



PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): December 5, 2022 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Dan Cross, Eric Amel, David Frank, Britt Howell, Laura Preuss, Lynn Von Korff, Susan Larson-Fleming, Jeff Barnhart, Reed Coffin, Jane Stockman, Ben Tuthill, Jerry Stein, Amy Kaminsky

Community Members Present: Sophia Peifer, Steve Zimmer, Mary Britton, Qannani Omar, Lupe Castillo

Staff Present: Liza Davitch

Call to Order. *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and reviewed the agenda. All in favor.

1. Announcements/Updates

Ward 2 Update. *Qannani Omar*, aide to Ward 2 Council member *Robin Wonsley*, gives updates on Ward 2.

The 2023 budget has an amendment set to pass that would provide 2023 relief to neighborhood organizations that would bring them up to a \$20,000 minimum of combined neighborhood network “base” and equitable engagement funding. Between now and June 23, there will be a deeper analysis to find a sustainable way to ensure there is healthy funding for neighborhood organizations to help inform the Mayor’s budget recommendations for 2024.

CM Wonsley brought forward five other amendments that passed for the 2023 budget. One involved public housing sprinkler systems, another a green infrastructure jobs program that will work on sustainable landscaping throughout the city. Next year they will start out with three full time FTE’s.

There was a public safety meeting with Chief O’Hara and Prospect Park residents. With regards to follow up on issues, *Qannani*’s offers her email, Qannani.Omar@minneapolismn.gov. She can follow up with the precinct on behalf of residents.

2. Organizational Business: Committee Reports

Environment Committee Report. *Mary Britton*, Environment Committee chair, gives a presentation on the “25% by 2025 Initiative” and the status of their evolving strategy.

The year 2030 is the projected year that we will have the tipping point of CO2 emissions where we will go over 1.5 degree warming. The two scenarios are we keep it under 1.5 degrees and it’s bad or we go over it and it’s catastrophic. *Mary* attended a workshop on this with Xcel, Centerpoint, Institute on the Environment and others.

Based on Centerpoint’s numbers Prospect Park has cut down 6.2%, so we are on track for our 2025 goal. Of course we want to go as close to 0 as we can get.

See the full presentation on PPA’s website [here](#).

Transportation and Safety Report. *David Frank* reports that the letter to Hubbard is going forward.

Land Use Committee Report. *Eric Amel* invites everyone to the Land use meeting on December 8th. The Profile Event Center site is now under way for development. They have approval and are preparing for demolition. The UGarden site will be on the list of topics for the next meeting as well.

In conversation with Friends of Tower Hill Park, Land Use may be trying to attract higher aspirations with development rather than waiting for them to come to us which would include connecting with developers working on inclusive housing and sustainable design.

Community Building Committee Report. *Susan Larson-Fleming*, Community Building co-chair reports that Friends of Tower Hill Park approached the committee about the Witch's Tower being open for the public to walk up to the observation deck during Doors Open May 13-14. *David Frank* is working on the application for the event. An evaluation of the facility has to be done by the City before we can participate in the event. The last time we participated was in 2019 with about 4,000 visitors to the Tower. Minneapolis Public Schools approved naming the playground at Pratt the Jackson Family Playground at their November 15 Board meeting. Lynn shared a video clip from the board meeting.

Finance and Admin Committee Report.

NCR Grant Approved: *Lynn Von Korff* reported that PPA secured Equitable Engagement and Neighborhood Network, also called “base funding,” for 2023 & 2024. Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) approved PPA's plan without revision with an "excellent" rating.

Discussion about reducing the number of board meetings: *Lynn* and *Susan Larson-Fleming* presented Finance & Admin Committee recommendations to make the 2023 staff workload doable—to make it possible to reduce staff hours from 20 hours per week to 15. The reduction in staff hours was proposed to help manage the \$10,000 cut to 2023 neighborhood organization “base funding.” During the board meeting we learned that the city council was likely to approve an amendment to increase our funding level. (In fact, Budget Amendment 25 was subsequently passed, which increased the minimum combined total of our neighborhood organization funding from \$13,581 to \$20,000 (i.e., \$6,419 more in equitable engagement funding than we anticipated, but still a \$10,000 decrease in “base” funding from 2022).

There was a lengthy discussion about reducing the number of board meetings from ten to five per year (e.g. January, March, June, September, and December, plus the May annual meeting). This would also reduce the number of mid-month newsletters. Reducing the number of board meetings by five would get us close to a doable staff workload at 15 hours per week.

If a new reduced board /community meeting schedule is adopted, it would be evaluated throughout the year and revised, if necessary. To keep board and community members informed of committee activities, staff will a) email committee minutes to board members monthly for review and b) ensure they are added to PPA's website. If board action is needed between scheduled meetings, the Board can either take the action without a meeting (See Section U, Board, PPA Bylaws) or call a special/emergency board meeting (See Section L, Board, PPA Bylaws). For an action without a Board meeting, the appropriate committee could prepare and email background materials to board members and staff. Staff will have the materials added to PPA's website, following PPA's notice requirements (see PPA bylaws) and Board members can vote electronically using PPA's Google form. This new process has been working well so far.

A vote to reduce the number of board meetings was postponed until the January 23rd, 2023, community/board meeting. In the meantime, the Finance & Admin Committee will take up the recommendation again on January 12th, specifically considering how to inform the community of the upcoming vote.

Lynn proposed a motion to revise the 2022 annual budget and 2023 financial plan:

Motion: Instead of deficit spending, PPA will request reimbursement for all eligible "admin & outreach" expenses under PPA's NRP contract and designate those funds to be "drawn on" in future years.

Lynn showed how the motion would revise PPA's approved 2022-23 financial plan. She explained that with this action we are requesting PPA's NRP funds earlier than first planned and then designating those funds to be used in 2024-2025. We recommend this action because the city is considering claiming all unused neighborhood organization phase 1/2 NRP funds. If they do, we could lose the \$4,500 per year we need to make ends meet. Our NRP contract has been extended through 12/31/23 so there's no risk until 2024, but without these funds we'd face another major funding crisis.

***Lynn* presented a motion to permit PPA staff to carry over an extra 20 hours of accrued vacation time into 2023 to use by 1/31/23.**

2023 annual budget announcements: *Lynn* requested that board and committee member submit their 2023 budget items by January 6th, 2023 to finance@prospectparkmpls.org or vonko0002@umn.edu. The Finance Committee will meet to review and approve PPA's 2023 budget on January 12th so the board can approve it on January 23rd. PPA also has one-time NRP community building/outreach funds available so please let us know if you have outreach activities or projects for 2023.

Fundraising update: PPA has \$500 left to raise by the end of this month to reach our 2022 fundraising goal.

3. Other Business

Appoint two UDA Representatives.

Proposed Motion: PPA appoints *Jeff Barnart* as UDA representative and the second seat is TBD.
Susan Larson-Fleming seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Convene Board Election Nominating Committee. *Lynn* will work with *Liza* to put together the timeline for the election and job responsibilities for volunteers.

David is willing to work on the committee again but needs at least one more board volunteer.

Jane suggests a community engagement event the month before the election to get the word out and make sure we reach out inclusive and broadly. *Eric* is willing to help when he can.

Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes

Eric Amel moves to approve the following minutes: Board/Community Meeting: October 24, 2022, Board Minutes: Electronic Votes: September 28, 2022, Board Minutes: Electronic Votes: November 20, 2022, Community Building: October 6 and November 3, 2022, Land Use: September and October 13, 2022, Finance and Admin: October 27, 2022.

Adjourn. *Eric Amel* motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes written by *Liza Davitch*, PPA Staff

Respectfully submitted by *David Frank*, PPA Board Member and Secretary