MEETING MINUTES for LAND USE 03/02: This was an important meeting focused on our relationship and collaboration with Towerside.

Attendance: Kerry Morgan, Kathryn (SAPCC), Dick Gilyard, Karen Nelson, Pat Thompson, Sabina, Reyd Jordan, Sherm, Roger Purdy, Ray Bryan, Bob Strsug

I. Starke Mueller is new co-Chair, already on Council. Reyd is a new member, and we need a new Chair to start on May 1st.

II. Gratitude to everyone doing the work for Towerside and being so engaged in improving the neighborhood. We covered a brief history of Towerside about how this group was formed as the Green Line planning took place and continues to function with support from a Funder's Collaborative. Towerside is designated as an Innovation District, it is 360 acres roughly. Towerside Planning Committee is working to be the "Master Developer" for the site, to coordinate a larger vision for the area so that it is not just piece-meal development but a cohesive and thriving neighborhood. Over the past five years they have added 2000 units of housing. Their main partners in this planning has to be the University of MN and the Port Authority. They advocate for equitable, resilient and climate protecting neighborhood that utilizes District Systems. There are many opportunities to collaborate with DIstrict 12 to create a unified and cohesive space for us all to enjoy and grow, such as the Granary Crossing development, the connection to the Grand Rounds bike trail, the environmental health of Kasota Ponds/ Bridal Veil Wetland, the redesign of the 280/94 intersection, the UofMN Transitway, and many more projects. This meeting is just a starting point and we are all excited! Another supporter and collaborator has been the UofMN College of Design, in helping to craft a larger vision, also support for the McKnight Foundation. Towerside is trying to create a model for density and livability and sustainability that other cities or neighborhoods could replicate. Often Towerside needs to draw up alternative plans to present to developers which is labor intensive and could use more support for Technical Planning.

III. Opening celebration for the new Westgate Park still in planning phase, would this be an opportunity to solicit feedback from neighbors on what new park could use? Funding for artwork in park is 5K, where is that funding coming from and is there a date by which it needs to be used? Kerry Morgan suggested applying for the Cura Research Grant to study community needs for park and create a call for public art for the space. Regan suggested this would also require more funding, but having a study to support need would make argument to funders. Another options would be the Good neighbor Fund - Should we propose something for the new Westgate Park? https://government-relations.umn.edu/good-neighbor-fund

March 30 - Applications due by 5pm

IV. Updates on Cleveland Project - Minimal changes covered in Bugle, should we invite Trista and Mitra to an upcoming Land Use meeting?

V. Other Projects we need updates on:

- North Campus Redevelopment from UofMN

- New Health Partners building on Como

- Seminary / Breck Woods Plans

- Addition of Underwater Storage System below Ag fields

- Metro Metals Retention Pond and Drainage into Mississippi

- Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater & Vapor Superfund site.

VI. Future Visitors? Angela from CEZ will join us for our April 2nd meeting.

VII. New Goals for 2023: Please review our revised list of goals before our next meeting.

VIII. Discussion of ways to add more pollinator plants check out:

Abundance London: https://abundancelondon.com/

100 trees project: https://www.creativeenterprisezone.org/100-trees-initiative

Mississippi Watershed Management Org (great description of local projects):

https://www.mwmo.org/projects/

XIII. These are our follow up questions for Towerside, we will let you know what we hear!

1. What if any plans exist to connect the Granary Crossing to the Grand Round (Minneapolis) to Industrial/33rd Ave north Kasota/Energy Park terminal of the Crossing? In particular it seems that Granary connection could be useful to provide an alternate

north-south grand round connection from St. Paul's Como section to the somewhat limited Raymond section that is the current corridor. And I envision the Granary Crossing being connected to the new linear park/trail between Westgate park and its bikeway to possible connection at Pelham/Glendale to the Extended Midtown Greenway and the Ayd Mill trail at the that trail's northern end. There are numerous missing links (or roadblocks) to make these connections that need to be resolved in future planning and development.

2. What tools have you used to get involved early in the design process with developers?
3. What is Towerside's perspective on the Redesign 94 initiative both from MnDOT and Boulevard? https://www.twincitiesboulevard.org/
4. What makes an "innovation district"?
5. Would there be benefit in having a SAP Land Use member sitting in on your PPA Land Use meetings and vice versa? A regular slot in our meetings to update us on news from Towerside?
6. How do we find out who owns the land where the two neighborhoods meet?