



PPA Annual Meeting and Board Election

Virtual Meeting: May 9, 2022 6:30pm

Board Members Present: David Frank, Lynn Von Korff, Laura Preus, Mary Britton, Eric Amel, Britt Howell, John Wicks, Ben Tuthill, Susan Larson-Fleming, Jerry Stein

Community Members Present: Andy Mickel, Lupe Castillo, Julia Wallace, Ashley Zapata, Patricia Wall, Elaine May, Stacy Sorenson, Namit Bhalla, Eric Lind, Jane Stockman, Molly Herrmann, Senator Kari Dziejczak, Evan Roberts, Allison Bell, Dan Cross, CM Robin Worlobah, Angele Passe

Staff Present: Liza Davitch

Call to Order/Annual Meeting Format. *Eric Amel*, PPA President, called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. He noted that in previous years the annual meeting was held at the Profile Events Center but we are holding this in a virtual format for the second year in a row. We hope to return to in-person annual meetings in the future. On behalf of himself, *Britt Howell*, PPA Vice-President, *David Frank*, PPA Secretary and *Susan Larson-Fleming*, PPA Treasurer the annual meeting begins.

Welcome & Special Guests. *Britt Howell*, PPA Vice-President welcomed everyone in attendance and our special guest speakers *Eric Lind*, *Senator Kari Dziejczak*, *CM Robin Worlobah*, *Molly Herrmann* and *Namit Bhalla*. She also welcomes Prospect Park's new business neighbors; Malcolm Yards Market, Home2 Suites and Brew2 Cafe, Prospect Park Kitchen, O'Shaughnessy Distillery, River of Hope Church, First Independence Bank, and all new lease and house owners and renters and students.

Eric Lind, Co-Chair of the Pratt Site Council. The Pratt Site Council consists of Pratt Elementary parents, the principal, staff, neighbors, and Minneapolis Community Education. The council helps with programming and budget level decision making. Pratt has about 250 students from Pre-K through 5th Grade. There have been three primary challenges over the last couple of years. The Covid pandemic has been very disruptive to learning. They are now fully in-person after a hybrid period of in-person and distance learning. A second challenge over the last couple of years has been the redistricting of Mpls Public Schools. Pratt was previously in a community zone with the Seward and Longfellow, East Side and South Minneapolis attendance areas. They are now a zone that covers the East Side of the river, North of Franklin Avenue to Cedar-Riverside area and up into Marcy Holmes. All that territory is the neighborhood of Pratt for assigning a school.

Thirdly, the school budget challenges are related to why the teachers went on strike and the response to the strike and funding at the state level.

Pratt is very thankful for the support of Prospect Park Association, the garden club, and is excited to be working on the upcoming Jackson Playground project.

Questions about Pratt, feel free to email him at ericlind@gmail.com

Senator Kari Dziedzic, Session Update. There are about two weeks left in the session. The House and Senate are far apart on most bills.

They've agreed to pass a resolution to divest from Russian and Belarusian entities in order to not support the war against Ukraine and show the people of Ukraine our support.

They passed the UI Trust fund bill. They paid back the federal government what they owed them from when everyone went on unemployment. They paid money toward the front line workers and came to a broad agreement on who should get the funds.

School funding is a big concern. There are school districts across the State that have deficits from Winona to Rochester to Minneapolis to further north. Minneapolis has one of the largest deficits. If the State and the Federal government would pay what is owed them for the Special Education mandate then a lot of those deficits will go away. The Senator has a bill that will pay the Special Education fee, about \$800 million across the State. In a lot of these areas the schools need to make deep cuts or to raise property taxes. But property taxes are already being raised due to increased housing values and services.

MN has some of the worst counselor/student ratios across the county. We could be doing better to offer support services in mental health services and social interaction to students, especially in light of the last two years of the pandemic and virtual learning.

Council Member Robin Worlobah, Ward 2 Update. Ward 2 has worked with a number of reproductive rights organizations to bring forth a resolution safeguarding abortion rights and reproductive rights protections. They expect unanimous support from council members and our justice on the resolution

Their office is leading community engagement services. They posted a community survey and held a number of community conversation town halls.

The Minnesota Human Rights report on the MPD was published and their office is working on what they can do on a council level with structural reform.

New Business Special Guests included *Molly Herrmann* of Malcolm Yards Market (MYM) MYM has been open for seven months. They welcome the neighborhood and look forward to working with PPA.

Namit Bhalla of River of Hope Church. Some of the River of Hope work highlights are holding social events for U of M students and helping international students navigate themselves in the community. They are also working on education relating to abuse as an advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. They are looking forward to finding ways to work together with the community and becoming a healthful resource.

Annual Report Slideshow and Summaries. A PowerPoint presentation served as the PPA's annual report.

Committee Chairs, *Mary Britton*, *Evan Roberts*, *Jerry Stein* (co-chair with *Susan Larson-Fleming*), *John Wicks* and *Lynn Von Korff* gave committee updates. Topics covered included welcoming new neighbors, acknowledging major events and activities in 2021 including; The Environment committee's Climate Action Plan, 25% by '25 Initiative, Community Rain Gardens, Earth Day Cleanup, and neighborhood outreach; The Transportation and Safety committee's Malcolm Avenue planters, City and State planning on street design and pedestrian safety, winter sidewalk maintenance and I-94 plan; Community Building committee's 70th Anniversary of Glendale planning, Glendale/Luxton photo project, "Love in Isolation" art show, and the Jackson Family Memorial Playground, Renters Rights subcommittee's public safety workshops and renter outreach; Land Use committee's Unified Design Standards for Prospect Park, and work with developers and Towerside's District Energy System; Finance and Administration committee's financial strategies to continue meeting PPA's mission despite 80% cut in city funding. *Lynn Von Korff* also stressed the need for financial support and necessity for further fundraising. With

the city funding cuts the Finance and Admin committee has been proactive in three ways so far; reduced annual operating expenses by half, managed finances so that we could reserve some of our contracted city funds to push PPA over the transition, and fundraising campaigns. The community can help PPA by volunteering for committee activities, joining the Finance and Admin committee to help us with strategies to get through this, and by individual gift giving.

Special recognition was given to *Liza Davitch*, PPA's Administrative & Communications Coordinator, the many volunteers who make this work possible, neighborhood residents who attend community and committee meetings, individual donors and the City of Minneapolis.

Special recognition was also given to outgoing board members, *Mary Britton, Joe Ring and John Wicks* and continuing board members *Eric Amel, Jeffrey Barnhart, Reed Coffin, David Frank, Britt Howell, Jenna Hoge, Amy Kaminsky, Susan Larson-Fleming, Ben Tutbill, Laura Preus, Jerry Stein* and *Lynn Von Korff*.

Candidate introductions. There are eight candidates running for the PPA Board; *Eric Amel, Dan Cross, David Frank, Britt Howell, Karl Krause, Jerry Stein, Jane Stockman and Susan Larson-Fleming*. Each candidate was asked to share some highlights from their profile for a couple of minutes. Candidate profiles are located on the PPA website. *Eric* also invites board nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations from the floor, PPA staff opened the board election ballot online. The ballots will be accepted through May 16, 2022 at 4PM. Candidate Bios here: <https://bit.ly/38eI160>

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

Minutes written by *Liza Davitch*, PPA Staff

Respectfully submitted by *David Frank*, PPA Board Member and Secretary