



PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): August 23, 2021, 6:30pm

Board Members Present: David Frank, John Wicks, Laura Preuss, Jeff Barnhart, Britt Howell, Eric Amel, Simone Hendrix

Board Members Absent: Lynn Von Korff, Amy Kaminsky, Jenna Hoge, Ben Tuthill, Susan Larson-Fleming, Becca Cowin, Rachel Coffin, Joe Ring

Community Members Present: Gib Ahlstrand, Vera Marshall, Mary Britton, Liz Rolfes, Lupe Castillo, Jerry Stein

Staff Present: Liza Davitch

1. **Call to Order.** *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:38pm and reviewed the agenda with the attendees. A quorum of the Board of Directors is not reached. This will be a community meeting.

2. Announcements and Updates

- A. **Gib Ahlstrand Recognition.** *Eric Amel* extends appreciation to Gib Ahlstrand for his many years of contribution. Gib started the annual Yard and Tailgate Sales and has been running it for the last seven years. He is now stepping down in this volunteer position. Gib has put together a guideline and timetable on how to run the sales. He suggests that PPA find two volunteers to take over and run the event in the future. Gib expresses his pleasure to have served the Prospect Park community in this capacity and feels a personal sense of accomplishment in developing the yard sales to where they are now.

PPA staff will publish the need for volunteers to step in to replace Gib's position in the PPA newsletters starting early in 2022.

- B. **Special Elections Update.** *Eric Amel* updated the Board on the September PPA Board of Directors Special Election. In the movement to join the citywide neighborhood organization's annual elections in May, PPA needs to fill two board positions from October 2021 to May 2022. PPA is still looking for candidates to submit their profiles. Eric encourages current board and community members to reach out to their neighbors and spread the word.

- C. **Ward 2 Candidate Forum.** *Britt Howell* updated the Board about the Ward 2 Virtual Candidate Forum scheduled for Tuesday, September, 21, 7-8:30pm. The forum is hosted by the League of Women Voters MN (LWVMN) and co-sponsored by Cedar-Riverside Community Council, Longfellow Community Council, Prospect Park Association and SE Como Improvement Association. It will be streamed live on the LWVMN Facebook page and on Cable Channel 6 in the metro area. More details on the forum will be published in PPA's upcoming newsletter and the PPelist.

*Note: The forum was later rescheduled to October 7, 2021

- D. **Ward 2 Update.** *Cam Gordon* presented the Ward 2 August Report. The full report can be read here:

https://mcusercontent.com/8a12b3152d8f70e97e090b501/files/b5be2bdb-0c88-4287-fc5f-b19c4e2ba5e6/Cam_Gordon_Ward_2_Report_to_Prospect_Park_8_23_21.pdf

Cam highlights the ballot questions coming up in the November 2 election. There will be three different ballot questions, two of them are charter amendments and one gives authorization on rent stabilization.

Cam notes that the mayor presented his budget in August. There is no proposal to increase the base funding for neighborhood organizations, which Cam will be looking into. Cam would like to have it raised to at least \$25,000.

Cam was asked by community members in Prospect Park to nominate another property for historic designation, a house on Franklin Avenue that was the site of a protest cited in the mapping prejudice project. PPA's Community Building Committee is also working on this designation work and has connected with the current property owner.

3. Organizational Business.

- A. **Environment Committee Report.** *Mary Britton*, Environment Committee Chair, made the Environment Committee report.

The Environment Committee has been busy tabling at events such as the BrittFit50 event at National Night Out, Bee Fest, and two events at Luxton Park. The committee also held learning sessions on rain gardens and made a presentation in Somali.

The committee put in three new rain gardens at The Pillars, Glendale Townhomes and by the new neighborhood church, River of Hope.

The committee continues to work on the "25 by 25" initiative to bring down natural gas 25% by the year 2025. It appears that usage has gone down by 3% this year.

- B. **Community Building Report.** *Jerry Stein*, Community Building Co-Chair, made the Community Building Report.

The Jackson project is getting ready to bloom. The committee has broken down the project into two phases. The memorial and the playground is the long term phase.

Short term activities will include the renaming of the playground, a plaque in front of the Jackson house, a photo hung in Pratt school of the family in 1909 and a possible piece by Twin Cities Public Television.

The committee will bring a formal presentation of their progress to the September PPA board meeting.

- C. **Land Use Report.** *John Wicks*, Land Use Committee Chair, made the Land Use Committee report. The Greystar project has been put on hold at the Profile Event Center site for the time being.

4. Other Business

- **Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes** was postponed until the September 27, 2021 Board meeting due to not having a quorum.

5. **Adjourn.** It was moved and seconded by many to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes written by *Liza Davitch*, PPA Staff

Respectfully submitted by *Amy Kaminsky*, PPA Board Member and Secretary