

Community Building Committee  
Minutes, October 7, 2020  
Susan Larson-Fleming, recorder

Attending: Jerry Stein, Susan Larson-Fleming, Lynn Von Korff, Kyra Nygard, David Frank, Jenna Hoge, Kaaha Kaahiye, Vera Marshall, Ben Tuthill, Amy Kaminsky, Jeremy Schlitz

1. Jerry welcomed all, presented agenda, asked for additions. Hearing none he noted that minutes from the last meeting had been sent out. No changes were noted.
2. Jackson project update: Jerry met with committee looking at Pratt playground redo, now called the Village Green, harkening back to old NRP days and recognizing the community component of the Pratt project. With the inclusion of members of the Transportation committee, changes to street configurations will also be part of this project. The tower hill area cross Malcolm from the school has been looked at as a possible natural extension of playground area. Carrie Christensen from the Park Board will help to draw up a plan for clearing buck thorn and brush from a portion of the hillside, using community muscle. An insurance waiver, covering Community volunteers, will be sought from PPA. **Motion: Community Building will seek info as to what is needed by Park Board to complete the cutting and trimming project. Passed.** Alison Bell will coordinate with the Garden Club . Vera noted that they are ready to help. Jerry is on the agenda for the next Pratt PTO meeting to present about the Jackson family and their ties to Pratt. Jerry and Lynn spoke with Bob Cooper of Neighborhood and Community relations about possible funding sources with the neighborhood's NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Plan) for the project.
3. Jackson Slide show. Committee got an early peek at the slide presentation put together by Jerry with help from Kyra Nygard. This will be ready for the PTO presentation.
4. University District Alliance. Susan noted that UDA has originally been formed to mitigate effects on University neighborhoods of the football stadium, subsequently used for several years by the Minnesota Vikings before completion of their stadium. In recent years the organization has not been especially active but a push to revitalize it has begun. PPA has two representatives whose terms will be up by the end of the year. PPA has been asked to appoint two representatives. Approval by PPA board needed at October meeting. This is a chance to do more that promote development and working with this committee fits in with the goals of the Community Building committee and will enhance our relationship with the other University neighborhoods, expanding beyond development issues to the social capital issues we are working with. Susan and Lynn have indicated their wish to serve on the UDA. **Motion: Community Building Committee recommends to the PPA Board that Susan Larson-Fleming and Lynn Von Korff be appointed to the UDA board as PPA representatives. Passed.**
5. Tenants' Rights subcommittee: Jenna and Ben noted that their priorities are to engage fellow renters and add a landing page to the PPA website. As part of engagement a flyer will be created with a survey. The landing page on the website will help with information gathering. Identification of large landlords will help to target flyers more efficiently. Kaaha note that through her work on tenants rights she has drafted a survey which she will send to Ben and Jenna. Property inspectors and housing liaisons at the City have also been initially contacted. Jeremy and Kaaha will pool their resources with Ben and Jenna, allowing for expanded areas of coverage. Lynn will help with budget for the Tenants'rights subcommittee. Kaaha also suggested that the Public Housing subcommittee be for the time being, part of the larger Tenants'Rights subcommittee. As more public housing residents become involved with neighborhood work, a public housing subgroup can be

spun off on its own. **Motion: to fold Public Housing subgroup into Tenants' Rights subcommittee. Passed.**

6. Learning Dreams. Jerry noted that a survey of educational resources in the Glendale community had not yet been completed. Although agreed upon by MPHA, action has not happened. Jerry will talk with again Malik, MPHA Glendale administrator. Kyra talked about a proposed photo class with Glendale youth, with the theme of sharing stories. This is a possible pilot program in conjunction with Learning Dreams. Kyra has been brainstorming with St. Paul artist Amanda Lovely about how such a program could be constructed. Cameras or smartphones could be used. Luxton Park has expressed interest in becoming involved.
7. New Business. There was a discussion about the need for translation needed for the Community Building committee. This is a concern for the entire organization if we are determined to have wider community participation. **Motion: The Community Building committee urges the PPA board to establish an adhoc committee to put together guidelines for translation and interpretation. Passed.**
8. Kaaha noted that she will be giving another online presentation on Public Housing issues.
9. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 4pm.