

PPA Community Building Committee Minutes, April 17th, 2020

Present: Jerry Stein, Susan Larson Fleming, Mary Britton, Lynn Von Korff, Dan Marshall, David Frank, Lydia McAnerney, Kaaha Kaahiye, Amy Kaminsky, Margy Stein, and Britt Howell

Brief Summary:

- 1) update on Committee work; a written year one report will follow,
- 2) motion for PPA to provide \$2,000 in support for a "Mutual Aid Project"
- 3) motion for PPA to act as fiscal agent for the "Love in Isolation: Portraits of Prospect Park Residents" project, if funded by other sources.

Community Building approved both motions.

1. Community Building Update and Report

The Community Building committee will prepare a year one report documenting key projects. The report will be shared information with PPA members and, where useful, with the city of Minneapolis and community organizations.

Updates on Key Community Building Projects:

A. Student (renters) Project

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 is ongoing--to listen to 30-50 students to listen and learn about their lives and needs. Five interviews have been conducted to date. Conversations will continue using remote technology. The conversations are documented. Amy asked that we ensure the privacy or anonymity of student names about any sensitive issues. Each student will have the opportunity to approve the conversation before it is shared publicly.

B. Tenants' Rights Project

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.

C. National Night Out event, North of University

Due to the pandemic, this event planned for August, might not go forward, Britt is collecting letters of support and working closely with the police department, Pillars, Surly, and other businesses North of University. The conception is community coming together. NNO block parties are evidently being postponed.

D. Rock the Tower,

GNF and PPCLF grants for this event are complete. Lydia got letters of support from the Friends of Tower Hill Park, Luxton, League of Women Voters, and is working with off-campus housing. League of Women Voters will conduct student voter registration at the event. The event is scheduled for October 3rd, 2020.

Lydia and Jan were instrumental in pulling together the Rock the Tower grants after Nellie left. The committee extends its sincere appreciation to PPA staff, Jan Nelson, for her help preparing these grant submissions.

E. Williams - Arthur Walkway

The walkway is under construction, the culmination of many efforts by Community Building. Dan will take photos of construction for the CB report and for PPA's facebook page.

F. Relationship with Glendale Residents

As described in previous updates, projects include:

- Helping facilitate extended hours and days for critical parking
- Support for Food Shelf
- Tenants' Rights Project
- Learning Dreams project for Glendale residents to take place in in Glendale

2. PPA Support for "Mutual Aid Project"

MOTION: The committee recommends PPA provide \$2,000 in funding to Crossing Barriers to provide resource boxes to 184 household in Glendale Townhomes Public Housing Development. Motion, Susan Larson-Fleming, 2nd Amy Kaminsky. The committee approved the motion.

This is a joint project of Defend Glendale and the public housing coalition. PPA's role would be to provide funding for resource packages for 184 Glendale households. The resource packages will include items such as cleaning supplies, masks, and toilet paper. The project is called "Mutual Aid" because residents will participate as volunteers. To ensure safe social distancing, residents will help purchase products and deliver packages. Each package will have a value of about \$30. Total funding required is about \$5,500 (\$30 x 184 households). The remaining funds will be requested from PPCLF, among others. The partners will also seek donated items. Two neighborhoods organizations have agreed to participate so far, Victory and Folwell. This project is part

of a wider effort to deliver resource packages to 930 households, including “scattered sites” in Minneapolis.

PPA's contribution would be made to the nonprofit organization--501(c) (3), Crossing Boundaries. Crossing Boundaries will prepare a final report, document how PPA funds were spent.

3. *Love in Isolation - Portraits of Prospect Park Residents*

MOTION: The Committee recommends PPA act as fiscal agent for "Love in Isolation - Portraits of Prospect Park Residents." Dan Marshall, a professional photographer, is taking photo portraits of Prospect Park Neighborhood residents, including residents who live in Glendale, North of University, historic Prospect Park, Stadium Village, etc. He plans to seek funding from PPCLC or the GNF. Motion: Susan Larson Fleming. 2nd: Lynn Von Korff

The committee recommends PPA act as fiscal agent, if a grant is awarded.

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. He's taken portraits of about 12 to 18 groups so far. He'd like to be able to continue this project. If funded, the project will include a 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. Dan will prepare a grant request to PPCLF or Good Neighbor Fund. Lydia offered to help.