



## PPA Virtual Meeting Notes for October 26, 2020 – Draft for Board Review and Approval

**Meeting Participants.** \*Eric Amel, \*Jeff Barnhart, Mary Britton, \*Rach Coffin, Stacy Coffin, \* David Frank, Simone Hendrix, Martin Hernandez, Ann Herzog, \*Jenna Hoge, \*Britt Howell, Benjamin Ihde, \*Amy Kaminsky, \*Susan Larson-Fleming, Lydia McAnerney, Lupe Morales, Lydia Morrell, \*Laura Preus, \*Joe Ring, Evan Roberts, Ann Sechter, Sam Smith, Jerome Stein, \*Ben Tuthill, \*Lynn Von Korff, Julia Wallace, \*John Wicks, Lance Witzig

\* = Board Member

Staff: Jan Nelson

**Gathering and welcome.** Jan Nelson welcomed people as they joined the meeting from 6:20 – 6:30 pm. President Eric Amel called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**Quorum and Meeting Agenda.** Eric A. shared an updated board member roster on the screen and welcomed new board members. He invited people to share questions or topics under the “new business” agenda item, and especially invited new board members to ask questions as needed. Eric A. asked David Frank to check on quorum; David F. confirmed we had a quorum.

Eric A. showed the agenda on the virtual meeting screen and reviewed it. Eric highlighted board officer elections as one of the topics. He proposed that for the board election we will take nominations or self-nominations from the floor. If we had any part of the election with more than one candidate, then we would use the private chat function to vote with the PPA staff host, Jan Nelson.

**Motion:** Joe Ring moved the agenda and it was seconded by David Frank. The motion passed.

### 6:35-7:00 Announcements/Updates

**Welcome PPA Administrative and Communications Coordinator, Liza Davitch.** Eric thanked the committee members who worked on the hiring process. Liza Davitch has previously worked with the Seward neighborhood and brings a great set of skills for this PPA staff position. She is an artist, does video work, does many grants, and more. She also has worked with diverse communities as a parent volunteer at Pratt. PPA looks forward to working with Liza!

**Glendale and Pratt Youth Learning Pods – East Side Neighborhood Services.** PPA Treasurer Lynn Von Korff gave an update and was joined by Lance Witzig with East Side Neighborhood Services. This program helps a group of children get the services they need – especially during this challenging time of COVID. Lance W. explained how they need to raise \$5,000 to allow two teachers to work directly with the children for the rest of the year. A generous donor has provided half of that funding, and they will continue to raise funds. At the end of 2020 they will also re-assess needs for 2021. This work was endorsed by PPA at the last Board meeting. East Side Neighborhood Services also works on food security and other neighborhood support services. PPA member Jerry Stein described how many volunteers are involved and this effort is important for the community. The link for donating support for this children’s

Learning Pod program is here: <https://www.esns.org/support-glendale-youth>. Lance also gave his e-mail address for any questions at [lwitzig@esns.org](mailto:lwitzig@esns.org). This information will also be distributed in the PPA newsletter.

**Ward 2 Update.** Council Member (CM) Gordon distributed a written update. Jan Nelson distributed this to participants via e-mail. It is also distributed via the PPA newsletter.

### **7:10 – 7:55 Organizational Business**

**Filling Board Member Seats.** Eric A. described the set of board member seats.

- The Business Association representative has been Jeff Barnhart. Eric thanked Jeff B. for being willing and able to continue in that role for the next term. Jeff B. shared how he was honored to stay on the board and work with PPA. Jeff B. has worked in the neighborhood for many years and has a strong connection and appreciation for PPA.
- The Student Representative also needs to be filled. Eric A. mentioned he will seek to connect with student Becca Cowin to gain insights on the best way to fill that role.

**Officer Elections.** President Eric A. explained how we would go through the process by addressing each officer role and welcome nominations.

- **President.** The current President Eric Amel gave an introduction and said he was willing to continue in this role. He also emphasized that he welcomed any other candidates if others would be interested in the role. No other candidates stepped forward or were nominated. A vote was taken and Eric Amel was elected President by acclaim.
- **Vice President.** Eric A. asked Britt Howell if she would be willing to continue in the role of Vice President, and Britt Howell said that she would. He asked the board if there were any other nominations of candidates, and there were not. A vote was taken, and Britt Howell was elected as Vice President by acclaim.
- **Secretary.** Current secretary Laura Preus shared that she had appreciated serving in the secretary role in the past two years, including being involved in the Management Committee. However, she noted she would prefer at this time to play a more active role on the board in other ways, and asked to rotate off if another board member would be willing to play this role. Eric A. thanked Laura Preus for her service as secretary. He also noted a conversation with Amy Kaminsky where she may be willing to play this role. Britt Howell nominated Amy Kaminsky. A vote was taken, and Amy Kaminsky was elected Secretary by acclaim.
- **Treasurer.** Eric A. asked Lynn Von Korff if she would be willing to continue in the Treasurer role, and she also said that she would. She also emphasized if others were interested, she would be happy to mentor them in the treasurer role, and that this may be something to aim for in the next election cycle. A vote was taken, and Lynn Von Korff was elected Treasurer by acclaim.

Eric A. also gave a brief description of the elected officers' role on the Management Committee. They meet in advance of board meetings and help set board meeting agendas.

### **Community Quick Reports**

**Transportation and Safety Committee.** Committee Chair Evan Roberts gave a brief update. He invited committee member Julie Wallace to share motions that the committee had passed regarding street-related safety issues. The full motions are listed in the committee notes and board packet.

*Malcolm Avenue Issues.* Julie described problems at Malcolm Avenue. Topics included curb cuts, ramps, trucks and cross walks. The committee hoped to improve several issues and improve safety.

**Motion.** Julie Wallace brought forward the committee motion in support of safety adjustments and safe crosswalks at Malcolm Ave. Joe Ring seconded. The motion passed by acclaim.

Eric A. thanked Julie W. for her work on this, and committee member Kate N. was also acknowledged. They hoped that this work would help address the issues related to curb cuts, ramps, and cross walks, etc.

Julie W. also described the committee's letter about congestion on Malcolm Avenue SE north of University Avenue. There is parking on both sides of this street with many trucks making turns into a narrow situation. There was a traffic study in 2018 that suggested there were mitigation measures. The committee would like the city to follow up and pursue possible mitigations to improve the congestion. They didn't want to dictate what type of mitigation to pursue, but felt the city could use its own study to help determine the best solution. They also noted that this location was near the Pillars and other important community elements of our neighborhood.

**Motion.** The committee moved to support this Environment Committee letter for addressing congestion on Malcolm Avenue. Jenna H. seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclaim.

*Bike lanes.* Another topic was brought forward related to bike lanes near Oak Street. Evan R. shared a map that showed a focus on improving bike lanes. He noted these topics were in the PPA Transportation Plan that had been approved before the pandemic. There were questions and discussions on the details of bike lanes, how they are designed, and how to make these flow smoothly through the neighborhood. Board members expressed support for bike lanes.

**Motion.** The committee moved support for the Environment Committee letter related to improving bike lanes. The motion was voted on and passed. John Wicks abstained, noting he would like to better understand the proposal.

*Malcolm Avenue Traffic Calming Proposal.* Evan R. gave a short presentation on this topic. Many are aware that the Minneapolis Park Board's long range plan includes ideas for Malcolm Avenue. The vision is for a shared street with traffic calming measures, taking into account its location between Pratt School and Tower Hill Park. Evan described current conditions. The area sees a lot of pedestrian traffic, e.g., the school, a church, a nearby grocery store, etc. He explained how currently there is time-limited parking, wide crossing distances, etc. He also summarized various options for traffic calming measures, including the following:

- Concrete Bollards. These can be painted for better visual variety.
- Temporary roundabouts. In Minneapolis there are some temporary structures to achieve roundabout functions.
- Planters. Many places are using planters to improve traffic flow. They can be moved with pallet jacks. This allows a trial basis of different lay outs.

Evan R. explained how the committee supported the option of the planters, with the ability to try out different solutions. He showed a map that demonstrated ways to change the flow near the school.

The proposal would be for \$2,000 to acquire the planters and then implement this proposal in collaboration with Public Works department.

Lynn VK commented that this NRP funding is probably already available in a traffic strategy, and she will work with the committee to ensure that we use the appropriate process to access the funds.

**Motion.** The committee brought forward the motion to advance the Malcolm Avenue Traffic Calming Proposal. We recommend that PPA uses \$2,000 in funds to construct planters to help calm traffic at the intersection of Malcolm and Sydney Place. They also request that the PPA works jointly with Public Works and Park and Rec Board on planters. The full motion was referenced in the board packet notes. Susan LF seconded.

There was a discussion to address questions and some concerns. There was a question about who would implement it? Evan R. explained that volunteers were ready to help address some of the construction of the planters, and PPA would work with the school. There was question about how it would be evaluated, and Evan R. described how the committee and Public Works would work together to assess how the planters were working. There was a concern about the lack of aesthetics with the traffic calming options. John Wicks also wondered about the ability of fire trucks to access all parts of the school in the event of a fire. Evan R. addressed how they would work with Public Works to ensure that the planters were placed with safety in mind. David Frank also expressed some uncertainty about making the street more like a one-lane street. Ben Tuthill suggested that we should think about this space as a place for pedestrians and not just cars. Amy K. noted the importance of considering crosswalks and seniors. Laura P. spoke to the importance of the joint evaluation, and that this is a way to consider school children between the school and the park. Lynn V. noted the link between the school and park, and Eric A. reminded the group that the Public Works department would be involved in determining and evaluating how to make this successful.

John W. asked who would have the ownership of these planters? He did not want PPA to be liable for any injuries. Lynn VK noted that we would need to work with the city. There was an emphasis on working with Public Works. Finally, Jerry Stein made a connection to the idea of the Pratt playground and naming the area for the Jackson family that helped integrate the neighborhood in the early 1900s.

**Vote on the above motion.** The above motion was re-stated and voted on. The motion passed. There was one opposed, and one abstained.

*Public safety discussions.* Ben Tuthill gave an update about the committee work related to public safety discussions. This was a follow up to the previous committee and board motion in support of these discussions. They developed a proposal for how to implement these safety discussions, which was included in the board packet. They planned a series of Zoom workshops that would bring in representatives from local groups that are working on public safety topics. The funding request would be for any needs related to speaker fees and/or meeting costs. They are requesting a budget between \$500- \$1000 to address speaker fees. Ben T. invited people to participate, help out and/or contact him with any suggestions or ideas for speakers, conversations topics, etc.

**Motion.** In order to fulfill PPA's commitment to public safety discussions, the committee proposes holding 3-5 PPA public safety workshops, hosted over Zoom, featuring 3-5 local

experts. The full motion was referenced in the committee meeting notes. Susan LF seconded the motion. The motion passed. No opposed. No abstains.

**Environment Committee.** Lydia M. gave an update for Committee Chair Mary Britton, who was at the first part of the meeting. She described a successful neighborhood cleaning event. 30 people participated and there was significant progress made in cleaning garbage. New people joined the effort, and Campus Living also participated by handing out materials. The next meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup>. All are invited. There is good energy and momentum around having a climate action plan, and they are working on refining this.

**Community Task Force.** Vice President Britt H. described how the Indigenous Task Force will be joining forces with the Environment Committee. There is already a lot of great work with common interests, so Britt H. described how they were going to collaborate and build momentum in a common effort.

**Community Building Committee.** Committee Co-Chair Jerry Stein gave an update. He discussed work to honor the Jackson Family, one of the first African American families in Prospect Park in the early 1900s. He noted the committee had shared a presentation and slide show with Pratt PTO. They are looking for ways to share the Jackson Family and Prospect Park history, and they are also in conversation about the naming of the playground. They also are looking at connections between the school and the park. They are hoping to trim some of the overgrowth at Tower Hill Park. He acknowledged Kiera N. for helping with this. Susan LF added information about their work with stakeholders and more.

Susan LF noted that the meeting notes are in the board packet. Jerry Stein referenced NRP plans that talked about this area as the Village Green. We are building on some of that previous work; it also allows us to access funds associated with that previous effort.

**University District Alliance.** There was also a brief description of the University District Alliance (UDA) and the need for PPA representation on this group. Lynn VK has done some work related to Minneapolis 2040, and other related work. She also acknowledged that if others are interested, she would be happy to have them play this role. But if others are not interested, she is willing to represent PPA.

**Motion.** There was a motion to have Susan LF and Lynn VK to be the PPA representatives on the University District Alliance (UDA). Susan LF seconded.

There was a discussion about the UDA and some of the challenges/opportunities associated with the group. With new PPA board members it was an opportunity to learn some history and context. There was commentary about how the group has not gotten much traction and it is unclear what the benefits for PPA will be. However, there was also a sense that there should be PPA involvement in case there can be some mutually beneficial outcomes. Jeff B. noted he has also played a role and there was a discussion about the business association role. Lynn VK noted that ideally there would be three PPA members, with Jeff B. playing a business association role. However, Jeff B. noted that may or may not play out based on how UDA functions. He was willing to either play the PPA role or have others play it. Lynn expressed interest due to some of her connections with this work, and asked if she could consult with Jeff B. Everyone agreed that they would help each other out.

**Vote on the above motion.** The motion was revisited, voted on and passed.

**Administration/Treasurer's Report.** Lynn VK shared a PowerPoint report and noted that the motions are in the board packet.

*The Neighborhoods 2020* has been evaluating funding and has an adjusted time line.

- November 5 – City Council Public Health and Safety Committee – public hearing/presentation
- Nov. 13 – City Council vote
- Nov. 16 – Budget Committee discussion
- Dec. 11 – City Council adopts budget

Lynn VK explained PPA's challenging future budget situation. We have to tread water and plan at the same time, because we know that PPA's funding will be reduced. In 2020 PPA's funding is \$64,000. In 2021 our funding will be \$42,000. To address this funding reduction we have transitioned from 1 full time staff person to a ½ time staff person. In 2022 the base funding is expected to be only \$15,000. And in 2023, it would fall further to \$10,000.

We have started to address this by implementing staffing changes. And we also need to address our lease and look at this on a month to month basis.

**Motion:** PPA Board of Directors (BOD) approves extending PPA's office lease on a month to month basis after the current lease term ends on 12-31-20. Susan LF seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Barnhart abstained.

*Glendale learning pods/learning dreams.* PPA also has NRP funds for specific types of uses. The board packet includes background information. The Glendale learning pods/learning dreams requires a process to be funded through NRP.

**Motion:** PPA Board of Directors approves rolling forward the NRP strategy called "NET Program" from phase 1 to phase 2.

**Motion:** PPA board approves reallocating \$5,000 into the "NET program" strategy (\$693.42 from Historical District Completion and \$4,306.58 from Loans/Grant/Affordable Housing Development). Susan LF seconded the motions. The motions passed.

*NRP Project Specific Eligible Funds – renters' rights.* Funding is important to allow this project to continue. Lynn VK explained how this motion would allow an existing project to continue by accessing basic funds for printing supplies, translating in different languages, flyers, materials, etc. Ben Tuthill spoke to the importance of this project for renters' rights.

**Motion:** The PPA BOD approves adding \$1,000 to the Renters' Rights Project budget. Susan LF and Amy K simultaneously seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **7:55-8:00 Other Business**

**The Board Meeting Dates for 2021.** PPA sets meetings annually and seeks to avoid all types of religious holidays. The set of meetings was included in the board packet. They are generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

**Motion.** There was a motion to approve the dates for the board meetings in 2021. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Code of Ethics Documents.** Jan Nelson reminded everyone that new board members would need to read and sign the same code of ethics documents that have been signed by all existing board members.

**Open the floor for new board members.** Eric A. invited any new board members to share any questions or comments as needed. There were no questions or comments to address at this time.

**Utility boxes.** Jan Nelson noted that PPA received a request to clean the graffiti boxes at a specific location on University Avenue. Because we have artistic PPA utility boxes, the city informed PPA that we are responsible for cleaning them. Jan asked if anyone would be willing to help clean the artistic utility box? New board member Rach (Rachel) Coffin offered to take this on. Thank you, Rach!

**Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes.** Including:

- PPA Board Meeting notes for August 24<sup>th</sup> and September 21
- Community Building Committee notes for Sept. 11 and October 7
- Environment Committee notes for July 28
- Transportation and Safety Committee notes for October 20

**Motion.** Eric A. made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Susan LF and passed.

**Motion.** John Wicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

**The next PPA community and board meeting will be on December 7, 2020.**

*Notes respectfully submitted by outgoing PPA secretary, Laura Preus. Thank you!*