

Minutes

Prospect Park East River Road NRP - 2 Steering Committee Meeting of June 20, 2005 at Luxton Park

1. The meeting was called to order by Steve Cross, co-chair of the Steering Committee, at 7:05 pm in the multi-purpose room at Luxton Park Community Center. There were 9 people present. (See attached sign in sheet and item 8.) The other co-chair, Dick Poppele, was out of town. Ann Munt told the group that the Somali members of the committee were unable to attend due to an exhausting event on the weekend.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to go over the proposed agenda for the June 29 meeting and finalize any details that might remain.
3. Paul Scheurer introduced a guest, Steve Green, from the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC). Steve was formerly a contractor and has for several years worked as a Construction Manager for the Housing Resource Center, which is a program of GMHC. They provides free consultations with homeowners, look over contracts, and help homeowners evaluate potential contractors, avoid foreclosure, etc., all free. The GMHC was the PPERRIA/NRP contractor on the Motley housing loan program in NRP-1 and currently works with a number of neighborhood groups. Steve basically walked everyone through what GMHC can do, including managing other loan and grant programs that could be used to multiply the money available for housing rehab in the neighborhood. GMHC could potentially be a contractor for the loans/grants under NRP-2 and Steve said he would be very willing to come back to speak with PPERRIA or a housing committee once the Action Plan is passed. No commitment was made to work with GMHC, however.

Steve said that marketing is central to the success of any housing program. Recently they put a flier in the city water bills and have been flooded with phone inquiries. To publicize and market housing options in the neighborhood, Steve told of "Housing Fairs" which have been conducted in other neighborhoods. They bring together number of loan and grant providers and housing contractors in one place and then publicize the event in the neighborhood. The programs are explained in group sessions and then there is open time for people to talk to contractors and loan officers right there. Whether such a fair were to be held in the neighborhood would be up to PPERRIA, and they would have to arrange it. Steve did say that it is difficult sometimes to get people who could benefit from the loans and grants to actually come to the fair and to realize that the program is not a scam just to take their money. He suggested that it's sometimes necessary for homes that need work to be identified by someone in the neighborhood and have someone, preferably a neighbor, go to the person and get them to sign up.

4. Steve Cross passed out a packet of papers (see attachment), including the proposed agenda, proposed procedural rules, a proposed meeting plan, a proposed flier to be posed in the area, a proposed minor amendment to Appendix B of the Plan, the Action Pan, and a flier announcing another meeting scheduled for the same night.

The committee then walked through the procedures for the neighborhood meeting. Joyce is going to bring lemonade and water and Betts will arrange for cookies for early arrivals. Dick Poppele will preside and Steve Cross will work with him to make the necessary motions to move the meeting along. Committee members will come to Luxton at about 5:30 pm in order to set up for the meeting. Dick will bring his movie screen so that transparencies can be projected. Kari Simonson's husband will bring and setup a PA system. Joyce will make 150 copies of three documents to be passed out at the

meeting (Agenda, Rules, and the Action Plan).

Items one through four of the agenda are procedural and unlikely to take a lot of time. Item five is where the substance begins. Dick Poppele will give a summary of the Plan and will assign people to present various sections. In item six there will be a motion to pass the plan. It is possible there will be a motion to divide the plan. Amendments are also a possibility. No firm plans can be made ahead of time because the content of any possible amendments are unknown.

Item seven is a vote on giving the Pratt part of the plan Early Access Status. This was considered necessary in the event the entire plan is delayed.

Dick Poppele had by e-mail proposed a minor change to the Appendix B of the Action Plan. The change was deemed non-substantive by the committee and was passed with no objections. (See attachment.)

It was noted that a scheduling problem has arisen. The City's Department of Public Works has sent out post cards announcing another neighborhood meeting on the design of the Bridal Veil Falls Bridge. It is on the same date and time but at St. Frances Cabrini Park. Steve Cross will call them and suggest that they move the meeting date but it is unlikely that they will do so.

5. There was one correction made to the My 31 minutes and then the minutes were approved with no objections. The minutes of the June 6 meeting were approved with no corrections or objections.
6. The next meeting date was left undecided. Further meetings will be at the call of the chair. It may be necessary for the committee to meet to plan a presentation to the NRP Policy Board and/or the city.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.
8. The meeting attendees were:

Paul Scheurer
Kari Simonson
Dean Lund
Ann Munt
Betts Zerby
Mary Alice Kopf
Steve Cross
Joyce Barta
Steve Green