



## PPA Virtual Meeting Minutes - December 7, 2020

**Board Members in Attendance:** Eric Amel, Rachel Coffin, David Frank, Amy Kaminsky, Britt Howell, Lynn Von Korff, John Wicks, Laura Preus, Simone Hendrix, Ben Tuthill, Jeff Barnhart, Jenna Hoge, Mary Britton, Susan Larson-Fleming

**Board Members Absent:** Becca Cowin, Robert Roscoe

**Guests:** Jay Benedict, Del Hampton, Cam Gordon, Lance Witzig, Lissa Gordon, Lupe Castillo, Julia Tabbut, Ann Sechter

**Staff:** Jan Nelson, Liza Davitch

**6:30: Meeting is called to order by PPA president, Eric Amel.** Quorum is confirmed. Eric showed the agenda on the virtual meeting screen and reviewed it. Agenda is unanimously approved.

### **6:35 - 7:00 Announcements/updates**

Welcome the new PPA Administrative and Communications Coordinator- Liza Davitch. Liza has previously worked with the Seward Neighborhood Group and brings a great set of skills for this PPA staff position. She has a background in Media Arts.

### **Update on Support for Glendale and Pratt Youth Learning Pods – East Side Neighborhood Services.**

Lance Witzig, Director of Advancement at East Side Neighborhood Services (ESNS) announces that 26 Prospect Park residents contributed so they reached their \$5,000 goal for the Youth Learning Pods initiative for Pratt and Luxton programs. They have hired a teacher from Pratt to lead it and have completed student assessments. The program is funded until at least January. They may put out another call for funding in 2021.

Lissa Gordon, Program Manager for ESNS gives updates on the program. It is exempt from the current distance learning order. Classrooms are called pods and safety measures are in place. Many families struggle with distance learning - some with language, some with technology. The program is for 1st through 3rd graders. This past Fall they had outdoor activities; a naturalist visit, cooking, picking up trash, learning practical life skills and activities that provide community engagement. They anticipate the program to continue into Spring 2021 with lasting impacts. Lissa can be contacted at [lgordon@esns.org](mailto:lgordon@esns.org) with any questions.

## **Update from SE Seniors – Good Neighbor Fund projects from Jan Nelson.**

Betsy Snyder from SE Seniors and PPA partnered together to obtain funding and volunteers for projects. They bought tools and shovels for a neighborhood cleanup. Most recently, they delivered Thanksgiving meals to 73 older adults in the neighborhood. They had 11 volunteers that helped with the meal delivery.

## **7:00- 8:25 Organizational Business**

### **Welcome to new U of M student board representative, Simone Hendrix.**

Simone is a Commuter Engagement Liaison with the U of MN Office of Off-Campus Living, which is where she learned about the opportunity to serve on the PPA board. She is in her senior year at the University of MN, majoring in sociology and minoring in public health. Her past experience in Prospect Park was with the SE seniors oral history project two years ago. The volunteer experience was an optional opportunity through a political philosophy class. Through that project, she learned about the history of Glendale from Ann Munt, and about Pratt School history and projects from Dick and Meredith Poppele.

## **Community Quick Reports**

**Renters' Rights Sub-committee (RSS) update from Jenna Hoge and Ben Tuthill.** RRS' first meeting was in November. They prepared a flyer and had it translated into Somali to build awareness. They created a map based on the city of Minneapolis public rental licenses and distributed it. They are currently getting a feel for how renters want to be involved and how PPA can help as a neighborhood organization. A current renter concern is that the Covid eviction moratorium expires at the end of December. The next RRS meeting is: Dec. 9 from 6-7:30 PM.

**Environment Committee update from Mary Britton.** The city of Minneapolis has a program called the 4d Affordable Housing Incentive with an energy efficient component. In the program, a landlord would commit to 10 years participation, agree to keep 20% or more of their rental units affordable, and can receive a tax break and energy efficient incentives. Mary isn't aware of any landlords in Prospect Park participating in the program. This is something PPA can help promote to keep low-income housing in the neighborhood, which is part of PPA's long term plan. The deadline to apply to 4d is January 8.

The Environment Committee, in tandem with MWMO and Metro Bloom, a non-profit that creates rain gardens, is looking at 3 or 4 community spots in Prospect Park to place rain gardens. MPHA (Glendale), the Post Office, and The Pillars have expressed interest so far. The Committee is preparing MWMO and the Good Neighbor Fund grants, among others, to

help fund the project. The MWMO grant request was included in the board packet. The 2021 GNF grant request is due this spring and will be for \$3,000.

**Land Use update from John Wicks.** Land Use meets next on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Committee Members will provide feedback on the proposed “Design Guidelines and Prospect Park Preamble” drafted by PPA’s Design Guidelines Task Force. Land Use Committee members were emailed drafts in advance.

Land Use plans to send a letter to Andrea Burke, Director CPED (Community Planning and Economic Development) asking to meet to discuss rules and regulations guiding development in Prospect Park’s National Historic District (there are 900 contributing properties in the district). Given the increased pace of development, it’s important CPED, developers, and neighbors are aware of the rules and regulations. PPA was notified by residents that the owners of two contributing properties, one on Orlin and another on Sidney Place, were considering demolition so bets to clarify in advance. Also, volunteer from Prospect Park spent considerable time on a proposed project at Bedford and University only to discover the development was unaware of the requirements.

**Transportation & Safety update from Julia Tabbut.** A letter was sent to MNdot from multiple community organizations about the proposed reconstruction of 94 (Rethinking 1-94) regarding goals for the project including the environmental review process and the ongoing impacts to communities. The draft letter was sent to the Board on 12/7/20 from Evan Roberts. See letter here.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ReUcjrDC\\_EaOlyFdJqmij9X1giNfeqLJIsIXAIMZcTU/e\\_ditLynn](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ReUcjrDC_EaOlyFdJqmij9X1giNfeqLJIsIXAIMZcTU/e_ditLynn)

Cam adds the link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/l-94minneapolis-stpaul/>

- Lynn makes the motion to approve the letter. Brit seconds. All in favor.

**Safety.** Jenna and Ben reported that PPA has been working with PPARO (Prospect Park Anti-racism Organization) on the public safety discussion series “Who Keeps US Safe.” The PPA board of Directors approved this project, including funding for printing and speaker fees, at the last meeting. . There will be five workshops via Zoom. They have community experts from MPD50, Open Streets, City of Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention, Reclaim the Block, and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Organization. The series focuses on what we can do to make the neighborhood safer and more inclusive. PPA and PPARO volunteers will start blasting the neighborhood with flyers.

## **Treasurer Financial Report from Lynn Von Korff.**

**2021 Budget.** There is a PPA Finance and Admin committee meeting on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Lynn asked that committee chairs, volunteers, and board members let her know their budget priorities between now and Dec. 18 in preparation for the 2021 annual budget. Lynn gave a timeline for the PPA office lease decision-making process.

The City Council votes on NCR (Neighborhood Community Relations) budget on Dec. 9. NCR funds neighborhood organizations. After that vote we will know our 2021 funding. For the first six months of 2021 we will get half of our regular funding (about \$31,500). The budget is proposed to be \$10,000 for the second half of the year. There might be increased to \$12,500. PPA has already reduced staff by 50%. We will have access to some remaining admin NRP funds.

**Report on University District Alliance.** Lynn attended the recent UDA meeting on neighborhood organization funding. She reported that UDA doesn't have financial resources for neighborhood organizations, but neighborhood org representatives from PPA, Marcy\_Holmes, SECIA, and Cedar Riverside agreed to continuing meeting to discuss how they might share resources.

**Update on Prospect Park Community Gardens (PPCG) from Eric Amel.** PPA and Del Hampton are working on garden site leases with the City of Minneapolis and liability insurance for the sites. The gardens provide residents a place to grow food directly. It was PPCG and PPA should draft an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) spelling out agreements between PPA and PPCG.

The PPCG organization started eight years ago by invitation from G4 stormwater gardens and Arthur and Yale gardens. Garden space is first-come first serve. Gardeners pay a minimal rental fee. PPCG is funded by the Prospect Park Co-op Legacy Fund.

PPCG protects the land and gardens. The City of Minneapolis requires PPCG to have liability insurance for each location. PPA's role is to sign the lease and obtain liability insurance. The insurance is a minimal expense. ( roughly \$4 a year for each location).

**Motion: Eric moves that PPA will provide insurance riders for the lease renewal for the Arthur garden and a new lease for the Melbourne garden. PPA will prepare a memorandum of understanding that describes this partnership. Susan seconds. All in favor.**

**Jan Nelson - Farewell.** Eric leads the farewell to Jan. Her last day will be December 17 after almost two year as Office and Volunteer Coordinator. Jan helped PPA through a difficult transition and the office move. She learned and performed communication responsibilities and trained her replacement. She is taking care of grant duties before she goes as well. Many board members and guests thanked Jan for her contributions.

**8:25 Cam Gordon Ward 2 update.** Council Member Cam Gordon gave updates on the December Ward 2 newsletter which was emailed to the board and published in the December PPA newsletter.

Cam highlighted some resources available to support various Covid challenges and help people who are struggling.

A new homeless shelter opened today with fifty spaces and two more shelters will open soon.

Neighborhoods 2020 made an amendment that begins during the middle of next year. They've proposed that each neighborhood organization receive \$25,000 instead of \$20,000. There are also funds to support neighborhood organizations working with community organizations on equity goals and equitable engagement funds for neighborhood orgs. There is third fund to help neighborhood organizations work with each other, for example sharing a bookkeeper.

**8:35 Other Business. Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes. Including:**

PPA Board Meeting: October 26, 2020

Community Building Committee: November 18

Environment Committee: September 9, 2020 and October 13, 2020

Design Standards Land Use Task Force: October 6, 2020 and October 28, 2020

- Amy moves to approve the minutes. Susan seconds. All in favor

**8:40 Meeting adjourned.**