontage on both highways CPNA should pay attention and participate.

The joint city/MWMO/park project at 5th and Columbia Parkway is still ongoing.

Rich: end date for the project? KR: slated for this fall.

Cass: When talking transportation, used to use University a lot and the #11 which now has reduced its number of runs. KR: working to change the scoring for routes to be more equitable to the urban lines. The line 10 on Central is carrying the system for this end of town. They need to work on increasing the east west and outlying routes like the 30, 32 and 11.

Cass: The idea of doing something about the speeds on 5th ST NE, we need speed signs, especially going south. When will we get these signs?

Per Dan, he has not been seeing this as much as in the past.

Cass, usually doing it during rush hour and when trains are crossing Central.

Rich: We should add this to the next agenda, Liz will add.

Kevin will look into the sign issue.

- General Meeting

7:00 – New Business

Gregg Graton and Jared Lalonde regarding the proposed triplexes on 37th AV at 5th ST NE. The parking lot area is 3 lots, which they would like to divide and build 2 triplexes with 3 car garages and an extra off street parking spot for both.

Each triplex will have one apartment at garden level, and 2 above. Looking for approvals.

Variance to replat the lots from 3 to 2 and variance for set back on 5th to 5ft from the property line. Primary concern is security. Trying to ensure that there can be 2 outdoor parking stalls between the garages for security.

Motion to: Write a letter in approval to the city council/planning commission for the 2 variances needed. Moved by Yusuf, 2nd Joy, approved.

Elliot Fisher... fence

Two years ago the house was purchased. Decided they wanted to fence the yard for their dog. The neighbors let their dogs off leash to use the field behind the printing company and the off leash dogs have been in their yard. Built most of the fencing and had some work left when they found they were out of compliance.

They are looking for 3 variances. Retaining wall on west side, fence as built is over 3 ft which is the allowed height in 2 places. Motion to: Write a letter of approval to the proper board (planning commission or zoning board of adjustment) Moved by Yusuf, 2nd by Rich, approved. Liz will work with Elliot to get it to the proper board at the time needed.

NRP: Proposed changes to neighborhood plan modification approval process

Comments due April 6th... [NRP Policy Board seeks public comments on changes to neighborhood plan modification policy \(govdelivery.com\) proposed.](#)

Staff will follow up to see if there are provisions that need addressing in a letter for March meeting.

Train Park Playground on 27th AV NE on CP property (a joint effort with the Holland Neighborhood)

Staff and CM Reich gave a short presentation about the history of the park and agreements at the site. Pictures were shown of the damaged park structures. Acknowledged CP rails need to have the structure replaced or removed. Removal seems to be the route to pursue and Liz Will have a draft of a new agreement CP is proposing at the next meeting.

motion to: Have staff follow up with HNIA about future agreement for community gardens to share and research removal costs with contractors suggested by CP. Moved by Yusuf, 2nd Rich, approved.

Dan may be able to help with deconstruction insurance as DLTL has CP policy due to rail near his business.

– Old Business

Metro Blooms...postpone again

Non-Profit status update: We are a 501c4 which allows us almost everything except charitable donations. Suggestion is to wait until the city decides their policy on food and fun before thinking about possibly changing the status to a 501c3.

Neighborhood Organization Recognition Requirements: Liz will connect with other neighborhood groups to see what they have done or plan to do.

– Crime and Safety Update

Vickie and Niels attended 2PAC, there was a speaker on PSTD and there is going to possibly be a taking away of the crime report as part of the 2PAC meetings.

From Rich: Alleyways are supposed to be for people living in the neighborhood only. Please report suspicious activity if you see a pattern in the alleys.

– Announcements/ Communications.

AFCAC Meeting Tuesday 2/23/2021 see what's happening on the upper river
Zoom Connection: Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88605275975>

Community Forum: The State of the Cooperative Economy

Join Council Member Kevin Reich and special guests from Nexus Community Partners, Eastside Food Co-op, Northeast Investment Cooperative, Broken Clock Brewing Cooperative, and Fair State Brewing Cooperative for a community conversation about the current state of cooperatives and the cooperative economy on

Tuesday, February 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 612-276-6670](tel:+16122766670),160441228# United States, Minneapolis

Phone Conference ID: 160 441 228#

Learn more about the cooperative business model as a tool for community development and economic empowerment and meet some of the Eastside's thriving cooperatives. We'll also talk about the City of Minneapolis' Cooperatives Technical Assistance Program (C-TAP) and how that initiative supports the development of local cooperative businesses.

COMMUNITY SOLAR OPPORTUNITY

Emerge Second Chance Community Solar Garden: Subscribers Wanted!

Did you know you have an opportunity right in Ward 1 to use renewable solar energy, save on your electric bill, reduce pollution and promote local green jobs? The Second Chance Community Solar Garden is installed on the Emerge Second Chance Recycling facility at 1179 15th Ave SE in Minneapolis and we are signing up subscribers now for a projected early summer launch!

Community solar gardens (CSG) are solar arrays on a larger roof (in this case, Emerge) whose electricity is shared by more than one property. CSGs are an opportunity for Minneapolis neighbors to participate in the solar energy revolution, regardless of income, credit score or whether you rent or own, and get a credit on their electric bill. And there are options to participate with no upfront money. The only requirement is that you pay your own Xcel electric bill and not a landlord or third party.

BENEFITS of Community Solar Gardens:

- Enables renters or those with roofs unsuitable for solar to use renewable energy and get a credit on your electric bill.
- Enables participation regardless of income or credit score, with a Pay-As-You-Go option that does not require upfront money.
- Energy bill credits move with you, even if you move homes.
- Make your money back (& then some...) with an estimated 8 year Return on Investment (ROI) with the Pay Up Front Option.
- Subscriptions can cover up to 120% of your annual electricity usage.
- Electricity rates are locked in for 25 years.
- Quality assurances, turn-key maintenance and energy guarantees.

[Community Solar - Minneapolis Climate Action \(mplsclimate.org\)](http://mplsclimate.org)

Northeast Winter Market

Saturday, March 6th

11am - 1pm

University Ave & 7th Ave NE Minneapolis

Parking lot of St Boniface Church

[COVID-19 | NEFM \(northeastfarmersmarket.com\)](http://northeastfarmersmarket.com)

Liz will add links to last 2 items on website asap.

- Adjourn motion by Cass, 2nd by Yusuf, approved 7:57 pm