

RDLU Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

WSCO Office, 209 Page Street W

Attendees: Carol Swenson, Robert Ferguson, Hoka Miller, Carol Neumann, Monica Bravo, Karen Reid, Craig Willford, Miguel Brito, and Bahieh Hartshorn

1. Call to order 6:35 p.m.
2. Introductions were made
3. Agenda: Karen Reid requested the addition of NeDA's STAR application in New Business.
4. January Notes reviewed: It was noted that we have "notes" not "minutes" at committee meetings. Spelling corrections on Carol Swenson's and Carol Neumann's names and Winifred Street.
5. 2017 work plan: Carol Swenson presented the draft work plan (developed by several committee members in January 24th). Ongoing tasks related to planning, land use, and zoning. Equity considerations at top because it affects everything below. Areas of consideration in research include:
 - a. Holman Airfield: Holman park land. What's the status?
 - b. Bike Trails: New trails are being built now. Are we connected to them? What are the lanes and pathways?
 - c. DNR Critical Areas impact on communities: clarification on West Side Flats and District del Sol. Has this been passed? Rule making process has been conducted and it's been through the administrative law judge and accepted. But we need clarification on critical area plan and development impact in St. Paul. Where is the City on this?
 - d. Barge Channel Road – It was developed for river related businesses. It has become an ongoing problem for people living there. Traffic issues – mostly trucks – and air pollution concerns. This topic may be taken up by Environmental Justice committee. The question was, "Is this committee being rebooted to take on this topic?" Carol Neumann reported that the MPCA has 2nd air control dynamic set up. The first one wasn't set up correctly. Monica will contact GAP about their concerns regarding pollution and the road. The EJ committee should look at Port Authority agreements. As an FYI, the impound lot was just leased for another 10 years.
 - e. West Side Flats New project: The Hunt project (south of Sherman's developments) is supposedly moving forward in planning at the City. The committee would like to hear from developer about their plans.
 - f. Sherman II: An upscale Mexican / American? Restaurant at the site. The committee would like to learn more. Monica will reach out to Sherman's architect.
 - g. Stryker Avenue: Carol Swenson gave a history on move to update Stryker Avenue plan and expand the study to Winifred. WSCO has requested a zoning study. Monica will find out the City planners' timeline. Carol Neumann recalled history of development attempts at Stryker (garden) site. Initially there was a senior housing project planned. It did not move forward. Carol stressed the need for senior housing and we should not focus just on commercial development along Stryker. It was discussed that during zoning study senior housing (and other land uses) should be part of community engagement surveys, etc.

- h. Maker Space: Located barge channel road. This seems to be an Economic Committee topic. And unless land use comes into it, we should relinquish attention.
- i. Smith Avenue Bridge: A number of things can happen as bridge moves forward. Tara McBride, MNDot's project manager, will be conducting electronic surveys??? We (or WSCO) should connect with her to find out what's going on! They are still making decisions. Perhaps we can have a joint meeting with the Economic Committee to learn more about bridge design and traffic reroutes. Monica suggests that this issue should rise to the top of our list.
- j. Wabasha Bridge. Bridge from Fillmore to Plato. We don't really know what's happening. Or timeframe. It may come back this year with bike connections, etc. While this is a traffic and potential Economic Development issue, Monica says it still should live here.
- k. Robert, State and Sidney Intersection: Monica will send updates on redesign. The proposal is for CIB (Capital Improvement Budget) funds. The funds may have been shuffled around. It looks like it has been put off until 2020 – to coordinate with Robert Street improvements.
- l. Robert Street reconstruction to Annapolis is scheduled for 2020. Another WSCO committee will be looking at public arts and the Viaduct. Questions were raised on how do we communicate with community? Where can information be found? How can people provide input and support businesses during construction?

6. Tasks for Next Month:

- a. Critical Areas: Karen will follow-up with city on where this is.
- b. Barge Channel Road: Hokan will find out about the different road access, instead of Barge Channel
- c. Hunt Project: Monica will find up with Marie Franchett or Lucy Thompson on status.
- d. High Bridge: Top priority. Combined with RDLU and Business Committee (separate from our regular meeting date). Carol Swenson will help with Smith Bridge coordination with Monica.
- e. Robert Street Construction Update.

7. Tasks for April:

- a. Holman field: Get information about commitments to flood wall and bike trails along river – on top of levee from State Street to Pioneer Press printing plant to GAP. Mike Hahn, director of parks, says it's going to happen and it is in process etc.
- b. Biking event in June – Fundraiser – how about connecting it to using top of levee – biking priority? Quick check to see if it is/can be part of plan.
- c. Holman Park Land and Port commitment. Upstream side of South Port slip. A bench? Hokan had found it. Quick check.
- d. Stryker: Monica will reach out to Laura at PED on update on zoning study. (Combined with Stryker lot)
- e. Wabasha Bridge research: What is happening? Craig will reach out to Public Works (Jeanette Rebar?).

- 8. Updates: On March 4th combined district councils will work on confirming/developing an equity work plan. Monica looking for seasoned committee members to attend.

9. New Business: Karen Reid requested support for Neighborhood Development Alliance's STAR proposal to build out the community space at the 72 Cesar Chavez project. This is part of NeDA's rental housing project that is now under construction. While the investors of the residential portion are building out the exterior, NeDA needs to raise about \$75,000 to finish the interior. Last year, the committee supported a similar proposal. Karen is optimistic that the proposal may pass this time because of its current construction timeline. Motion was made to support the application. Motion was seconded and approved. Because of conflicts, Carol, Craig, Karen and Hokan abstained.

Move adjournment.