May Land Use Committee Minutes

May 4, 2017

7-9pm

In Attendance: Roger Purdy, Cailin Rogers, Chiara Marano, Ian Luby, Sherm Eagles, Carol Herman, Leigh Curry, Tim Fuller, Karen Nelson, Bob Straughn, Scott Simmons.

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|  | Introductions and Approve Agenda: 7:02  Motion to approve minutes and agenda passed unanimously. |  |
|  | Carter Avenue Variance Request: 7:03  Carter Avenue between Como Avenue and Eustis. Faces Gordon Place. Need to replace garage. Legal non-conforming use. While replacing they want to fix a couple other problems. Needing to add depth.  Have you contacted neighbors about this? Kit and Jenny (immediate neighbors) both sent email in support. Hearing on Monday. Can’t have parking and/or garage in front yard. Bob expressed concerned about second story of garage (concerned about precedence).  Executive Committee will make final decision when board cannot meet in interim. | **Move to send letter of support for variance request. Vote passed unanimously** |
|  | Ten Year Planning Brainstorming/Training: 7:20  Scott Simmons from Equity Committee:  Opening up conversation about equity and diversity. Scott is board member and co-chair’s the Equity Committee. We have a few guiding questions as you’re thinking of your part in 10-Year Plan:  •Does this item provide opportunity for full community feedback?  •Does it increase participation in council activities?  •Does the item actively promote participation in council activities?  Equity Committee is leading charge. Comes directly out of 3-5 year strategic plan. Internal push, external component as well. District councils are being seen as less important. Trying to diversify ourselves from other district councils. We are the only council currently doing this.  Define Equity—Equity as a version of equality but pays specific attention to groups who haven’t had attention paid to them in past. Racial, people with disabilities, elderly, low income, renters, lgbtq, anyone not traditionally at this table, non English speakers, shift workers. Traditionally community councils reach folks who are white, educated, above 50, make good money, own their own homes, etc.  How do we do equity within this, can’t be line item, it needs to be a framework. Include Met Council’s 20/40 plan definition of Equity.  **Questions:**  •Do you feel safe walking in the neighborhood?  •Where do you walk to?  •How much do you walk? Do you walk?  •Mix of businesses? Do you think the neighborhood needs more housing/employers/services/retail?  •Are there essential services that are lacking in the neighborhood?  •Do people use local businesses, if not/why not?  •Is there adequate mix of housing/quantities/enough rentals/size/style, too much of too little of something?  •Are Airbnbs are a good thing?  •Density Issues  •Employment opportunities, where do people look for jobs?  •How far do you travel for work?  •Are there employment opportunities for your skill here?  •Questions surrounding schools  •How long are you going to stay in the neighborhood? (seniors/renters/students)  •Work/play balance?  •Questions surrounding green space  •Where do you go to hang out?  •Do you think you can afford the neighborhood?  •Can people in your situation afford XYZ?  •Where do you shop for groceries?  •Disability/wheelchair access  •Like/dislike design elements of new buildings?  •Job creation and reuse of industrial land  •Do people actually take the bus?  •Police protection, do we need more police coming through the neighborhood?  •When is the last time you saw a police officer throughout the neighborhood?  •Dog park?  •Do you have a dog?  •More community garden opportunities?  •Do people use CSAs? |  |
|  | Design Guidelines (Towerside + SAPCC): 8:08  Move to next month’s meeting | **Put on agenda for next June meeting** |
|  | Staff Updates: 8:10  •Weyerhaeuser Park updates:  Bob, Roger, Cailin, Steve, and Karen went to Monday night’s citizen’s meeting. There were 45-50 people present. A lot of good input regarding what they want in a park. On Wednesday night there was a presentation. (Refer to Illustrative Plan handout). Consensus was that they didn’t want planned space, they wanted space for people to hang out. Want a space for sunlight, to keep it more open/natural. On the east edge of park there is a gravel surface, which could be conducive for a farmers market. The park is about the size of Mears Park in downtown. There will also be a kiosk that could advertise events in our community and prospect park. $300,000 allotted for park. Cailin suggests putting some bike racks from grant next to park.  •MDC Planning Workshop:  A Towerside initiative looking at various plans that are currently out there. Happening on the 17.  •Rebranding South Saint Anthony Park:  Group associated with C&E Flats wants to rebrand South Saint Anthony Park. They are having focus groups about rebranding the neighborhood. They have had trouble getting a restaurant in that space. There are 2 spaces, one that will be a new brewery, and the other a restaurant. Cailin will share Joe’s (heading up the rebranding idea) email address. Counterintuitive from bringing south/north together. Cailin will reach out to Joe and suggest to meet Towerside.  •Towerside Board Formation:  Board of directors, limited liability company/nonprofit. They feel in order to get funding they need more structure and this is a mechanism to do that. More representation from Saint Paul. Right now they have 10 on board and 3 that they have been chasing, agreed on trying to get 3 from SAP. Cailin Rogers, Steve Quam formerly mayor or Richfield, and Jeff Fensky from the Midway chamber of commerce; in addition to Bob and Katherine. First meeting for board is scheduled for May 11. Meeting with Dominion is May 12.  •Dominion:  Been asking for months to get a meeting with Dominion and have gotten nowhere. They are not communicative, don’t think outside of the box and begrudgingly talk with us.  •Granary Corridor:  No Updates |  |
|  | Other Agenda Items: 8:55  Murray Jr. High is planting a garden, should reach out to Tim Chase to see if the food can go to SAP residents. |  |
|  | Adjourn: 9:00  Motion to adjourn passed unanimously. |  |