



## PPA April Virtual Board/Community Meeting Minutes - April 26, 2021

### Board Members in Attendance:

David Frank, Lynn Von Korff, Britt Howell, Rachel Coffin, Laura Preuss, Jenna Hoge, Jerry Stein, Jeff Barnhart, Evan Roberts, Ben Tuthill, Jenna Hoge, John Wicks, Eric Amel

**Excused Board Member Absence:** Amy Kaminsky

**Guests:** Florence Littman, Vera Marshall, Krystle D'Alencar, Ann Sechter, Cam Gordon, Lupe Castillo, Mary Britton, Aloida Zaragoza

**Staff:** Liza Davitch

**6:35 Meeting is called to order.** Quorum is confirmed.

Eric Amel makes a motion to approve the agenda. David Frank seconds. All in favor.

### 6:40 Announcements /Updates

The Prospect Park Co-op Legacy Fund (PPCLF) applications are due May 3, 2021. The form and guidelines can be requested by contacting Paula Denman at [pjdenman@comcast.net](mailto:pjdenman@comcast.net). If you received funds last year, you should send a brief report along with this year's request.

The PPCLF board will make decisions about the grants after consulting with their general membership. Membership dues are \$10 and need to be paid by May 17, 2021, Only dues paying members are eligible to vote. To pay membership dues, send a check made out to PPCLF to: Vince Netz, PPCLF Treasurer, c/o Towerside, 2642 University Ave W St Paul MN 55114. Grant requests will be reviewed by members at their Annual Meeting on May 22, 2021, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM via Zoom.

### 6:43 Community Quick Reports

#### Evan Roberts gives the Transportation and Safety Committee report.

- **Proposed Motion:** Transportation and Safety Committee recommends PPA write a letter to Valhalla Place with these key points:
  1. Briefly outlining long-standing community concerns that exist about client behavior near Valhalla Clinic
  2. Acknowledge the important progress made in addressing these issues since the March 2021 community meeting.
  3. Request further actions including the presence of an outdoor Porta Potty until the time when clients are able to wait inside. Valhalla Place to be responsible for the Porta Potty maintenance, including locking them after-hours.
  4. Request that PPA and Valhalla Place meet quarterly to discuss the community impact of client behavior, and that local council members and Hennepin county commissioners be invited to attend these meetings. The Transportation and Safety committee will organize these quarterly meetings.

Britt and Evan will prepare the letter. The letter should be copied to Council Member Cam Gordon, Hennepin County Commissioner Angela Conley, and state legislative representatives. PPA President, Eric Amel, PPA Vice President, Britt Howell, and Transportation & Safety Committee Chair, Evan Roberts will sign the letter. **Britt Howell seconds the motion. Rachel Coffin abstains. Motion passes.**

- **Proposed Motion:** Evan Roberts proposes writing a follow-up letter to the city about adding crosswalks on East River Parkway. The committee wrote a letter in 2018 but the issue hasn't been done so they are writing again requesting MPRB follow-up on the previous action. **Ben seconds the motion. John Wick abstains. Motion passes.**

#### **Jerry Stein gives the Community Building Committee report.**

There has been progress on the local historic designation of Glendale Townhomes. A group is working with Cam Gordon, Charlene Rosie (historian,) Glendale residents, and with other neighborhood groups and the wider community to support local historic designation.

Learning Dreams collaboration project between CBC and Luxton park is completed. Photographer, Kyra Nygard distributed disposable cameras to the youth participants. There will be a zine photo book going online by the "Luxton Park Photo Squad". Luxton has since hired Kyra to teach an advanced photo class this summer.

Krystal D is facilitating a new subgroup, "PPA Community Building Group." The first book the group will discuss Emergent Strategies by adrienne maree brown. The first Zoom meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Committee members are participating in a new partnership with Pratt PTO to redesign the Pratt playground and to create a Jackson Family historical memorial. The project is in the planning stage and will eventually raise funds to support the playground and memorial.

#### **Jenna Hoge and Ben Tuthill give the Renter's Sub-Committee report.**

The committee continues to work on renter's advocacy. They organized Prospect Park tenant's whose apartments were not being managed properly (e.g. no or inadequate repairs and abusive treatment by the property manager). The renters wrote a letter to the landlord describing their situation. In response to the renters' action, the landlord replaced the management company. Community Building also followed-up with a support letter. Needed repairs are now being made.

At the request of the Renters' group, Cam Gordon is setting up a meeting between the he City's regulatory services and renters to discuss ways to improve city services when apartment repairs are not made or are substandard.

#### **John Wicks gives the Land Use Committee report**

Mary Britton from the Environment Committee gave a presentation about the "25 by 2025 Initiative". She encourages property owners get energy audits to help save the environment and reduce heating bills.

Land Use discussed the problem that some rental property owners in the historic district are not adequately repairing properties in an attempt to gain financial benefit through "demolition by neglect." It is important to communicate with property owners that they must maintain their buildings and to communicate with tenants about their rights--and to be attentive.

Joe Ring proposed that PPA update its website to include up-to-date information about historic designation and Land Use agreed this update should also include information for renters, some of whom live in neglected buildings. PPA has funds for this website update (after PPA reduced staff to half-time) the board allocated funds to hire an independent consultant at \$25 per hour to keep the website current.

#### **Mary Britton gives the Environment Committee report.**

- **Proposed Motion:** Lydia McAnerny proposed that the PPA Board of Directors authorize the Environment Committee to apply for grants, as they become available, to support the Prospect Park Rainwater Project as described in the attachment to the April Board packet as grants, including MWMO, Good Neighbor Fund, and PPCLF. **Lynn seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Finance and Admin report.**

Lynn Von Korff, Treasurer, presented the first quarter financial statements (i.e., “budget to actual income statement” and “balance statement”), included in the board packet. PPA is on track financially.

The board will get a revised 2021 annual budget in June to reflect (a) subsequent funding changes made by NCR for neighborhood organizations and (b) PPA’s response to those changes. With thoughtful planning, PPA should be able to remain financially sound, at least in the short-term. PPA has faced a significant funding reduction (City funding is decreasing from \$64,000 to \$25,000 per year).

PPA budgeted a 2021 fund-raising mailer. The campaign was originally intended to take place early summer--to help manage the funding transition, but that timing is no longer necessary. The campaign can take place later this year or early next year. PPA will need volunteers to help with the campaign.

The PPA office move is complete, two months early, -so a \$2,000 savings in rent, and PPA will be getting back its full security deposit. PPA paid rent to PPUMC for this year plus three years in advance, as approved by the PPA board at its last meeting, for a total of \$2,000 (\$500 per year). Much thanks to Task Force members for finding PPA a space and for organizing and completing the move!

**8:00 Cam Gordon gives his April Ward 2 report to Prospect Park**

[https://mcusercontent.com/8a12b3152d8f70e97e090b501/files/878118a0-951e-4558-9327-f69b4dda31de/Cam\\_Gordon\\_s\\_April\\_Report\\_to\\_Prospect\\_Park\\_4\\_26\\_21.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/8a12b3152d8f70e97e090b501/files/878118a0-951e-4558-9327-f69b4dda31de/Cam_Gordon_s_April_Report_to_Prospect_Park_4_26_21.pdf)

**8:31 Review Consent Agenda: Reports & Minutes**

- **Eric Amel makes a motion to approve. David Frank seconds. All in favor.**

**8:35 Meeting adjourned.**