



## **PPA Virtual Annual Meeting Notes – September 21 2020 -- DRAFT for Board of Directors' Approval**

The Prospect Park Association (PPA) held its annual meeting on September 21, 2020, using a virtual meeting approach.

**Meeting participants:** Eric Amel, Kory Anderson, Jeffrey Barnhart, Jay Benedict, Sharon Bigot, Mary Britton, Lupe Castillo, Dan Cross, Kari Dziedzic, David Frank, Cam Gordon, Jenna Hoge, Britt Howell, Nick Juarez, Kathy Kahn, Amy Kaminsky, Susan Larson-Fleming, Florence Littman, Todd Lanning, Kathleen Macosko, Vera Marshall, Moriah Maternoski, Lydia McAnerney, Sammie Messina, Lydia Morrell, Ami Naff, Krista Ostrom, Laura Preus, Evan Roberts, Ann Sechter, Betsy Snyder, Stacy Sorenson, Jerry Stein, Lynn Von Korff, Peter Wagenius, Madeleine Wagner Sherer, and John Wicks. Staff: Jan Nelson

**Introduction/Annual Meeting Format.** President Eric Amel opened the meeting at about 6:35 pm and welcomed everyone to the Prospect Park Association's annual meeting. He noted that in recent years we have been holding this at the Profile Events Center and have appreciated their hospitality in that space, but that this year we are doing this in a virtual format. We hope to return to in-person annual meetings in the future.

This virtual annual meeting allows PPA to give our annual report (via PowerPoint), hear from the candidates, and have some virtual "table talk" time for interested people to share information (in place of having a table set up at the Profile Center). It was also noted that the voting this year is via mail-in ballot, since it could not be in person; ballots are due soon after this annual meeting, and need to have a postmark by September by 24.

**PPA Annual Report.** A PowerPoint presentation served as the PPA's annual report; this report is available on the PPA website. Presenters included Board Officers – President Eric Amel, Vice President Britt Howell, Treasurer Lynn Von Korff, and Secretary Laura Preus. Committee Chairs also gave committee updates including Mary Britton, Evan Roberts, Jerry Stein (co-chair with Susan Larson-Fleming), and John Wicks. Topics covered included welcoming new neighbors, acknowledging major events in 2020 including COVID-19 and the killing of George Floyd, and the need for resiliency and adaptation. PPA moved to virtual meeting platforms in 2020 and continues to invite feedback on how to make this successful. New committee work has focused on equity and new forms of engagement, safety, community building, and more. Special recognition was also given for the many volunteers who make this work possible, including key staff and long-term volunteers.

**Candidate introductions.** There are nine candidates running for the PPA Board. Each candidate was asked to share some highlights from their profile for just a couple of minutes. Candidate profiles are located on the PPA website.

**Table Talk.** This portion of the meeting provided an opportunity for elected officials and interested participants to share introductions and information.

**Senator Kari Dziedzic.** Sen. Dziedzic gave her thanks to those who are running and noted how the Prospect Park neighborhood is working hard and having success. She noted that the legislature was still hoping to pass a bonding bill, and she has been working on housing topics in her role on the housing committee. This includes tenant protections and tenants' rights. It is coming to the forefront, and she is interested in what the Prospect Park Association has to say on this topic as they work on legislation and more. Sen. Dziedzic was appreciative and said she was happy to answer any questions, either now or via e-mail or chat. President Eric A. expressed his thanks as well.

**Council Member (CM) Cam Gordon's Ward 2 Update.** Council Member Cam Gordon gave a short update. He shared a written update for Ward 2 and also invited any questions or feedback.

- **Public Safety.** He is trying to keep the conversations going around public safety. He has been attending block gatherings or meeting in people's yards to discuss people's hopes, concerns, and ideas. He issued an invitation to join block-by-block conversations. Send him an e-mail if you would be willing to host one of these. It is a good way to stay in conversation. He noted that even if people have different perspectives, a lot of people share common goals around safety and having the system serve us better.
- **Minneapolis 2040 plan and overlay ordinances.** There are listening and feedback opportunities coming up. He has also been working on Minneapolis overlay ordinances. The effort has to do with topics around buildings, dwelling unit numbers and bedrooms, parking, pressures in housing, etc. This is also described in his Ward 2 update. CM Gordon is looking for representation from different neighborhood organizations and would love to have someone from Prospect Park and a student.

**Betsy Snyder, Executive Director of SE Seniors,** shared an update. She started with the organization in December 2019. She expressed thanks to PPA for all of the support during the Covid-19 pandemic and our work together this year. She also noted thanks for partnering on a grant related to seniors living in Prospect Park – both for new needs and existing needs. They are working on recruiting volunteers for assistance with outdoor fall clean-up projects for seniors, and ongoing snow clean up. If you are interested, please e-mail their organization or contact their volunteer coordinator, Ann Carter, at [ann@seseniors.org](mailto:ann@seseniors.org). During the pandemic they have been assisting seniors with doing shopping and dropping off cloth masks and PPE. They have a good supply and others can also contact them if needed. They are also working on promoting the census and also provide information about how to vote this year. And there are programs and information available via Zoom. She shared their phone number as 612-321-2302, and website at [seseniorsmpls.org](http://seseniorsmpls.org)

**Jay Benedict from the Pillars,** gave a greeting – he works on outreach and sales at the Pillars of Prospect Park. This is their first year of being open and he expressed appreciation to PPA for welcoming them into the community. Jay noted it has been a challenging situation to say the least, to open a senior living building in the middle of a pandemic. He also shared how it has been gratifying to see seniors moving in and making Pillars their home and making the Prospect Park neighborhood home. They have brought 35 residents who were not previously Prospect Park residents into the neighborhood. They are working on many ways to successfully build community, including homecomings, COVID conscious events, etc. He closed with thanks for being part of the neighborhood, and appreciation for PPA.

**Nick Juarez, Crime prevention specialist.** Year to date there have been more police reports than last year, but 911 calls are down. There continues to be some concerns with auto thefts and personal robberies. Be careful about leaving keys in the cars – especially if running errands, deliveries, etc. Toyota Prius’ and Toyota SUVs are frequent targets as well. Bike theft continues. If you have a scooter please secure this to the ground so that people cannot pick it up and take them. The Chief also gave an award to our precinct for having reduction in violent crime in this last year. He also mentioned National Night Out; this year were only a couple of small events, but these were positive. There is also a concern about a person who calls himself as the Prophet; he takes photos or videos when people are not aware that he is doing this, and then he posts them on social media to incite problems. Or he can take videos under false pretenses, and try to join house parties. Staffing levels are holding steady in the second precinct. Nick said that anyone with questions or comments should send him an e-mail. There was some questions about mental health topics and how to address this proactively. Nick J. discussed how they were looking into those topics.

President Eric A. closed with thanks for everyone for participating in this event. The meeting adjourned shortly after 8:30 pm.

**The next board meeting will be: October 26, 2020, 6:30pm Virtual Format.**

*Notes respectfully submitted by Laura Preus, PPA secretary.*