

Community Building 7/14/2021

Attending: Krystle D'Alencar, David Frank, Jenna Hoge, Kaaha Kaahiye, Amy Kaminsky, Susan Larson-Fleming, Vera Marshall, Kyra Nygaard, Joe Ring, Ben Tuthill, Lynn Von Korff, Ashley Zapata

1. Minutes and agenda approved

2. GLEDNDALE: Susan discussed the "Glendale fiasco". (The Local Historic Designation of the Glendale Townhomes). There is a large paragraph about it in Cam Gordon's second ward newsletter. [See addendum below.] The upshot is they decided not to decide. They tabled it which means it can come up again. Kaaha said this is a delaying tactic the city council has used before on public housing issues. Her new strategy is to put before the city council or the Business, Inspections, Housing & Zoning (BIHZ) committee a resolution that Glendale always remain in the public domain. Joe Ring strongly commended Kaaha's work on the resolution and was critical of the way the city council is dealing with this issue.

3. RENTERS AND TENANTS COMMITTEE: The language included here will be sent to the board for inclusion at the next board meeting:

"that the Prospect Park Association Board of Directors endorse and publicly sign the anti-displacement agenda promoted by United Renters for Justice (IX), which includes the following points:

- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance
- Renter stabilizations charter amendment on the 2021 ballot
- Passage of Just Cause Eviction Protection Ordinance
- Passage of Pre-Eviction Notification/Right to Cure Ordinance
- Passage of resolution and MOU to rescind privatization of public housing through RAD and Section 18 Demolition and to keep public housing public."

[Note: This motion was approved at the board meeting of July 26, 2021.]

There will no longer be a standing committee of renters, but outreach will continue. Lynn commented that it's hard to reach renters and perhaps we can provide staff support, using NRP money. Susan commended Jenna and Ben on the work they have done.

4. LP PHOTO SQUAD Kira is teaching an eight week digital photography class to about student 9 to 13 students per week. There is the possibility of taking the students up the tower.

This past week Sarah Nassif taught a class on photograms, using screen printing on t-shirts.

[Note: a photogram is a picture produced with photographic materials, such as light-sensitive paper, but without a camera.]

5. ASHLEY ZAPATA discussed the Jackson project. Her presentation is admirably summarized in these excellent slides:



Jackson Family & Prospect Park/Pratt

In 1908, Madison and Amy Woods Jackson moved into the Prospect Park neighborhood with their three young daughters, Marvel, Helen, and Zelma. The Jackson's were the first African American family to move into the all-white neighborhood. At this time, only 2,700 Black people lived in Minneapolis.

Their daughters were the first African American children to attend Pratt Community School.

Soon after they moved in, the Jackson family was subject to discrimination, harassment, and daily threats trying to get them to leave the neighborhood. One such threat came during a demonstration in which Madison Jackson was told "your children will not have anybody to play with". As a concerned father, he considered this and decided to build a playground in their backyard that was open to all of the children in the neighborhood. And the children did come and play, with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts.

The Jackson's lived in Prospect Park for 20 years, until the time of the father's death.

Formed to remember, learn, & connect

Earlier in the school year we recommended that the Pratt PTO actively support the memorialization of the Jackson Family by aiding in raising funds for, and supporting the development of, a playground and memorial in the family's name.



This project is intended to serve the students of Pratt Community School and within the Prospect Park neighborhood by providing a safe, engaging, and innovative play space in addition to, educational opportunities to learn about the rich racial history of the community.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: Several members expressed frustration about how the renters motion was dealt with at the last community/board meeting. On a positive note, Joe Ring stated how inspired he was by the work being done by young people in the organization.

Next meeting Aug 18, 4:30 PM

Addendum -- From Cam Gordon's newsletter:

The Local Historic Designation of the Glendale Townhomes was considered by the Council's Business Inspections, Housing and Zoning Committee in June. It was opposed by City Staff, the property owner (the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority) and 4 members of the Committee. Following a lengthy discussion, I was unsuccessful in getting the Heritage Preservation Commission's Recommendations for designation approved by the committee. When a motion to recommend denial was made, I was able to convince committee members to approve continuing (or tabling) the item until next committee meeting, and possibly longer. I have already met with the core team of Prospect Park residents who have been assisting me in the effort as I am reviewing options moving forward. This includes trying to pass a separate resolution that would require the area to remain as Public Housing into the future regardless of the historic designation and reducing the size of the proposed historic district. For more see, including access to the staff report and a video of the committee meeting, visit <https://lims.minneapolumn.gov/MarkedAgenda/BIHZ/2565>.