



## PPA Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Virtual): August 28, 2023 6:30pm

**Board Members Present:** David Frank, Ian Gorodisher, Britt Howell, Eric Amel, Jeff Barnhart, Gabrielle Metzger, Susan Larson-Fleming, Lynn Von Korff, Abraham Kao, Jerry Stein, Jane Stockman, Will Morris

**Community Members Present:** Celeste Robinson, Rick McCormick, Vera Marshall, Matt Miller, Aloida Zaragoza, Lupe Castillo

**Staff Present:** Liza Davitch

**Call to Order.** *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and reviewed the agenda with the attendees.

### 1. Announcements/Updates

- A. **Back-to-School Know Your Renting Rights Initiative Call for Volunteers.** *Liza Davitch* discusses the Back-to-School: Know Your Renting Rights initiative that PPA is collaborating on with Ward 2, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Off-Campus Gopher Student Legal Service at University of Minnesota, UMN Undergraduate Student Government and BrittFit50 Indigenous Health. We are looking for volunteers to help with flyering in off-campus apartments near the UMN, distributing renter rights and voting education fliers to renters living in Stadium Village, Prospect Park and Dinkytown apartments over a two-day period of September 15th & 16th. Sign up to volunteer using the QR code on the flier or at [forms.gle/sj2mRT6Noor6CRdu7](https://forms.gle/sj2mRT6Noor6CRdu7)
- B. **4th Street Celebration Thank You.** *Britt Howell* thanks community members who were involved in the National Night Out Garden Festival and BF50's partners at Malcolm Yards, Surly Brewing, HeartSpeaks, StarTribune, Call the Shots Video Production for video documentation, *Celeste Robinson* and Ward 2 for their participation, the community that came to the event, *Lupe Castillo* for the arts and activities, MPRB for opening up the space, and *Liza Davitch* for helping get out the word on social media.
- C. **Ice Cream Social Planning Meeting.** Prospect Park Ice Cream Social 2024. On Monday, September 25th at 6:30pm at Prospect Park United Methodist Church there will be an in-person information session for those interested in planning and carrying out a Prospect Park Ice Cream Social in 2024. It's been several years since Prospect Park Association and Pratt PTO worked together to host the annual Pratt Ice Cream Social and things have changed. At the info session you'll learn what's changed and what resources are available for a 2024 Ice Cream Social.
- D. **Ward 2 Update.** *Celeste Robinson*, Policy Aide to City Council Member Robin Wonsley, presents a few updates from Ward 2 on Public Housing Levy, Fair Drives Safe Rides, Truck Traffic Mitigation, Witches Hat Tower progress, Rethinking I-94, Renter's Right event. They had a big win with the mayor, who is supporting a \$5 million partial housing levy, which would address the public housing maintenance work backlog. They are entering into the 2024 budget process. Two priorities that CM Wonsley has are sidewalk plowing programs that assist seniors and more funding for traffic calming projects.

## 2. Organizational Business Committee Reports

**Finance and Administration Committee Report.** *Lynn von Korff*, PPA treasurer, gives the Finance and Administration report and presents PPA's 2nd quarter financial statements.

PPA is in a sound financial position; we have sufficient cash, few liabilities, and our income and expenses are in line with our approved budget except for unrestricted individual gifts. Clearly the community supports our efforts because we are raising project specific funds, but gen-op gifts are lagging. Our goal is \$7,000 and we have raised \$1,700 to date. We published a fundraising letter in our recent newsletter and our major fundraising campaign, GiveMN, is coming up late fall. We met the goal last year, but \$3,500 came from three donors, one hasn't given yet and one gave project specific funds this year instead of gen-op funds.

- **Proposed Motion:** to revise PPA's annual budget to spend \$1,400 on green infrastructure projects. The Environment Committee has asked the board to revise their project budget. We already approved \$600 on green infrastructure projects. The additional funds will be more than covered by the \$1,350 Mary Britton raised from the WF foundation. The board approved designated WF foundation funds for environment committee projects. *Britt Howell* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Financial Plan for 2025 and Beyond:** The Finance and Admin committee will be working on a financial plan so board and community members have a picture of operations should we decide not to merge.
- **NCR and Legislative Study Update:** The Mayor proposed increasing neighborhood organization "base" funding from \$10,000 to \$15,000. There was no such recommendation to increase either base or equitable engagement funding in the City Council's recently published legislative study. There was a recommendation to consider removing the requirement to use 70% of NRP funds for housing purposes.
- **Renters' Right NRP funding reallocation:** PPA's board passed this motion earlier this year. We have to repeat the process, provide 21-days' notice again and vote again after the notice because now that Community Partnership Program (CPP) has ended, NRP phase II reallocations require a plan modification - there's a form for the purpose - and as a result language of the reallocation motion changed.
- **Proposed Motion:** Provide 21 days community notice of board vote to reallocate \$25,000 from the Phase II Loans/Grants/Affordable Housing Development strategy to the Tenant Rights Project Priority. *Susan Larson-Fleming* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Proposed Motion:** Approve PPA's revised staff job description, 7-25-23. *Susan Larson-Fleming* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Environment Committee Report.** *Rick McCormick*, relayed the committee's concerns about the increased truck traffic that would come through 25th Ave to the Biochar site. The committee recommends that PPA support should be contingent on the City's willingness to address the traffic problem on Malcolm and 25th Avenue and that the City guarantee that the trucks used for the Biochar project be electric or as environmentally friendly as possible. Proposed site is behind the railroad tracks behind a parking lot next to the Bio medical facilities on 25th Ave.

- **Proposed Motion:** We recommend that PPA's approval of the site should be contingent on the city's willingness to address the traffic problem in the neighborhood, and on its assurance that the trucks used for the Biochar site will be electric vehicles. Board members commented that the City doesn't have electric vehicles at this time. It is suggested that we ask the City to have a larger meeting with neighborhood groups to open up the discussion to the community. A board recommendation at this time may be premature and it is proposed to have further engagement on the subject. Motion is tabled at this time.

**Transportation and Safety Committee Report.** *David Frank*, discusses the nine possible alternatives for the revamping of I-94 that MNDot proposed in July. More information is in the board packet and was published in the August newsletter and the PPelist. There will be no action on any plans for several months but he wants to make sure the community is aware of the proposals.. If anyone wants further information they can contact David at [frank@umn.edu](mailto:frank@umn.edu).

**Land Use Committee Report.** *Eric Amel* presents the motion and update for the Land Use committee.

•**Proposed Motion:** Create joint PPA and Friends of Tower Hill Park Task Force to draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board (MPRB) to define terms, conditions, and responsibilities for maintaining Tower Hill Park and operating Witches Hat Water Tower when re-opened to visitors.. *Ian Gorodisher* seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

*Gabrielle Metzger* and *Susan Larson-Fleming* are willing to volunteer on this task force.

There is a lot of University development on the horizon in the Motley neighborhood at the edge of Stadium Village. The University Alumni Association real estate arm is at the helm and Land Use is working to have them present to the committee in the near future.

**Community Building Committee Report.** *Jerry Stein*, Community Building co-chair updates that the committee is making progress on the Jackson Family curriculum with Pratt teachers. They continue to raise funds for the playground. There was video shot over the summer and TPT will be doing some editing on the footage.

### 3. Other Business

#### Review Consent Agenda Reports & Minutes

*Eric Amel* moves to approve the following minutes:

Board/Community Meeting: June 26, 2023, Environment: June 13, 2023.

All in favor. The minutes are approved as distributed.

**4. Adjourn.** *Eric Amel* motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. 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