



PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): October 25, 2021, 6:30pm

Board Members Present: *Susan Larson-Fleming, Lynn Von Korff, David Frank, Reed Coffin, Laura Preuss, John Wicks, Jerry Stein, Jeff Barhart, Eric Amel, Mary Britton, Ben Tutbill, Jenna Hoge, Amy Kaminsky, Simone Hendrix, Britt Howell*

Board Members Absent: *Joe Ring*

Community Members Present: *Damon Jenkins, Robert Sykora, Ila Koch, Senator Kari Dziedzic, Amy Naff, Evan Roberts*

Staff Present: *Liza Davitch*

1. **Call to Order.** *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and reviewed the agenda with the attendees. A quorum was established. *Eric Amel* moved to approve the agenda. *Susan Larson Fleming* seconded. Agenda approved.

2. Announcements and Updates

- A. **Welcome New Board Members and Board Officer Elections.** *Eric Amel* introduces the two new Board Members, *Mary Britton* and *Jerry Stein*.

Eric introduces the slate of proposed board officers. Nominations can also be taken from the floor. *Eric Amel* volunteers to continue as President. *Britt Howell* volunteers to continue as Vice- President. *Lynn Von Korff* will be stepping down as Treasurer. *Susan Larson-Fleming* agrees to act as treasurer from the period of October 2021 until the May 2022 elections. *Amy Kaminsky* will be stepping down as Secretary. *David Frank* volunteers to act as Secretary.

Mary Britton suggests that the next time officers are elected, it would be helpful to put it on the agenda of the board meeting prior to allow board members time to consider the options presented beforehand. In response to this suggestion, it is agreed that PPA will make a formal effort to announce and invite board members to fill office positions in advance of the May 2022 election.

Proposed Motion. *John Wicks* makes a motion that the following board officer positions are approved: *Eric Amel* as President, *Britt Howell* as Secretary, *David Frank* as Secretary, *Susan Larson-Fleming* as Treasurer. *David Frank* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

B. First Independence Bank. *Damon Jenkins*, formerly Wells Fargo's district manager for Minneapolis has joined First Independence Bank as senior vice president. After the murder of George Floyd there was a caused awakening for the state of MN. Shortly after that time five banks, Bremer, Bank of America, Huntington, US Bank, and Wells Fargo got together to support the idea of a black owned bank in Minnesota. They reached out to First Independence Bank of Detroit to partner toward the goal of building equity for black people and underserved communities. MN has the worst housing disparity in terms of home ownership in the nation for people of color. As a result First Independence submitted an application to the FDIC to come to MN as the first black owned bank. Wells Fargo donated the building in Prospect Park at their now closed location on 3430 University Ave SE. First Independence is in the process of getting FDIC approval and looking to open at the Prospect Park location in December 2021. They are looking at ways to partner with the community, small businesses, other financial institutions and the neighborhood organization to bring overall financial wellness specifically targeting home ownership to people of color and all communities that are underserved.

For further information and partnership suggestions and opportunities Damon can be reached at djenkins@firstindependence.com.

3. Organizational Business.

A. PPA Strategic Direction. *Susan Larson-Fleming*, discusses the document submitted in the board packet "PPA Strategic Direction". It was put together by the Finance and Admin Committee. Since the demise of the NRP, the City has been figuring out how they will interact with neighborhood organizations. PPA will be gradually losing a great deal of the money we had to operate the last few years. The Finance and Admin committee looked at the requirements of the City and the functions of a non-profit, what things PPA needs a staff person for, and what needs the PPA board could assume as volunteers. Committee chairs know how important the support work of staff and contracted personnel has been. The board should consider what PPA as an organization does and decide if we want to continue to be PPA. We have to look at ways we can operate more efficiently incorporating fundraising and grant writing. We have already done things to help with the diminished budget such as giving up the PPA office space and cutting the staff employment time by half but we will need to take more steps.

Finance and Admin put out three scenarios for consideration. One, where we downsize, given the projected budget cuts, but continue to operate independently. Two, where we explore closing operations. Three, where we create some kind of partnership agreement with another neighborhood group.

The document provided shows the options and the strengths and limitations of those options so the board can make informed decisions about our strategic direction.

B. Board Strategies: Fundraising, Communications, Inclusiveness. *Mary Britton* suggests that the Board think about the long term direction it wants to take and come together to discuss further so that everyone feels their voice is being heard. What could we all do

together with our enthusiasm to unify the creativity and commitment of the individual committees?

Lynn Von Korff reminds the board that the Equitable Engagement Plan that the City of Minneapolis requires will be due every year. PPA committees have to track what we are doing as an organization and bring it to the plan.

- C. **Environment Committee Report.** *Mary Britton*, Environment Committee Chair, made the Environment Committee report. The Committee is wrapping up the MWMO Rain Garden data for the final grant report.

As part of the Climate Action Plan, the Neighborhood Resiliency project is writing “Welcome Letters” for new folks in the neighborhood. The letter will be presented to the Board for approval at the December meeting.

- D. **Transportation and Safety Report.** *Evan Roberts*, Transportation and Safety Committee Chair, introduces the letter written to the City regarding key issues on 4th Street such as reducing truck traffic.

Proposed Motion: *Susan Larson-Fleming* moves to approve the letter "Request for actions on 4th Street Traffic" to be sent to the city. *Laura Preuss* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bob Sykora, Transportation and Safety committee member, talks about the sound absorbing wall. MNDOT is allowing the panels to fall off the wall and they're not replacing them. He is hoping the PPA board will ratify the motions and communicate to MNDOT our concerns that they are not maintaining this resource that they built in our neighborhood.

Proposed Motion of the Transportation and Safety Committee: As MNDOT works to reduce graffiti on its sound walls in our neighborhood, we encourage and will support more planting which will lead to less painting. Increased planting of vegetation -- selected in cooperation with MNDOT foresters, landscape designers and botanists and tended by neighborhood gardeners -- can reduce graffiti while increasing pollinator habitat. We recognize that vegetation might decrease effectiveness of MNDOT's "sound-absorbing wall" #NB-Q, but believe the benefits of increased vegetation outweigh its disadvantages. *Lynn Von Korff* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

*Note: “#NB-Q” is the MNDOT name for the sound-absorbing wall between Franklin and Cecil along the Eastbound lanes.

- E. **Community Building.** *Jerry Stein*, Co-Chair of the Community Building Committee gives the Community Building report.

Proposed Motion: Community Building Committee asks that PPA act as temporary fiscal agent for the Jackson Memorial project task force. *Susan Larson-Fleming* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Representatives of PPA Community Building Committee and Pratt PTO are forming a new non profit and would administer the fundraising monies as needed.

The memorial will be most likely built around the Pratt amphitheater on Minneapolis public school property.

F. Land Use Report. *John Wicks*, Chair of the Land Use Committee, gives the Land Use report. The Land Use Committee met on Oct. 14. The principal topic was the presentation of the new student housing high rise planned at 2630 University Ave. Representatives from ESG and the developer Greystar were in attendance. The building has undergone some changes. They've reduced the height by two stories and it will now be sixteen stories at 195 ft. They've also done some redesign to the exterior skin. The design is within the framework of the new zoning. The building will not impact the view of downtown Minneapolis. The building is meant for student housing and will have 1,000 apartment units with 5,000 square feet of commercial space as well as maker space.

G. Third Quarter Financial Report. *Lynn Von Korff*, presents the PPA Statement of Financial position. *Susan Larson-Fleming*, who was nominated Treasurer in this meeting will be giving the reports beginning next quarter.

4. Other Business

- **Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes**

Eric Amel presents the following minutes: Board/Community Meeting: August 23 & September 27, 2021, Community Building: September 8, 2021, Finance and Admin: September 21/October 5, 2021.

John Wicks makes a motion to approve the minutes. *David Frank* seconds the motion. All in favor. The minutes are approved as distributed.

5. Adjourn. It was moved and seconded by many to adjourn the meeting at 9: 05 pm. Unanimously approved on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes written by *Liza Davitch*, PPA Staff

Respectfully submitted by *David Frank*, PPA Board Member and Secretary

