

PPA Community Building Committee Minutes, June 5, 2020

Present: Jerry Stein (co-chair), Susan Larson Fleming (co-chair), Jan Nelson, Mackenzie Turner (“Kenzie”) Lynn Von Korff, David Frank, Lydia McAnerney, Kaaha Kaahiye, Amy Kaminsky, and Vera Marshall

PPA partnership with Glendale’s resident led “Mutual Aid Project”

Prospect Park Association (PPA) and Prospect Park Coop Legacy Fund (PPCLF) contributed \$5,000 of the \$5,500 funds needed for Crossing Barriers/Defend Glendale to provide COVID resource packets to all 184 Glendale Townhome public housing households located in Prospect Park. PPA Board of Directors approved the Community Building committee motion to provide \$2,000 and Community Building committee members who are also members of PPCLF strongly advocated on behalf of the project at the PPCLF annual meeting. PPCLF awarded the full \$3,000 grant request.

The “Mutual Aid Project” is a joint project of Defend Glendale and the public housing coalition. The resource packages include items such as disinfectants (wipes and spray), hand sanitizer, 5 mask, and 5 pairs of gloves. The project is called “Mutual Aid” because it is led and staffed by Glendale residents. To ensure safe social distancing, residents will help purchase products and deliver packages. Two other neighborhoods organizations have agreed to participate so far, Victory and Folwell.

Subsequent to the grant awards, the campaign to help fund the “Mutual Aid Project” went “viral” and \$39,000 has been raised! (A woman living elsewhere, unaffiliated with Glendale, was impressed by the project and sent the campaign out on Twitter where it reached thousands of people who donated funds.) The additional funds make it possible to distribute resource packets to the 925 scattered site public housing households in Minneapolis. The additional funding also makes it possible to purchase COVID supplies that were proving very difficult to obtain, such as hand sanitizer in household size containers, and to provide additional number of needed items.

PPA's \$2,000 contribution has been made to the nonprofit organization--501(c) (3), Crossing Boundaries.

PPA Census Project

PPA received \$1,500 from the Good Neighbor Fund to increase the 2020 census count of historically undercounted Prospect Park residents under the difficult conditions of the 2020 pandemic. Project activities involve working with Glendale Townhomes public housing residents and student/young adult renters. Lynn, Jerry and Susan will work with/listen to/seek advice from Glendale residents on how best to redesign project activities given we received \$2,600 less in funds than requested. Jan, Kenzie and Sammie will direct efforts to student renters. PPA will subsidize renter project activities, where possible, to make up some of the shortfall.

Community Building First Year Report

The Community Building committee year one report documenting key projects will be presented at the June 22nd PPA board of Directors meeting.

Rock the Tower

Rock the Tower collaborators will hold a meeting to decide in what form the event will be held, if at all given COVID, after the U of M makes decisions about whether student will return to campus this fall. Collaborators include us, PPA Community Building, Friends of Tower Hill Park, Luxton, League of Women Voters, and off-campus housing. League of Women Voters will conduct student voter registration at the event. The event is scheduled for October 3rd, 2020.

Student Outreach (renters) Project

Background: The largest group of residents in our neighborhood--and vast majority of renters--are students. The first phase of this project was to discover the number of students and map where they live in our neighborhood. This phase was completed December 2019. The Community Building committee created a map with each apartment building, primarily high rises, along with addresses, names of each complex, and the number of students living in each building. This information had not been available previously. The city gave the committee a count of the number of students, but that count underestimated the number of students.

The second phase of the project remains ongoing--to listen to 30-50 students to listen and learn about their lives and needs. Conversations continue using remote technology. The conversations are documented, will ensure the privacy or anonymity of student names about any sensitive issues, and each student will have the opportunity to approve the conversation before it is shared publicly.

Tenants' Rights Project

Background: This project is directed to students, especially first-time young tenants. Many are unaware of their rights. The initial concept was workshops but shifted to an online curriculum due to the pandemic and social distancing requirements, Kaaha, CB staff, has been researching curriculum resources. She is making use of materials from a wide variety of sources, including the Office of Student Legal Resources. Most of the curriculum materials have been vetted by others; an informal PPA advisory group will review the materials before they are made publicly available.

Jackson Family

This project involves researching the history of the Jackson family featured in the PBS documentary, "Jim Crow of the North." With the help and support of Jackson family members Community Building is creating a slideshow to record the family history and help raise funds for a memorial project. (Jerry traveled to Michigan to meet family members who shared family photos.) One possibility is a collaboration with Pratt PTO to name a proposed new Pratt playground after the Jackson family. Jerry has also learned that the family has a Detroit connection with Keith Ellison's brother. The Jackson's lived

in Prospect Park for decades, the three daughters attended Pratt School and the University of Minnesota.

Arthur to Williams Walkway

The walkway is complete--and is marvelous, the culmination of efforts by Community Building and others. Dan took photos of construction for the CB report and for PPA's Facebook page and those picture were posted.

Love in Isolation - Portraits of Prospect Park Residents

PPCLF funded \$500 to support the project. The committee recommended PPA act as fiscal agent, and the PPA BOD approved this motion. Background: Dan Marshall, a Prospect Park resident and professional photographer, offered free portrait photo shoots to Prospect Park community members--using safe social distancing--to help people feel connected and to document life during the pandemic. The project will include an outdoor public event displaying portraits of participants willing to have their portraits shared. The events will allow for safe social distancing. For example, portraits could be displayed on the sound wall and/or on trees at Luxton Park.

The next meeting will be held remotely at 4pm Friday July 10th.