

SAPCC Land Use Committee Thursday April 7th Meeting Minutes

Attendees - Mark VanderSchaaf, Chris Courtney, Regan Golden, Ray Bryan, Roger Purdy, Nick Studenski, Karen Nelson, Starke Mueller, Sherm Eagles, Bob Straughn

Guests:

Ash Narayanan (Our Streets Minneapolis)

Updates:

Holding pattern on the working group for rent stabilization, not a lot of interest and attention seems focused elsewhere.

Nick reached out to HealthPartners, still waiting on response.

I-94 Boulevard Project - Guest Ash Narayanan

Nick outlined that the context is: the Transportation Committee has moved to encourage the board to sign the letter written by Our Streets Minneapolis. That motion was tabled in the last board meeting to give Land Use an opportunity to discuss it before the board votes. Only the board can decide how to act, but we (Land Use) can propose an amendment to the Transportation committee's motion.

Ash presented an overview of the vision. Mark expressed concern in particular with regard to the needs of the freight industry in the neighborhood, and a skepticism of whether the boulevard will live up to expected benefits. Starke, Chris, Regan, Nick expressed the feeling that a bold statement might be necessary to prompt MNDOT to respond, and there would be opportunity for criticism or feedback in the future in the event that the boulevard is considered.

There was also a proposal to form a task force to gather information about freight in the neighborhood, and door-knock to gather feedback on the boulevard vision.

Starke made a motion to approve the letter as-is. Chris seconded. Chris, Nick, Roger Starke, Karen, Regan in favor. Mark opposed. Ray abstained. That's 6-1-1.

Cleveland Trees

Everyone is sad about the large number of trees slated for removal on Cleveland Ave. The tree removal is incongruent with previous plans communicated by the county. There was no notice of the change, and engagement and communication on behalf of the county was lacking.

Regan moved to draft a letter expressing SAPCC's frustration with the large change to the plans for the street without communication or engagement, and a plea to preserve as many trees as possible. Karen seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Time

Land Use meets the first Thursday of the month, which is a bit close to the Board meeting (second Thursday) and on the same day as the executive committee. Regan floated the idea of moving our meetings to the last Thursday of the month, which would give us an extra week. Regan will discuss with Kathryn.

Sunrise Bank

Sunrise bank filed to rezone the land occupied by their headquarters and parking lot on Wabash. We don't know why. Karen mentioned that at one time they were discussing adding another office building.

Meeting in-person

Chris mentioned and many agreed with a sentiment that it would be nice to meet in person. Land Use used to meet at Jennings school, another possibility is the SAP library. Nick will look into that.