



PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): April 25, 2022 6:30pm

Board Members Present: David Frank, Lynn Von Korff, John Wicks, Laura Preus, Jeff Barnhart, Eric Amel, Brit Howell, Jerry Stein, Reed Coffin

Board Members Absent: Amy Kaminsky, Jenna Hoge, Ben Tuthill, Joe Ring, Simone Hendrix, Evan Roberts, Susan Larson-Fleming, Mary Britton

Community Members Present: Kathleen Davis, Evan Roberts, Lupe Castillo, Jay Benedict, Lydia McAnerney, Jane Stockman, Vera Marshall, Aloida Zargoza, Dan Ratliff, Kari Simonsen, Kyra Nygard, Abdirashid Ali, Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah

Staff Present: Liza Davitch

Call to Order. *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm and reviewed the agenda with the attendees. *Lynn Von Korff* moves to approve the agenda. *David Frank* seconds. A quorum for the Board Meeting was established.

1. Announcements/Updates

Ward 2 Crime Prevention Specialist. *Abdirashid Ali* is the interim Ward 2 Crime Specialist replacing *Nick Juarez*. *Abdirashid* currently covers 22 neighborhoods in SE & NE Minneapolis. The MPD is actively working on getting more Crime Specialists hired. There are several sectors in the city that don't have a crime specialist.

A current crime problem in Prospect Park is the amount of vehicle thefts. There have been twenty-one thefts in a period of twenty-eight days. Even though the numbers are higher, it's still a crime of opportunity with a majority of auto thefts being unlocked cars.

Bike thefts have also increased considerably. People are encouraged to register their bikes in the Minneapolis database. There are also resale sites on Facebook where you can see if your bike is being sold. Secure bikes in your home if you have that option. Bikes in garages are still vulnerable to theft. Apple tags have also been used to track bikes successfully after being stolen.

Illegal parking on city streets is an issue. He recommends people call 311 if cars are parked illegally. It's a citywide problem but officers can't come out for that because of the workload they have.

If you see drug use in the park, they recommend calling 911, not 311. They want to respond to this right away. They used to have a Community Response team to address the issue but unfortunately don't have one in the 2nd precinct. There is a Community Response team in the 4th Precinct that is supposed to manage the entire city. It's not an ideal situation but the team can look into specific properties with a referral.

Other crimes in the Prospect Park neighborhood include burglaries. In the previous twenty-eight days we had five dwelling burglaries and a couple of business burglaries.

There have been a lot of catalytic converter thefts. There is a little bit of reprieve if people do things to protect against catalytic converter theft, such as a cat-guard labeling system.

<https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/your-vehicle/auto-theft-prevention/catalytic-converter-pilot.jsp>

The 2nd precinct has historically had quieter crime levels than South and North Mpls. There is still a lot people can do to eliminate crimes of opportunity such as securing garages, keeping garage remotes out of your vehicles, and closing and locking home windows. Also, be aware of your surroundings and watchful when getting in and out of your vehicle.

The 2nd Precinct is short of resources but has a minimum of four officers on duty at all times.

He can be reached at Abdirashid.ali@minneapolis.gov

Ward 2 Update. *Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah* gives an update on Ward 2. In response to Abdirashid's report and the need for more officers, recruitment is a factor with the MPD, with conditions of toxic culture and lack of accountability. The standards of policing or working side by side with officers who have records of abuse and misconduct is an issue when trying to get recruits. It's not an issue of not having funding; it's the issue that people don't want to come work with the MPD.

There is a 70/30 percent ratio in the MPD, with 70% of the staff required to be walking the beat or on driving patrol and only 30% reserved for investigations and following up with a report. This is an issue with cases involving sexual assault or domestic violence.

When you are talking about drug usage, MPD has relinquished serving those calls thanks to the council launching a Behavioral Crisis Unit, an unarmed safety service that deals with opioid use, mental health issues, and traffic issues. MPD needs to remain outside of that department.

Near Prospect Park and the U of M area there are issues with lighting. There are areas where lighting and visibility need to be improved.

CM Robin gives an update on the shooting at *FamilyWise* childcare. The shooting victim was an off-duty officer. It was about a custodial exchange and not a random incident. It's currently still being investigated.

On housing topics, in the last cycle we dealt with issues of rent control policy to put on the 2023 ballot. We made sure that language did not lead to exemptions that would hurt the policy. We want to champion it by extending public housing support and prioritizing Glendale Townhomes. We'll be reporting to you all after meeting with the MP housing authority.

We're also getting a municipal shoveling program off the ground. It has a six million dollar price tag, which is 1% of our budget.

In terms of staffing shortages it also applies to the entire city services. There are more than 700 positions open right now. largely because of our representation and the need to earn trust back. Public works can't even staff half of their other initiatives.

We are looking to hold a job fair to get youth off the streets and get a quality job working for the city.

The illegal parking issue. Our office is exploring working with regulatory services on the idea of using critical parking permits as a way to make sure residential parking is reserved and have another way for 311 to have better identification of parking spots.

2. Organizational Business

Environment Committee Report. *Kathleen Davis* of the Environment Committee reports that the Earth Day Cleanup event was held from April 9-23. They had forty volunteer participants. Next year they would like to do a one-day event.

The EcoTour will be held June 18 with multiple locations of energy-saving projects that homeowners are willing to share with the community. Rain garden tours, garage sales, and E-bike demos will also be held that day.

Transportation and Safety Report. *Evan Roberts*, chair of the Transportation and Safety Committee presents the report and a motion.

The traffic calming planters will be replanted in May. They will do an event in conjunction with Pratt teachers and students on May 20.

A letter to Public Works and the Council requesting safety improvements on 27th Ave SE going into Glendale Townhomes was included in the board packet. There is a lack of visibility due to parked cars.

Proposed Motion: Approve Safety Improvements at Delaware & 27th Ave SE Letter. All in favor. Motion passes.

Community Building Committee Report. *Jerry Stein*, Community Building co-chair, reports and presents two motions.

Pre-designs by the architect firm, 4RM+ULA, for the Jackson Memorial playground at Pratt are almost complete.

The plan for Glendale's 70th anniversary in mid-September continues to develop. The CB committee created a task force that has taken up the effort to design events. Interviews and oral histories will be created. There will also be an exhibit of photos and documents and a day of food and music. They raised the first \$20,000 that covers the exhibit cost.

Proposed Motion: Approve PPA acting as the fiscal agent for the Seniors Photos grant to be submitted to the COOP Legacy Fund. All in favor. Motion passes.

Proposed Motion: Approve SE Seniors GNF application. All in favor. *Britt Howell* abstains. Motion passes.

Land Use Committee Report. *John Wicks*, Land Use Committee chair, explains that they did not hold a Land Use meeting in April and no report was presented.

Community Members of 4th Street brought to the attention of PPA the issues of Hubbard closing walking access east of Bedford. *Aloida Zaragoza* and *Dan Ratliff* presented where the issue currently stands. This issue had been brought to the attention of PPA's Land Use committee. The 4th Street neighbors presented an informal legal opinion that if people have been continuously using the KSTP property to travel on foot and bike from Territorial to 4th Street SE for 15 years, then there is a prescriptive easement on the property which gives public access. This doesn't have to be a recorded easement. Instead, it's considered adverse possession that grants the right to traverse the property.

Evan Roberts suggests combining the May Land Use and Transportation and Safety meetings to discuss the issue further. The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30pm. The invitation to attend will go out to all members of the Land Use and Transportation and Safety committees.

Proposed Motion: Hold a combined Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting to discuss the Hubbard issue on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30pm. All in favor. Motion passes.

Finance and Admin Committee Report. *Lynn Von Korff* presented a brief Finance and Admin report. The PPA financial position is fine. The budget has been approved and we are on track. As it stands, PPA is getting from the City \$23,000 this year and it will be reduced to \$13,000 next year.

4. Other Business

A. Proposed Motion added to the agenda.

Proposed Motion: PPA will support the Good Neighbor Fund grant project, *Hybrid Meeting Equipment*, for SECIA (Southeast Como Improvement Association). *Britt Howell* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

B. May Election Nominating Committee. PPA Staff, *Liza Davitch*, updates on the May Board Election. Calls for board candidate submissions went out in multiple PPA newsletters, the PPelist and on PPA social media. As of now we have seven two-year candidates for seven seats and one one-year candidate for one one-year seat. Their candidate bios will be published in the next newsletter ahead of the May 9th election.

C. Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes

Eric Amel moves to approve the following minutes: Board/Community Meeting: March 28, 2022, Finance & Admin: February 24, 2022. All in favor. The minutes are approved as distributed.

6. Adjourn. *Eric Amel* motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. *Lynn Von Korff* seconds. Motion was 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