



Prospect Park Association (PPA) Community Meeting

Regular Meeting: February 25, 2019, 6:30pm

Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Avenue SE

Board of Directors Present:

1. Eric Amel
2. Jeffrey Barnhart
3. Devan Blanchard
4. Joleen Emery
5. Noël Gordon, Jr.
6. Dick Kain
7. Susan Larson-Fleming
8. Lydia McAnerney
9. Laura Preus
10. Joe Ring
11. Lynn Von Korff
12. Will Watkins

Board of Directors Absent:

1. Jeffrey Barnhart
2. Claire Haskell
3. Robert Roscoe
4. John Wicks
5. Student Representative (TBD)

Community Members Present:

1. David Frank, PPA member
2. Del Hampton, Chair, PPA Environment Committee
3. Preston Mosser, PPA member
4. Brendan LaFranchi, Chair, NROC
5. Eric Linda, PPA member
6. Charlene Randall, PPA member
7. Konstantin Ivkon, PPA member
8. Dan Bryant, PPA member
9. John Wike, PPA member
10. Andy Michael, PPA member
11. David Gundale, PPA member
12. R Newman
13. Cam Gordon, Councilmember, Ward 2]
14. Sophia Guiness, Metro Transit
15. Rachel Hoeknecht, Visus Group
16. Ben Ihde, Visus Group
17. Chris Fonseca, Minneapolis Police
18. Joshua Betts, University of Minnesota Police
19. Christie Nelson, MPD, PCT 2

Draft Minutes

Welcome, agenda. Eric Amel, PPA President, convened the meeting at 6:35.

Community Announcements. Eric A. invited any community announcements.

- Eric A. announced that TPT will be airing a program called "Jim Crow of the North," which documents the history of racial disparity in housing in Minneapolis. The documentary includes a description of "race wars" in Prospect Park in the early 1900s. Everyone was encouraged to watch this important program.
- Lydia McAnerney, PPA Board Member, and Lynn Von Korff, PPA Treasurer, welcomed new PPA staff on behalf of the Search and Staffing Committee and the PPA Board. Staff gave brief introductions.

- Jan Nelson - Office and volunteer coordinator (20 hours/week). Jan has a background including business consulting, training and development. She emphasizes volunteer recruiting and welcomes this new opportunity.
 - Nellie Jerome - Administrative and outreach assistant. She recently graduated from the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota and has done community work. She grew up in Minneapolis and is excited to be here.
- Eric A. welcomed and invited police officers who attended the meeting to share a few words. Christopher Fonseca, with the MPLS City Police Department, and Josh Betts , with the University Police, are part of a community engagement program to enhance communication with communities. They want to hear any concerns and partner with community groups and other agencies to best serve public safety needs. They answered brief questions related to their location, bridges and transit safety. Christopher and Josh also described a new Police Station being developed. They have currently outgrown their space located with the Washington Ave. parking garage. They hope the new project will create a more visible entrance, so people know how to find them. They also explained that they are bringing their Communication Center back to their office, which they believe will help them improve coordination and provide better service.

Metro Transit E Line. Sophia Guinness presented on the “Metro Transit E Line and Hennepin Avenue Rapid Bus Project” in place of Evan Roberts, who was not available to be here. Sophia G. supervises the Outreach and Engagement group at Metro Transit. She shared two **handouts:** “E Line Corridor Study Alignment Options” and a hard copy PowerPoint about the “E Line Corridor Study.”

Metro Transit is interested in serving customers by speeding up service and making buses easier to ride. They are holding open houses and public input sessions to learn how to improve services. This includes looking at potential new routing for the E Line. For example, what is the potential routing on 4th street and University Avenue: should they stop at Stadium Village or the Westgate station? Many factors will influence this decision, and they welcome our feedback.

Community member comments brought up public libraries, cleanliness of stations, route preferences, train crossings, traffic operations, etc.

Next steps? Sophia G. will share another update in a couple of months with the narrowed down options. The overall project time frame is quite long, probably about five years; we are in the early stages of the process. This year they plan to consider and select the route. Next year they plan to identify the exact locations of the stations. Engineering and construction will follow. Eric A. noted that this fits well with the Transportation and Safety committee.

PPA Vision Setting: A conversation. Noel Gordon, Jr., PPA Vice President, began by giving a “thank you” for the work of the Search and Staffing Committee to hire PPA staff. The committee included Lynn Von Korff, Lydia McAnenery, Steve Zimmer and Sean Hart. There was a round of applause.

He also noted that Management Council meetings are open for those who may be interested, and that Jan and Nellie will provide updates at those meetings.

Context. Noel G. gave brief context for leading the Vision Setting activity by noting that he is a graduate student studying business administration and public policy, and he serves on Minneapolis' Racial Equity Advisory Committee.

He also briefly explained how PPA is connected to Neighborhoods 2020 and the Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan. Now is a good time for PPA community members to check in with each other on PPA's vision, given the extent of other current planning efforts.

Facilitated discussion. Noel G. led the meeting in a large and small group discussion activity.

- Hopes/Fears. Noel distributed cards and asked each person to identify one hope and one fear related to Prospect Park or the Prospect Park Association. Noel then collected the cards and redistributed them to the group, so each person had someone else's card. He asked everyone to break into small groups and discuss. The group came back together and Noel G. captured ideas on flip charts.
- Values. Noel introduced PPA's 2017 survey. Community members who took that survey identified important values. Noel distributed the set of values and asked meeting participants to identify what they viewed as the most important values. These were discussed in the small groups and the large group.
- Priorities for PPA. Finally, Noel distributed a set of possible priorities, based on categories from the Neighborhood Community Relations group. Again, community members were asked to identify which priorities were most important. Small group discussions took place, and then Noel invited a large group discussion.
- Common themes in the large group discussion related to the importance of better involvement, community engagement, communications, avoiding acrimony and isolation, etc. There was also an acknowledgement that our neighborhood is growing and changing, and that we need to reach out to our community.

Noel G. described work to date on the Minneapolis' Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan. He highlighted four action areas and invited involvement in the future.

1. Hire, train and promote – focusing on racially inclusive workforce
2. Engage diverse communities
3. Use racially disaggregated data – be careful not to clump groups all together
4. Diversity our spending

Noel G. and Eric A. noted a next step of bringing summary information back to the PPA Board.

Ward 2 Update. Council Member (CM) Cam Gordon thanked PPA for the opportunity to present at the community meeting. He also offered his availability to meet with staff or board members whenever helpful. He brought hard copies of a **handout** titled, "Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 2-25-19." Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- **Parking restrictions during snow emergencies.** Community members highlighted that crosswalks are in terrible condition due to plowing. CM Gordon mentioned a winter sidewalk maintenance study, and the possibility of doing a pilot to consider the best ways to take care of sidewalks. Also, what should be the vision for greater city involvement related to plowing? We say we put pedestrians first, but then our plow strategy does not look like that. There will be more discussions on this topic.
- **Neighborhoods 2020** provides a framework for supporting neighborhoods after 2020. Some neighborhoods have expressed concerns with the recommendations to date. CM Gordon noted Neighborhoods 2020 wants to support neighborhood organizations, and he has supported an earmarked budget for the next 5 years. But he also noted an overall concern that Minneapolis neighborhood organizations may not represent their whole neighborhoods. We may see recommendations related to term limits, reaching out to reflect the diversity of the neighborhood, etc. We should be able to find a good balance. If neighborhoods have a diversity plan and are taking action, then it sets the stage to work well with the city. CM Gordon is interested in where PPA will land. He believes Ward 2 wants to help with diversity. The Neighborhood 2020 recommendations will go back to the city council in April. CM Gordon can suggest amendments if needed. He is interested in our feedback.
- **PPA feedback on Neighborhoods 2020.** It was noted that the Neighborhood Relations and Outreach Community is in the process of developing PPA comments on Neighborhoods 2020. Lynn V. shared a **handout** titled “Neighborhoods 2020 Recommendations selected excerpts from NCR document...” March is a key month of neighborhoods to provide feedback.
- **Shriner’s hospital** is for sale.
- **Glendale’s nomination for historic designation.** CM Gordon has been following up on an earlier PPA recommendation. He has worked collaboratively to develop an application. It may come before the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in March. If HPC approves, it means they will study the possibility for about 12-18 months to see if it does apply to local historic designation. This is an opportunity to discuss what is important about Glendale, what makes this place special, and what do we want to see for the future.

March Meeting Topics. Del Hampton, Chair of the Environment Committee, began by thanking Eric A. for the food treats at the community meeting. He shared updates:

- Towerside Innovation District. Del H. has recently stepped into the role of Executive Director for that organization. He looks forward to talking more about the Towerside Innovation District at the next meeting.
- Letters of support. Del H. thanked PPA and the community for the letter of support for Towerside Park. We voted to approve the letter at the last meeting, and he confirmed that we delivered it to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Del H. also mentioned a letter of support for Grand Rounds. We expect to discuss it at an upcoming Land Use Committee meeting, and bring back to the PPA Board. It is expected to go before the Metropolitan Council in the beginning of April.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.