

## PPA Virtual Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2021

**Board Members in Attendance:** Rachel Coffin, Mary Britton, John Wicks, Joe Ring, Lynn Von Korff, Eric Amel, Susan Larson-Fleming, Britt Howell, Amy Kaminsky, David Frank, Jenna Hoge, Jerry Stein, Ben Tuthill,

**Board Members Absent:** Simone Hendrix, Evan Roberts

**Guests:** Emma Schoppe (Centerpoint Energy) Lupe Castillo, Grace Berke, Lydia Morell,

Cam Gordon, Robin Garwood

**Staff:** Kaaha Kaahiye, Liza Davitch

**6:30** Meeting is called to order. Quorum is confirmed. Mary makes a motion to approve the Agenda. John seconds. All in favor.

### **6:35 – 7:15 Announcements/Updates**

#### **Mary Britton gives a report on the Environment Committee's "25% Reduction by 2025" Initiative.**

The goal of the initiative is to work with residents to bring natural gas use down by 25% by 2025. Prospect Park is the first neighborhood with a climate action plan.

Xcel Energy has several plans in place to reduce greenhouse gas by 80% by 2040. Natural gas use in Minneapolis is what prevents us the most from reaching climate goals. The average Minneapolis home uses 104 dekatherms (dth). The average home in Prospect Park uses 119dth, almost 20% higher than the State average due to old houses with bad insulation. Studies have found that the more energy efficient a houses is, it can increases the home value by 2-6%. 20% of Prospect Park houses don't have insulation at all. For more information on the Initiative, see the Environment Committee page:

<https://www.prospectparkmpls.org/ppa/committees/environment.html>

Emma Schoppe from Centerpoint Energy is working to subsidize audits. They provide Air Sealing and Insulation rebates. If customers qualify for their LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) they can be eligible for low cost energy improvements through the City of Minneapolis as well. Emma is available for further questions and can be contacted at: [HYPERLINK](mailto:emma.schoppe@centerpointenergy.com)

"mailto:emma.schoppe@centerpointenergy.com" \n  
\_blank[emma.schoppe@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:emma.schoppe@centerpointenergy.com) 612 321 4318.

Robin Garwood notes that there is an energy efficiency rebate program through the CIP Conservation and Improvement Program of the City of Minneapolis. The City has also funded 0% financing for energy efficiency projects. [https://](https://www.mncee.org/services/financing/mpls/)

[www.mncee.org/services/financing/mpls/](https://www.mncee.org/services/financing/mpls/)

More about the energy disclosure ordinance can be found at [HYPERLINK "https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/buying-selling/tish/energy-disclosure-report/"](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/buying-selling/tish/energy-disclosure-report/) <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/buying-selling/tish/energy-disclosure-report/>.

**Grace Berke from Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) gives a presentation about Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA).**

The TOPA proposal would require landlords who want to sell rental homes to give tenants an opportunity to buy the property. Tenants would receive the first option to purchase and can organize as a group or assign their right to purchase to another party. It could be a pathway to owning a cooperative, preventing housing insecurity and potentially increasing affordable housing. Grace shared a link for organizations to sign up for support at: [HYPERLINK "https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIbZFMt0m7WYdMms1Selen-SsXgX7MxlVjKRHgo6nrz6NVsQ/viewform"](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIbZFMt0m7WYdMms1Selen-SsXgX7MxlVjKRHgo6nrz6NVsQ/viewform) \n \_blank<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIbZFMt0m7WYdMms1Selen-SsXgX7MxlVjKRHgo6nrz6NVsQ/viewform>

She can be contacted at [grace@ppna.org](mailto:grace@ppna.org).

Robin and Cam have been working on TOPA at the City Council level. Adequate funding will be key to helping tenants and/or Qualified Buyers/Developers utilize a TOPA policy and preserve homes. The goal is to get something passed by June at a public hearing.

Kaaha shared the link for more information about the TOPA program in Washington DC and how it related to public housing at: [HYPERLINK "https://www.canilive.org/topa"](https://www.canilive.org/topa) \n \_blank<https://www.canilive.org/topa>.

PPA is not ready for a motion on TOPA as we still have to come up with an official position.

**Lynn gives an Update on SE Seniors Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) plans for 2021.**

Southeast Seniors would like to partner with PPA and Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) on a project serving older adults and caregivers residing in Prospect Park, Southeast Como, and Marcy-Holmes. The proposed project will be similar to the GNF project they collaborated on in 2020. In 2021, they'd like to request \$5000 from the University of Minnesota GNF for the following activities: supplies for the Snow Angel program, volunteer recruitment, groceries and household supplies to deliver to older adults in the 55414 zip code, and hot home-delivered Thanksgiving meals from a local restaurant for 100 older adults. The three organizations would collaborate on volunteer recruitment for the project, and on outreach to spread the word about the services available for older adults and caregivers. PPA would serve as the

fiscal agent for the project. Southeast Seniors Executive Director will provide Project Supervision, and will be responsible for drafting the grant proposal, and providing a copy to PPA and SECIA for review and approval at each organization's March 2021 board meeting.

All in favor of the grant going forward.

### **7:15 – 8:45 Organizational Business**

#### **Renter's Sub-Committee gives an update on the neighborhood safety workshop series "Who Keeps Us Safe?"**

The three workshops held so far had good attendance with about 30 in each workshop. There are two more left in the series.

#### **Cam Gordon presents his monthly newsletter to PPA.**

He invites all to Transforming Community Safety Online Information Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00pm to learn more about the work to transform community safety and upcoming engagement opportunities. For more information visit:

HYPERLINK "http://www.minneapolismn.gov/community-safety" \n  
\_blank[www.minneapolismn.gov/community-safety](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/community-safety)

Cam has received concerns from residents about the methadone clinic on University Avenue. This will be discussed further at PPA's February Board/Community meeting

#### **Community Building Committee Update:**

CBC is working again with Pratt on the walking bus route from Glendale to the school and they want to get the fund started again. They've received a commitment of \$1800 so far. They will work to get a PPA statement to help support raising money ready for next month's newsletter.

The Glendale parking regulations are moving forward. The new regulations that will support the residents more effectively and will come into effect on March 1.

The committee is putting together rough cost estimates for a playground renovation called the Jackson memorial and Tower Hill reconstruction and street reworking.

#### **Environment Committee Update**

Visa gift cards will be purchased from the committee's funds for kids from Luxton Park to work on the environment initiative. The teenagers will be distributing flyers. They will not be considered employees but the gift cards can provide them with an honorarium as volunteers and interns. It is part of a youth work initiative with Luxton Park. The goal is to engage Prospect Park youth, give them tangible

work force opportunities, and build youth readiness skills.

### **Finance and Administration Update**

There are three motions related to the PPA 2021 annual budget in consideration of the ending of CPP funds in June 2021.

Eric Amel makes a motion to create a task force to explore alternative options for the PPA office space and move. John Wicks seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

The volunteers who committed to being on the task force are David Frank, Jerry Stein, Amy Kaminsky and Lynn Von Korff.

Lynn Von Korff makes a motion to approve the PPA 2021 Annual Budget. Amy Kaminsky seconds. All in Favor. Motion passes

Lynn Von Korff makes a motion to explore ways to share resources with other neighborhood organizations and/or community partners and formalize the process. Joe Wicks seconds. All in Favor. Motion passes.

### **Land Use Committee Update**

The Unified Project Design Standards have been crafted to provide planning and design guidance to all parties with a stake or role in the development and redevelopment of Prospect Park, St. Anthony Park and the Towerside Innovation District. These planning and design standards are based on community values and aspirations and the Eco-District Imperatives of Equity, Resilience and Climate Protection. A primary purpose the cities of Minneapolis and St Paul had in designating the geography of the Towerside Innovation District, located within the St Anthony Park and Prospect Park neighborhoods, was to serve as a replicable model of 21st century urban redevelopment. All projects within these two neighborhoods are charged with the responsibility of incorporating these principles and to the enrichment of this place, its beauty and its livability by excellence of design.

The Unified Project Design Standard documents are the work of the task force that met four times. It was approved unanimously by the committee and the task force. It will make it clear to developers what the priorities and principals of the neighborhood are.

John Wicks brings a motion to approve the Unified Project Design Standards. The two documents were inadvertently left out of the Board Packet ahead of the meeting and many board members did not get a chance to read them. Joe suggests combining the two documents and approving the motion from the one document at the next board meeting. John withdraws his original motion.

Eric Amel makes a motion to table until it is one document and everyone can have a chance to read it and vote at the February Board/Community meeting. Lynn Von Korff seconds. Motion passes.

**Transportation and Safety Committee Update.**

A letter was introduced for consideration, urging the City and County to use railroad requests for public funds as an opportunity to try and secure public right-of-way over the Short Line rail bridge for the Midtown Greenway extension. After discussion the motion to approve the letter for the Board's signature was passed unanimously.

Eric Amel makes a motion to approve the letter. Lynn Korff seconds. All in favor. John Wicks abstains.

**8:45 Other Business: Review Consent Agenda: Reports and Minutes**

PPA Board Minutes: December 7, 2020

Land Use Minutes: December, 10, 2020

Design Standards Land Use Task Force Minutes: December 30, 2020

Community Building Minutes: January 6, 2021 and December 9, 2020

Transportation and Safety Minutes, December 15, 2020

Amy Kaminsky makes a motion to approve consent agenda. Susan Larson-Fleming seconds. All in Favor.

**9:05 Britt Makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.** All in favor.