SUMMIT HILL ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT 16 PLANNING COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thurs., August 13th, 2020, 7 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Minutes

1. Additions to the Agenda
   • Community member Ian Hedberg of St Paul 350 is attending and would like to present to the board his group’s involvement in local environmental issues.

2. Approval of the Past Minutes
   • Corrections made to July 9th minutes included spelling changes to the attendance list and correction to the Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan report.
   • Motion to approve proposed by Bridget Ales, Seconded by Abhi Andley, approved by majority vote.

3. Board Member Election
   • Community member Sherry Johnson wishes to join the board. Described her application and involvement in the Summit Hill neighborhood.
   • Sherry was elected by a majority vote to a board position that is

   • Racial covenants are being researched at a granular level to analyze the long-term effects.
   • Some covenants in St Paul were still occurring after the Fair Housing Act was enacted on a federal level. Other restrictions took their place (single family zoning is an example) and continue to have a deleterious impact on people of color.
   • Housing ownership for people of color that was historically low in the metropolitan area and has continued 50 years afterwards.
   • The City of St Paul has just passed a tenant protection (S.A.F.E. Program) act that has the strongest protections in the U.S. to prevent wrongful evictions.
   • The digitization of deed records has allowed for the Mapping Prejudice project to be conducted instead of having to research paper/physical records.
   • There are methods where landowners can discharge the covenants that may exist on their deed.
   • Racial covenants are found throughout the U.S. in property records—in the 1930’s it was a requirement for underwriting property and typically indicates higher property value.

5. Announcement: Simon Taghioff nominated for City Planning Commision
   • Motion created to send a letter of endorsement for board member Simon Taghioff to be appointed to St Paul City Planning Commission. Motion: Ann O’Callaghan, Second: Hillary Parsons

6. Public Comment: Ian Hedberg with St Paul 350 (sp350.org)
• Ian’s group is speaking to city and district councils regarding the increasing impact of carbon in the atmosphere.
• Xcel energy has existing plans to build a new natural gas plant and asks that any interested community members add their names to a pledge on his organization’s website to encourage Xcel energy to use non-fossil fuel energy as soon as possible.
• The MN350 group (parent group of SP350) has an Animal Agriculture policy committee working on the impact of agricultural operations on carbon dioxide generation.

7. Committee Reports

- **Policies and Procedures Committee** (Mike King)
  - Committee met to discuss the process and identifying areas where more clear bylaws are needed.
  - Personnel/human resources policies may need to be updated to ensure compliance.
  - A records retention policy is also being discussed.
  - In the current policies there are a few financial governance items that may require participation from board treasurer Abhi Andley to contribute.

- **Development Committee** (Katie Bergstrom)
  - The house tour has been cancelled for 2020 but a 2021 event will be co-hosted with the Ramsey Hill council.
  - There have been four food drives conducted with collections at the Linwood Recreation Center—there is still strong demand. When dates are solidified they will be communicated through the Summit Hill Association website and e-newsletter.
  - A neighborhood picnic/food truck rally was being planned but delayed indefinitely due to the pandemic.

- **Neighborhood Comp Plan Committee** (David Kratz)
  - The contract with Johansson Consulting for the community engagement component of the Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan is being finalized, was voted on via e-mail by the board, and was displayed during the board meeting. A signed copy is expected in the near future.
  - Board members are invited to join the Neighborhood Comp Plan meeting next Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00pm via Zoom.

- **Zoning and Land Use Committee** (Sonja Mason)
  - Simon Tagihoff is applying to join the City Planning Commission.
  - RM zoning revisions are being voted by September 2nd.
  - The city-wide parking plan is proceeding more slowly.
  - Lot split application on Lombard St was received, a house move was approved by the HPC, and the ZLU committee is not holding a public comment session as the proposed split meets all zoning requirements.

- **Racial Equity Committee** (Rene Meyer-Grimberg)
  - Next committee meeting is August 24th.
  - Innovation Fund Grant is being applied for.
  - List of programs that the committee would like to sponsor/present.
  - Book club “The End of Policing” is the current selection.
  - Rehearsed the “Let’s Get Uncomfortable” exercise.
  - Conversation with Mac-Groveland District council regarding the anti-racist facilitated conversations.
• **Pedestrian Safety/Traffic Calming Committee** (Bridget Ales)
  o Speed limits on many former 30mph roads is now 25mph—St. Clair Ave is an example and
  o The committee was able to install three more parabolic mirrors.

• **Communications & Outreach Committee** (Monica Haas)
  o Hard copy newsletter is at the printer, lay-out work is occurring and it will be out later than planned but reach mailboxes soon.
  o Some businesses on Grand Ave and Selby Ave took advantage of the offer of free advertising in the print newsletter.

• **House Tour Committee** (Monica Haas)
  o Letter of agreement between Ramsey Hill and Summit Hill Association drafted and awaiting signatures/approval.

• **Environment Committee** (Karrie Knutson)
  o No report submitted

8. **Treasurer’s Report** (Abhi Andley)
   • City grant progress, timesheets, and other administrative tasks for the normal funding of Summit Hill Association are taking place.
   • Bethany (Accountant) and Monica are scheduling a conversation to discuss payroll tax issues.
   • Payroll Protection Plan loan forgiveness is awaiting guidance from federal government to have the funds received to continue operation during the pandemic to be forgiven.
   • Costs to run SHA are being kept as little as possible to ensure our budget remains intact.
   • Utilization of our summer intern from St. Thomas University has been low, we expect more work to be done during the Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan.

9. **Executive Director’s report** (Monica Haas)
   • Catalytic Converter thefts have increased in the area, specific to Ben Hill, Lombard, and south of Grand Ave.
   • HPC open forums about racial fairness in historic designation. For details, the HPC website has dial-in information for the August 24th 3:30pm roundtable discussion posted at [https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/heritage-preservation/heritage-preservation-commission](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/heritage-preservation/heritage-preservation-commission)
   • Next GABA meeting is scheduled for August 18th, in-person. A full association meeting will follow.

10. **President’s Report**
    • No additional updates.

Meeting adjourned: 8:52pm
Board Members and Staff in Attendance:
Peter Rhoades
Denise Aldrich
Mike King
Bridget Ales
Hillary Parsons
Kate Bergstrom
Abhi Andley
David Kratz
Simon Taghioff
Rene Meyer-Grimberg
Jeremy Dowd
Sonja Mason
Ann O'Callaghan
Jane McClure
Shery Johnson (newly elected)
Monica Haas (staff)