

EINA Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7:00 PM
Grace-Trinity Community Church and via Zoom
1430 W 28th Street
MINUTES

Board members present: Julia Edelman, Paula Chesley, Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Ellen Van Iwaarden (Vice President), Cuyler Dinegan (Coordinator), Mike Erlandson (President), Quinton Courts (Secretary), Jonathan Beck, Debra Altschuler

Board members absent: Dan Sutton

Guests present: Elizabeth Shaffer, MPRB Commissioner
Meg Forney, MPRB Commissioner and Chair
Katie Cashman, Minneapolis City Council

- I. Call to Order at 7:01 PM
- II. Updates from MPRB Commissioners:
 - a. Over 450+ neighbors have signed a petition to request a reevaluation of MPRB's plan to revamp The Mall.
 - b. Neighbors are concerned that the neighborhood wasn't accurately surveyed with The Mall redesign during the process and they are unhappy with the removal of streets and parking with the redesign.
 - c. Com. Shaffer: She was not a part of the planning part design. She takes seriously the community concerns and the MPRB process and CAC process. Southwest area CAC spent 4 years collecting feedback. Now, the Met Council will be tearing up roads soon and putting in a sewer – their direction is that there is supposed to be turf on top. To change this long range plan, she would have to bring to vote an amendment for the long range plan and then after that hurdle, we would have to go through another feedback process and involve a lot of funds and MPRB staff to amend the plan.
 - d. Discussion about the orienting neighbors around the north/south side of The Mall and exactly which blocks of parking will be removed.
 - e. Question regarding volleyball courts that were part of the plan and they are actually not going to be part of the final plan.
 - f. Master plans are large and then staff and community pick and choose according to budget and realistic implementation.
 - g. Question regarding is the only way to change the master plan by amendments?
 - h. Mike relays that neighbors weren't really able to give feedback during the survey portion of the parts where MPRB was soliciting feedback for technical reasons, etc.
 - i. Ellen says this is a good opportunity to give feedback about some of the pieces. The woonerf should not be built using public resources. Another neighbor says all we need is landscaping at the top – not \$800,000 for a woonerf and turf for a street that's hardly used except for parking and access to the library.
 - j. Harvey questioned MRPB's equity matrix and the removal of parking for the renter community.

- i. Shaffer: Equity matrix is tied to which parks are prioritized first for rehab, revitalization, new features, etc. and not necessarily funding.
 - k. Deb questioned the legal obligations and the MPRB for not successfully surveying the community, as evidenced here. Also, had it not been for the Met Council having to update the sewer line, the MPRB would have left the park alone. Instead, they're using Met Council dollars to advance MPRB's master plan.
 - l. Shaffer: The main purpose of the woonerf is traffic calming. She acknowledged that the community doesn't believe it's an amenity gain for an area that doesn't have a lot of traffic. The 2011 plan had a proposal for a new plaza, which could be a solution to the east end, but would need approval and then more community feedback. This would include a bike connection.
 - m. Forney: We have 4 options:
 - i. We can amend the master plan and delete things we don't like. It would be costly and time-consuming but as for now, the plan is going forward.
 - n. Proposal from multiple neighbors for when it comes time to turf and build the woonerf after installation of sewer, etc. to not follow through with that portion of the master plan.
 - i. In addition, use the money for the "improvements" to be put
 - o. Shaffer also mentioned there was a feature with the woonerf that had an addition to alleviate the stormwater drainage issue. Neighbors informed her that after the Met Council work on Humboldt of 2023, they added a lot of stormwater drains that have resolved this issue.
 - p. Question about whether or not MPRB has the discretion to tell the Met Council to just repair what they dug out. Shaffer will check on this for the community.
 - q. Question to Meg Forney about how they could allow this to be voted on and initially she voted against the woonerf because it would make it asymmetrical but a historian already said the historical symmetry had been breached.
 - r. Mike had to end the conversation because time was running out. Mike asked the commissioners to see if there is an option to have the Met Council return what they dig to the original and also if we can amend the master plan to avoid building these components altogether. Shaffer asked about how she heard of some folks saying they wanted it pedestrian friendly altogether but the answer is there is no consensus on that thought either. We would need to resurvey the community.
- III. Katie Cashman Updates:
 - a. Safety updates:
 - i. She is aware of the neighborhood's recent robbery surge.
 - ii. She sent an update in her email newsletter.
 - iii. She was in touch with our precinct inspector and crime prevention specialist.
 - iv. Ward 7 covers 3 precincts. She inquired about how they reallocate resources between precincts. There is a new policy in place that was put in after this robbery spree.
 - v. She would like to send an email to our MPLS commissioner of public safety and the chief of MPD to possibly get another crime prevention specialist.
 - vi. She is supporting conversations working through the state for expedited processing of hiring EMTs, etc. to become police officers.
 - vii. Also she is supporting state legislation of red light cameras.

- viii. Mary Moriarty is writing a pilot of early intervention of juvenile offenders. She will present on this on March 13.
 - ix. She's working along with CMs Koski and Chavez to work on legislation to prevent auto theft.
 - x. Question regarding the additional crime prevention specialist like when, etc. Jennifer Waisenen may be retiring so we will also need to fill that position.
 - xi. Question about the bonuses for retention and recruitment bonuses. She said that the police union contract will be sent for approval and she will vote in the affirmative.
 - xii. Question asked about what the city can do to convince the county to provide actual consequences for juvenile crime.
 - She said that she realizes the difference between St. Paul and Minneapolis in youth crime.
 - xiii. Statements from neighbors about the fact that we absolutely need police, they are understaffed and are trying. "We are sitting ducks at this point and people are afraid to leave their house."
 - xiv. Another neighbor said that this needs to be escalated to the attorney general by the city representatives at the state level.
- b. Hennepin Avenue:
- i. Construction is underway between 26th and Lake St. Public works is hosting monthly meetings. US Bank has a large lot and we want to ask them to see if they can help with parking during this time to support their neighboring businesses.
 - ii. During the planning process, the city planners had said there were 800 some parking spots in different lots, etc. that were available but EINA told them that you're not going to park at the YWCA to go 4 to 5 blocks to run your intended errand. South on Lake on Hennepin the bookstore and Thai restaurant have barely clung on had it not been for being able to offer their services to vehicles via the back alley.
- c. YWCA sale:
- i. Nonprofit is called Tending the Soil and they are building a Rise Up center. It will offer green workforce training like carpenters, electricians, and union labor that will transition into green building.
 - Could have hundreds of people visit daily.
 - ii. Mike told CM Cashman to have Mike and a group of residents to talk to Sara Lopez about this.
 - iii. Part of this would be training community safety ambassadors.
- d. Paula asked about a 10-point plan for revitalizing Hennepin Ave. and she asked her to share this. Cashman said she's waiting on the Office of Community Safety to provide ambassadorship to the neighborhood. SEU26 would be training safety professionals at the Rise Up Center. RFP for pilot isn't out yet.
- IV. Consent Agenda
- a. Current financials and minutes from December 2023 and January 2024 minutes approved unanimously.
- V. Coordinator Update with Cuyler
- a. Annual donation letter is in the mail, nonprofit status approved by USPS.
 - b. Joint Collaboration & Shared Resources grant with EBMS neighborhood has made progress – a job posting for a fundraising consultant has been developed and will get posted later this week.

- c. We did not receive the Business District Support grant from the City for either application this year.
 - d. Cuyler is contracting with LHNA in addition to EINA and EBMS.
- VI. Committee Updates
- a. Public safety
 - i. We had a successful Public Safety meeting with KNO, LHNA, EINA, and CIDNA.
 - ii. Safety walks are growing in popularity – please join!
 - iii. We have called weekly to talk to Metro Transit about dirty bus stops on Hennepin Ave. and there has been some progress. They've also called back to check on their status, which is promising.
 - iv. Paula will be moving and therefore will be handing off Safety Walks to Corey (and her seat will be open).
 - b. Green Team
 - i. Lake of the Isles cleanup Saturday, April 20, 2014 from 9:30-12:00
 - c. Farmers Market
 - i. We did not get the grant for Uptown Farmers Market popups.
 - ii. Posted online vendor form.
 - iii. We did get a pro bono designer for the Uptown Farmers Market logo.
 - d. Built Environment (no updates) except that Mike will try to meet with reps from the potential new Rise Up Center.
 - i. YWCA has been broken into a lot and belongings left behind so they are not going to replace broken windows and instead will board them up. Windows take 2-4 weeks for delivery.
 - e. Summer Social dates June 26-27, 2024
 - f. Annual Meeting
 - i. 7 open board seats with Paula stepping down.
 - ii. We are opting to use the same electronic voting process for new board seats.
 - g. Old/New Biz
 - i. Motion to nominate Corey Vest to the vacant board seat to serve up to the April annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to nominate Mark Sloo to fill Paula's now vacated seat on the board. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.