SAPCC Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2016

In attendance: Max Herzberg, Ian Luby, Scott Simmons, John Mark Lucas, Matt Hass, Charlie Christopherson, Ray Bryan, Michael Russelle, Alex Susko

Staff: Suyapa Miranda, Cailin Rogers

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| Introductions and approve minutes and agenda | Meeting began at 7:04. Ray moved to pass to the consent agenda. Michael seconded. It passed unanimously. |
| Committee Updates | Scott updated the group on the work of the Equity Committee, including the demographic analysis and cultural competency training.  Mary shared that there are 6 different ethnic groups in Seal. ¾ are Somali. Somali, Eritrean, Caribbean, etc.  Ray gave an update on Land Use. He spoke about Prospect North Innovation District coming to speak with the group.  Matt shared that the air monitoring station is now up and running. We are getting data from that. Environment has been working on the Hampden Park project.  No one had any questions about the Transportation Committee meeting. |
| Mary from Seal Hi-Rise | John Mark met Mary at the holiday party that Scott hosted at Seal. John Mark and Mary discussed a lack of connection with the Seal Hi-Rise group. Mary explained that Seal residents use metro mobility and the 87 bus. There are no children in Seal. She explained that there is a divide between the Somali residents and other groups. She believes that a lot of the divide in Seal between various groups is linguistic. Seal was developed and built for seniors. It now has college students, mostly black and Asian students. There are far fewer seniors in the building than there used to be but most of the building is age 50 plus. Many of the residents have mobility issues. Many also struggle with mental illness. Everyone there qualifies for public housing and many are also on public assistance. A couple of social workers serve the building, but they are stretched very thin. The St. Paul Public Housing Agency manages the building. Seal has 144 units, all one bedroom. There is a significant population of people who come in as nurses or PCAs. Mary thinks a lot of the isolation of Seal residents is self-imposed. Some residents have a difficult time leaving the residence. Many of the seniors miss the days of just having seniors in the building. Seal is 39 years old. Transportation offers a huge challenge to Seal residents. You might see 10 metro mobility buses in a day. Most people use it to go to the grocery store (most go to Cub or Walmart) or the doctor. Many people have difficulty getting food. Second Harvest comes once a month to bring food. It has lots of produce when it comes but Somali residents don't know how to cook many of the items. Somali residents of Seal do not eat canned food, but they would be glad to get rice and beans. Mary has met with an interpreter to learn more about the communities in Seal. Residents seem to really like bingo. A care professional is working on hosting that every other month. Michael asked if Mary or another resident would be willing to save as a liaison to work with the Council. We want to be helpful in working with Seal. Mary had been working with a woman named Anne from the University who is working to connect Seal with resources to fulfill their various needs. Mary let us know that this has to be a slow process to connect the Council to Seal because it takes a long time to build trust. Scott’s holiday event had 60 people at it. Sunday, Scott will host another event there from 2-4.  John Mark suggested that the community garden drop off the food they donate to Seal instead. Scott wondered about supporting Seal’s raised garden beds. The city approved putting in the garden beds quickly when that happened. |
| Conflict of Interest Policy | We need to shore up our policies and develop an orientation for committee and board members. Alex affirmed that he thinks it's important to cease one issue participation on the Council because we are much more broadly focused than that. |
| ADU Update | Land Use debated the draft letter. Executive Committee decided to re-write the letter to reflect a fuller history of the issue. Michael presented to the Planning Commission on Friday morning. If the ADU proposal goes through the Planning Commission, there will be two public hearings at the City Council level.  Land Use struggled with the decision of the board on ADUs. Only one member of Land Use came to the board meeting at which we discussed the ADU Task Force recommendation and the Planning Commisssion’s draft ADU ordinance for the Green Line.  Michael suggested putting in the newsletter where the Council stands on ADUs and give information for individuals who want to go forward and comment on the issue. |
| Strategic Plan review and 2016 goals | Matt encouraged the board the pull out a few items from the strategic plan to take on as goals this year.  Max brought attention to goal 1b and suggested that we take on a structural communication goal. Matt agreed and pointed out some of the disjointed communication that happens within the organization.  Ian asked that we take on that goal as well in light of his new role as co-chair of the Land Use Committee. There is room to regulate, control, and contain the conversation in order to make good progress within each committee. We need a training and a process.  Michael suggested 1h as a current goal. He noted a need to revamp the election process. The board discussed naming at-large board members. Scott wondered about the role of business delegates because he has a 501c3 which is an organization and not a business. He would like to revisit the basic structure of north vs. south vs. business. Ray discussed the history of the role of the business delegate and how the delegates from business historically have represented all sorts of organizations. The board discussed the wording of the role. Scott spoke in support of the member at large position. This would require bylaws change.  Alex suggested 4g. Staff can give a summary of our meetings with City Council staff and representatives. Maybe Samantha Henningson should be invited to attend Land Use to talk about Russ’ stance on Prospect North.  John Mark spoke to the hierarchy of needs and how SAP’s concerns are sometimes seen by City staff/other districts as not as critical as other needs (i.e., vs. safety, food etc.). Discussion on program priorities particularly for SSA followed. SAP comes out ahead on representation often.  Matt spoke of the need to work on the ten-year plan.  Ian added that the board should connect projects between different committees and with the neighborhood overall. We need to work on smart integration at this level.  Michael suggested 2c on the e-newsletter and the website. We need to work on improving the ease of the website to use.  Scott pulled out 2i on civic participation skills to ask what exactly that means. Scott suggested that the board be present and visible at community events.  Matt recommended that staff put the notes out within a few days and that he will then make a draft of what the 2016 goals will be. |
| Budget | The actual expenses from 2015 came in. We will work on the projected expenses for 2016 next time. The board reviewed expenses from the past year. We should have a breakdown of the numbers by type of things that were bought on the expense sheet. The numbers are somewhat off because we had to pay out the Good Neighbor Fund work before getting reimbursements. |
| Staff Updates | We want to look into getting a grant writer for the organization to have dedicated time to gaining sources of funding. John Mark wondered if that was contractual or an employee position.  This position would be hunting down grants and establishing relationships with foundations.  Alex spoke to the importance of going for higher level grants. Michael queried about paying the position out of successful grants. Michael also suggested looking for funding for the ten year plan. St. Paul Foundation has opportunities coming up.  Matt wondered if the Executive Committee should discuss the member at large position before coming back to the board with a stance. |
| Adjourn | Michael moved to adjourn at 9:22 |