



PPA Virtual Board Meeting Notes – July 27, 2020 -- DRAFT for Board of Directors' Approval

The Prospect Park Association (PPA) held a virtual board meeting on July 27, 2020.

Meeting participants: The names that appeared on the ZOOM RSVP list were the following: Jenna Hoge, Florence Littman, Ami Naff, Ben Tuthill, Jay Benedict, Serafina Scheel, Jay Benedict, Ann Herzog, Annetta Stelter, Laurel Neufeld, Tom Neufeld, Maddy Bartsch, Cam Gordon, Kari Dziedzic, Jim Oberly, Ann Sechter, Jerry Stein, Katie Houlihan, Julia Tabbut, Andrew Kopacek, Kory (last name not provided), Lupe Castillo, Peggy Reijto, Nick Juarez, Evan Roberts, Deidre Meacham, and Vicky Mercer.

PPA Board Members: Eric Amel (President), Jeff Barnhart, Devan Blanchard, David Frank, Britt Howell (Vice President), Amy Kaminsky, Sammie Messina, Laura Preus (Secretary), Joe Ring, Lynn VonKorff (Treasurer)

Call to Order/Quorum. President Eric Amel opened the meeting a little after 6:30 pm and noted that we have a quorum.

Introduction/Agenda. Eric A. welcomed people to this virtual meeting that includes both board meeting business and community meeting conversation.

Motion. Eric A. reviewed the agenda and moved that we proceed with the agenda. Motion was approved by acclaim.

Announcements/Updates.

Update from Sen. Dziedzic. There have been major issues for legislators to address including Minnesota's COVID response and the killing of George Floyd. There were negotiations ongoing in the last weeks of May, with continued efforts into the summer.

Sen. Dziedzic discussed equity and safety topics related to training, officers living in communities, and arbitration trends. For example, she cited that about 30% of non-police arbitrations are sent back, but 50% of police arbitrations are not sent back. These kinds of trends need to be addressed.

Sen. Dziedzic described her sense that Republicans voted down a bonding bill. She noted that basic infrastructure helps preserve communities, and that money for metro parks is important. However, they couldn't find agreement. She felt another issue they didn't get to resolution had to do with Housing. Sen. Dziedzic expressed that bonding dollars for housing are greatly needed. She sees this as critical for education, health and other outcomes. We need to focus on how we get people into stable housing.

Distance learning is also a key consideration that still needs to be resolved. Broadband is a real issue – everyone needs good access for the long- term as it relates to distance learning.

Sen. Dziejdzic expressed she wanted to hear what was of interest to the community, and wondered what else do community members think they should be working on?

There were community questions about distance learning – For example, what is going on in the primary and secondary levels, what would class sizes look like, and what would a hybrid model be? There was also concern mentioned for child care for parents who need to work, and kids who regularly get nutrition at school.

Sen. Dziejdzic described how teachers and school districts have been looking at options to come up with the best solutions. There are considerations about how we do screening, testing and more. Sen. Dziejdzic spoke further about the need for child care plans if parents are working, e.g. MPLS public school had day care for essential workers, as well as food security topics.

Eric A. noted some disappointment that the legislature overall had not finished its business. Is there any way to prompt coming back to session? Sen. Dziejdzic noted that it was not so much that they did not get their work done, but that at the end of May they knew they would need to come back in session in order for the Governor's Executive Order to continue. When they came back on June 12 they knew they needed to address criminal justice reform, and they also knew they would be back on July 12 to again continue the Executive Order. They will also likely be in session in August. They are continuing to have negotiations between these time periods, and they hope for agreement.

Amy K. asked about federal agents being sent into cities around the country. Sen. Dziejdzic noted that President Trump talked about sending in the federal government military into MN. Usually such an action is done at the request of a Governor. In Minnesota's case Gov. Walz was already ramping up the National Guard and other units, so MN said we did not need it. Now we are having peaceful protests.

We have heard how President Trump may have suggested they would send in federal agents to cities with crime issues. But we have not heard of that here. MN has been working with the federal government more related to topics like assistance for PPE, etc.

Sen. Dziejdzic and community members expressed thanks for the opportunity to connect on this variety of topics.

Ward 2 Update from Council Member (CM) Cam Gordon. CM Gordon noted he sent a written report that will be distributed through PPA. There is a lot going on at the city. We are dealing with our public health emergency. We're at 160 COVID deaths in the city, and the confirmed cases are still coming in regularly. We all need to continue to be aware of that risk. It makes dealing with other issues more difficult, as anything we do we need to do with social distancing precautions.

CM Gordon brought up the housing crisis in the city, noting the encampments in parks, but that he hasn't heard of encampments at Prospect Park. Riverside, Becket and Matthews have some small groups of campers, and he noted that they are supposed to get a permit. Some federal funding is coming in to help fund shelter operations. One such operation is near Hiawatha and Franklin.

They are working on pedestrian improvements in Glendale. They met with the Transportation Committee. They hoped there would be more residents from Glendale, and is interested in more outreach.

There was preliminary city approval to support the Towerside Energy system. This would allow buildings to work efficiently by getting heating or cooling from underground depending on the season. It relies on the aquifers. Eric A. mentioned that PPA sent a letter of support for that. CM Gordon noted that they will do some more studies, but this first approval was important for the partner buildings. It could be important for the future of the area.

CM Gordon spoke about how we are moving forward with reimagining public safety. The City Council put forward a proposed change to the city charter. This is being reviewed by the Charter Commission. People are tracking the Charter Commission's work, and CM Gordon noted they need to be done with the city timeline by August 21 for the proposal to go on the ballot. They are also expecting to get a report back with more ideas about how to conduct a year-long approach to public engagement around public safety. There will be ideas about deeper engagement.

The City Council is also working on the budget. There is a \$60 million shortfall. Most of the lost revenue is from decreases in sales tax, parking fees and the convention center. As a result of the shortfall there will be furloughs of city workers. They are encouraging staff to take unpaid leave for some "vacation" time, etc. They also did a series of amendments that were approved. They moved \$1 million from the police department to the office of violence prevention. They are looking at examples from other cities, and how they are using street-savvy trained professionals and being more proactive in their work. Some have noticed an uptick in crime in certain areas so they are trying to address these concerns.

Finally, regarding upcoming voting locations, they are consolidating some voting places because of COVID. E.g., there is a Prospect Park local church location that will now be moving to the Weissman.

There was an opportunity for further Q&A.

Jay B., who works with the Pillars of Prospect Park senior living, brought forward concerns about traffic safety in the neighborhood around Malcolm and 4th Street. Other PPA members noted the same concerns, especially related to apartments in that nearby area. They discussed issues especially on Malcolm Avenue and 4th Street, and trucks with big loads of debris. The trucks seem way too big, and recently 1 or 2 cars have been hit each week. It seems like parking will need to be limited to one side of the street, or there may need to be a limit on the size of the trucks.

CM Gordon noted they have been using trucks in that area for a decade, before the apartments were built, and the thought was that the streets would be large enough. It would be hard to limit truck size, and it's not possible to widen the street. It might be possible to reduce parking, but there is already limited parking.

Comments noted that the traffic seems too fast, there is too much traffic, etc. Trucks are also going along 4th street.

CM Gordon invited an e-mail with specific information. Evan Roberts, Transportation Committee Chair, noted that the Transportation Committee was also noting challenges along 4th street, etc.

CPS Nick Juarez added that he had also looked at this issue as to why the trucks were using those routes. He understood that 4th street and Malcolm are designated as a truck routes. He is not sure who designates them as a "truck route," but that is a consideration in all of this. Vice President Britt Howell noted that many people had thought that trucks were not allowed on 4th street. There was discussion

about how things have been changing rapidly in that area, and perhaps the designations were from when stadium was being built and industrial area were an area of focus.

Organizational Business.

Racial equity framework follow-up from 6/22 meeting. President Eric A. brought up last Board meeting's motion around a task force and invited Vice President Britt H. to introduce this work and next steps.

Britt H. noted that we would be setting up a task force meeting. She described a vision to make it a task force that could be "at the ready." We want to make sure that our neighborhood is prepared for things that emerge, so that we can have more information to share for those who are concerned, more to say, and more initiatives ready to go. We should better understand who is working on what, around where they live. Britt H. further described how the task force isn't just intended to be a one-time activity. There needs to be conversations around racial equity. Black men are treated differently than any other group. This effort should be getting at systemic changes. We need to be better equipped and able to share this with the community. Britt H. proposed being in touch in the coming weeks and laying out a plan to introduce this work. She asked meeting participants about their reactions to these ideas and received positive feedback about this as an approach to move forward.

Eric A. also reminded the group that this related to the resolution of looking at the whole of this organization through a lens of equity. This is critical work where we will need to all together get our oars in the water and row forward. President and Vice President indicated their enthusiasm for moving this forward.

In conclusion, there was an invitation to contact Britt H. if interested in participating. There will be a new PPA e-mail address for Britt.

Committee Reports.

Transportation and Safety Committee.

Committee Chair Evan R. reported how the July 21, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting included several motions and they all passed by around the same margin of 20 to 4. He explained that one of the motions was to send a letter to the Charter Commission for the council amendment to go on the ballot; another promoted that PPA should make plans for engagement around this issue, regardless of the Charter Commission outcome.

Transportation Committee/community member Ben Tuthill further clarified that the motion is not for the PPA to vote for or against the charter amendment. The letter is only to encourage the Charter Commission to put the amendment on the ballot in November. The letter emphasizes that our neighborhood is ready to have these conversations, so it asks the Charter Commission not to delay because of our account – we are ready to have these conversations. We want to demonstrate our commitment and have public engagement.

Secretary Laura Preus asked about the recent news that the Charter Commission was putting forward their own amendment, and did the Transportation Committee or CM Gordon have any perspectives on the implications of that action.

CM Gordon explained that the other Charter Commission amendment would not include all of the components of the City Council's amendment, but that it would similarly omit the requirement for a minimum number of police per population. If both amendments were to get on the ballot, then people could vote Yes or No to each of them. CM Gordon noted the concern that he and other have is that some people might feel caught in the middle and just vote for the modified smaller version, which would have less impact. He noted that Minneapolis has always funded more than the minimum requirement since any one currently was on the Council. The minimum requirement alone would not be the most important element, and would be like voting for some limited reform, rather than a fuller transformation.

Treasurer Lynn Von Korff explained that Transportation Committee knew about all the Charter Commission proposals when they voted on the motion, so it would not change the Transportation Committee outcome.

There was a community member question about what would be the change that could be brought about through the proposed amendment? CM Gordon offered perspectives on desired outcomes. It would remove the Mayor's complement command, remove the minimum budget in the charter, and better align this department with the other city departments. There would be a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The new department head would be appointed like all other department heads. Then within that department, the City Council may establish a Division of Law Enforcement Services. The City Council most certainly would, but the terminology of the word "may" would give them a bargaining tool. For example, this would give them the flexibility to go with another contract or other approach, which would open things up for a bigger discussion. The policies would be city policies and the police department would operate with policies set by a council. CM Gordon expressed there would be more stability and transparency.

Community conversation on Transportation and Safety Committee motions. Following the descriptions and Q&A, and before the Board vote on the motions, Eric A. introduced a virtual engagement activity to advance community conversations around this topic. He asked Britt H. to explain this, as she had used it in other venues, and had suggested it would be a good approach for PPA to use. Britt H. explained how we wanted to help catalyze conversations around these topics.

For the next part of the meeting PPA board members helped facilitate "break-out rooms" on the Zoom platform, where community members and board members were able to have smaller group conversations around each of the proposed motions. After each break-out session the whole group came back together. Facilitators also used an "instant poll" to see how people in that moment would vote related to the motion. People were not required to take the poll, and it was not intended to be a scientific poll, but rather was to help get a sense of people's perspectives and help to catalyze and inform the discussion.

Break-out rooms returned and people were asked about their support for PPA sending a letter to the Charter Commission. The instant poll results were:

- Yes – 17
- No – 1
- Undecided – 2

Similarly, break-out rooms allowed conversations around community engagement. Following a return from the break-out rooms, meeting participants were asked if they supported the motion about making plans to engage neighborhood conversations about neighborhood safety. The results were:

- Agree – 20
- No – 0
- Undecided – 1

Finally, the third motion was addressed in break-out rooms. This motion was about promptly following up regardless of the Charter Commission’s results, around workshops and dialogues. There was full-group conversation around the importance of these conversations being respectful to all. Meeting participants were asked about their support for this motion and the results this time were reported as percentages:

- Yes – 86%
- No – 5%
- Undecided 9 %

Following this approach Eric A. asked for feedback about this small-group discussion and instant poll approach. He asked people to chime in on the chat box about this overall approach and the comments were positive, e.g., with “yes” and “thumbs up.”

There was also some follow-up discussion about how we could approach community engagement on this topic. Some noted it would be important for facilitators/moderators to be used so that all voices are heard, and so that we do not devolve into complaining sessions. CPS Nick Juarez suggested we may need to do outreach toward individual buildings. For example, they have held special meetings just for Glendale residents, or just for larger apartment complexes. He emphasized that if it is only one meeting we won’t get everybody there; encouraging residents in buildings is one way to increase participation.

There was a resulting conversation about the challenges of doing public engagement in the time of COVID. People do not want to go into individual buildings. But there may be ways to do things out in the open or virtually. There was a broad sense that we want to continue trying to reach out to people.

There was also conversation about how to address issues of trust and information. Trusted moderators and facilitators can help with that. Some worry about information being shared that may not always be entirely trustworthy. Some reflected back to controversies in the neighborhood dating all the way back to the 1970’s. We all have a stake in this and want to make it successful.

Following discussion of the motions, Eric A. called for a roll call vote for each motion. David F. confirmed we have quorum.

Motion 1. PPA sends a letter (draft included in the Transportation and Safety Committee notes) to the charter commission in support of a speedy resolution to allow the proposed public safety charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot (deadline: August 5)

- Eric A. - aye
- Jeff B. - no
- Devan B. – aye

- Becca – not present
- David F.– aye
- Britt H. – aye
- Amy K. - aye
- Susan LF – not present
- Sammy M. - aye
- Laura P.- aye
- Joe R. - aye
- Bob R. – not present
- Lynn VK. aye
- Will W. – not present
- John W. – not present

Motion 2. That PPA makes plans to engage in neighborhood conversations about community-based safety.

- Eric - aye
- Jeff - aye
- Devan - aye
- Who’s next?
- Britt - aye
- Amy K. - aye
- Sammy M. - aye
- Laura P. - aye
- Joe R. - aye
- Lynn VK. - aye

There were no “nays” and there were no abstains. Some Board members were not present.

Motion 3. That the PPA promptly follows up on those plans with a concrete plan for neighborhood wide workshops/dialogues on the topic of community-based safety regardless of the charter referendum’s clearance.

- Eric - aye
- Jeff - aye
- Devan - aye
- Who’s next?
- Britt - aye
- Amy K. - aye
- Sammy M. - aye
- Laura P. - aye
- Joe R. - aye
- Lynn VK. - aye

There were no “nays” and there were no abstains. Some board members were not present.

In summary, the three motions from the Transportation Committee passed the PPA Board:

- Motion 1: 9 – 1
- Motion 2: 10 – 0
- Motion 3: 10 – 0

Lynn VK gave PPA thanks to Ben T. and others who worked hard to bring these ideas and conversations forward. Others echoed the sentiments.

Administration - approval of financial reports. Treasurer Lynn Von Korff summarized how each year non-profits must do an annual report. It is reviewed by an NCR auditor. It is included in our packet and PPA materials.

Motion. Lynn VK moved that the PPA Board of Directors approve the MN state charitable financial report and the 2019 IRS form 990. Joe R. seconded.

Discussion. Are there any irregularities? No. Lynn VK noted that PPA had a long-term legal fund that had originally been set up; these are termed “restricted liabilities,” so any future treasurer would simply need to know that they could be only dedicated to those purposes.

The motion was called to a vote and passed unanimously. No opposed. No abstains.

Lynn VK also showed the PPA 2nd quarter budget vs. actual report on the shared screen. Lynn noted that the revisions were related to events that were canceled due to the pandemic, e.g., we had planned to hold the Pratt Ice Cream Social, but then were not able to hold it due to the pandemic. She noted we itemize the details of projects, e.g., more than a dozen events at \$26,442.

Finally, Lynn VK also showed on the screen the PPA Statement of Financial Position, which is a two-page document that summarized the assets and the liabilities of the organization. The difference is our equity. These handouts are available in the packet of meeting materials.

Community Building. Committee Co-Chair Jerry Stein mentioned that the notes from the committee were submitted to the board and they have more details. The mutual aid project to help distribute pandemic supplies to every home in Glendale has gone ahead. They hope this will also give a model of success for the census count. The notes also give an update on the tenants’ right project. Many efforts that were stalled due to the pandemic are now getting going again.

The Jackson project is also re-starting. They are connecting with the school principal and parents at Pratt to discuss ways to link the Jackson history project to student learning and to a proposed new playground. The principal says the children will respond positively to this learning opportunity. The Jackson family contributed materials to the project and will travel to Minneapolis when the project is implemented.

The committee is also interested in understanding more about Glendale’s historic designation status. They are also discussing health and safety of black and brown people in the neighborhood. The Glendale security meeting had about 40 residents and there was significant interest in it. There were discussions of the dynamics between private security, police, and more. Also, they discussed voting

registration plans. Finally, they are also looking at making adjustments to the Learning Dreams project to better support online learning and technology access for the school children in Glendale.

Board elections. PPA staff Jan Nelson thanked everyone for coming. She talked about “PPA 2020 Key Election Deadlines” which was in the Board Packet. She showed the document on the screen and walked through key dates. The annual election would be a virtual meeting. It will be an opportunity for each person to give 2-3 minutes about themselves, and then there can be mail-in ballots to complete the election. We need to sign people up to get their ballots.

- Aug. 3 – opening the process – you can begin to request mail-in ballots
- Aug. 12 – candidate profiles due to PPA
- Aug. 19 – profiles posted on PPA website
- Sept. 10 - deadline to request a ballot
- Sept. 11 – ballots will be mailed out
- Sept. 21 – annual meeting from 6: 30 – 8 pm
- Sept. 28 – ballots must be received by this date and will be counted
- Announcement will be made via PPA newsletter and PPE-list as soon as possible.

REMINDER – The meeting will be held on September 21st – this is the 3rd Monday in September - not the usual 4th of September because that is a holiday.

Consent agenda. The consent agenda included the PPA BOD June notes, Community building notes, and Transportation and safety committee notes.

Motion. Eric A. moved to approve the consent agenda items. Devan seconded. Eric A. asked if there was any discussion or edits. There were none proposed. All in favor? The motion passed. No one opposed. No one abstained.

There was a reminder that there is one more Board meeting coming up on August 24th. Thanks for all for participating in this virtual engagement!

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by PPA Secretary Laura Preus