

**Board of Directors Meeting
District 16 Planning Council/Summit Hill Association**

**Thursday, August 11, 2011
Meeting Summary**

Board Members Attending: Raabe, Bayliss, McFadden, Pramas, Park, Berhow, Pearce, Schweizer, Erickson,

Not Attending: Donnelly, Wilbert, Melhus, Meacham, Lovett, McGann, Husband, Dobson, Chelseth, Kedrowski, Lawson, Gislason

Also Attending: Staff Roy and Hilden, McDoughall (DCC rep), Jane McClure (Villager) Jim Ivey (Green Party)

President Pramas called the meeting to order at 7:20pm

1. Additions to the Agenda
 - None
2. Approval of Past Minutes
 - In absence of a quorum, the minutes were not voted on. One change: October 13th for the neighborhood meeting (rather than the 14th). These will be voted on next meeting.
3. Open Forum
 - The Executive Committee recommends draft ground rules for the Open Forum – will be voted on later in meeting if quorum, next month if no quorum attained.
4. President's Report
 - McLean Donnelly has a serious medical problem concerning sight in one eye and the hope is he will recover soon. He's doing better and is home.
 - Monday, August 1st – meeting with Ongaro, Skally, Thune, Roy, Pramas and one neighbor to discuss issues from the Lincoln/St. Albans/Grotto area and complaints/concerns from the 2011 Grand Old Day event. Productive meeting with good ideas for improvements next year, including GABA working with vendors on various pick-up times/noise levels.
5. Exec. Director's Report
 - August 21st door knocking to rental buildings by the Communications Committee.
 - Commented on Env. Committtee work on new interpretive window sign for the Linwood Rain Garden.
 - Pramas & Roy met with our St. Paul Commissioner, Jon Commers, to discuss better communication with the council. Touched on concerns over proposed Lexington Pkwy bus route, budget cutbacks that could affect bus service on Grand & St. Clair. Suggestion made for Oct. Summit interview/article to talk more about Met Council and what they do.

- Jeff met with new owners of the Lexington Restaurant along with many near-by neighbors at an invitation only meeting by the owners in consideration of a rooftop patio. Lot of neighbor concern about this, owners are very receptive to listening about how they can make this work.
- Most recent meeting of FROG group (“For Recycling On Grand”) was July 29th. City and Eureka are both onboard, using Mears Park program as a model. Looking at two pilot locations, one on East Grand (likely Grand/Victoria) and another around West Grand near Macalester College. Businesses on Grand do not necessarily have recycling through the city.
- Robin Ongaro is leaving her Executive Director position at GABA for family reasons, effective Aug. 16.

6. CPC/AA Staff Report

- National Night Out – Diane made it to eight gatherings! This year in general, gatherings seemed to be toned down, which is great, so people don’t feel the events need to be a “big deal”. SPPD was happy to have many officers out meeting neighbors, reinforcing community relationships.
- Volunteers needed for calling to recruit board members – Diane is happy to provide names of potential folks to run for the board if anyone has time to make phone calls for recruiting. Or if you are willing to be called for reference by people considering the board.
- Roy & Hilden met with the Wild Onion general manager for update on police calls (Jan to present). Things seemed to be much improved. Number of incidents have dramatically decreased. Briefing from Grand Old Day from Wild Onion perspective.
- Vehicle Theft in the area has increased significantly, please help spread the word – do not leave valuables in the car!! Daytime theft as well. Two things that draw crime to the area – open garage doors, and valuables left within sight in cars.

7. Old Business

- Wilder Bush Site – update emailed from Raabe in meeting materials. Raabe reported that they did get revised site plans yet from Wellington Management. Neighborhood meeting on July 20th with Wellington: two main issues are the addition of five homes to the alley traffic and increased traffic at nearby intersections Grotto/ Grotto and Osceola/Fairmount. Proposed staffing levels and traffic for Emily Program appears to be less than when the Bush Home was operating. Traffic study is being done in these areas now by the city. General neighbor preference is that the homes are not added to the alley, but knowing that it may be necessary. Husband felt another Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting needs to be scheduled and held one on his own 8/4/11. Raabe has not heard any outcomes from this meeting. Wellington Management is meeting with the city tomorrow to discuss the revised site plan. Replatting of the property is necessary, and this will have to proceed through the city council. Unknown when the Wellington petition will be sought of neighbors within 100 feet of site boundaries (about 27 families); or what kind of permit will finally be petitioned for.

- Wild Onion vs. City of St. Paul, lawsuit.

Please do not comment to the media about this on behalf of SHA. Inquiries should be funneled to Pramas.

The Wild Onion has currently two legal matters in progress regarding the 2010 St. Paul City Council decision to NOT support its application for an extension of their liquor license onto its patio. One is an appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals of the City Council decision and the other is a lawsuit against the City in United States District Court. We have no certain information at this time other than that.

8. New Business

- a. SHA Policy Revisions – Recommended by Exec. Committee – no quorum – vote next month.
 - i. Overview of changes:
 1. Add mission statement to our policy, which caused other items to be re-numbered.
 2. “Treasurer reconciles bank statements”.
 3. More detail on expectation of board members.
 4. Asking board members to sign and abide to workplace conduct policy.
 - b. Overview of Open Forum Ground Rules – to be voted on at next meeting

9. GABA Report

- a. Jaimee and Robin have both resigned from their positions at GABA. Meetings of GABA this week to discuss job opening descriptions. Ideally a new Exec Director will be hired by early October. GABA has been doing a strategic analysis of the organization. Shane Weinard will be interim Executive Director to help look at reorganization and assist during interim with no staff other than Jenna who is a temp working at GABA full time. Any communications for GABA should go to Jenna for now: jenna@grandave.com
- b. Three major goals
 - i. Attracting customers to Grand Avenue
 - ii. Adding Value to membership
 - iii. Providing advocacy to issues related to Grand Avenue
- c. Starting Brown Bag lunch series for professional development. First one will be on social media, Sept 21st.
- d. Intern working on analyzing the mix of businesses on the avenue, found that 87% of businesses along all of Grand Avenue are locally owned.

10. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Roy reports on P&L statement looks good. Total income is ahead, expenses are behind.
- b. Vote on 2010 Audit and Annual Charitable Report
 - i. Pramas found a couple of adjustments, no changes from others.
 - ii. Vote for approval in Executive session following this meeting

11. Committee Reports

- a. Communications & Outreach Committee
 - i. Flyer distribution on August 21st – Sunday afternoon – time is flexible. Handing out welcome booklets and invitations to the “After Hours” to rental buildings. Working to continue outreach to renters – very important!
 - ii. “SHA After Hours” – Wed, August 24th (5-7pm) at Dixie’s
- b. Development Committee
 - i. Schweizer met with Lisa to get an overview of House Tour planning
 - ii. Looking for someone to chair the 2012 House Tour
 - iii. Looking for houses for the tour as well.
- c. D16 Implementation Committee – no report
- d. District Council Collaborative - Central Corridor
 - i. McDoughall reported on meeting last night. Work on the light rail in the central corridor is 20% done, expecting to be 50% done by the end of the year. Passenger service not expected to start until Summer 2014. There will be a 6month period to run testing. Problems have had to do with pedestrian traffic, inaccessible sidewalks, and lack of signage. Misunderstanding among by businesses and homes along the avenue about how many days each side of road would take for completion.
 - ii. Money legislature had taken out of transportation funds has been restored from other sources.
 - iii. Proposed lanes for University Avenue (2 lanes vs. 4 lanes) - Neighborhood Livability Committee is coming together with a proposal for the DCC asking them to try two lanes (one lane each way, plus bike lanes & parking lane). Only cost to try this is having to re-painting the lines back to four lanes. Main concern is for businesses and livability on University Avenue.
- e. Environment Committee
 - i. Meeting on Monday, August 15
 - ii. Working on interpretive sign for Linwood Rain Garden
 - iii. Several volunteers working hard to weed & water gardens & trees
- f. Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming Committee
 - i. Ped Safete Week on Grand Avenue is August 15-20! They will be out on the 20th distributing flyers and talking about ped safety issues.
- g. Zoning & Land Use Committee
 - i. The ZLU held a public hearing on August 4th regarding a variance application from the owner of 1075 Lombard Avenue asking for a variance of the required rear-yard setback in order to build a new garage attached to the back of the house by a deck and arbor. A rear-yard setback of 25 feet is required and a setback of 8 feet is proposed for a variance of 17 feet.

- ii. Due to the home's unique rear-yard topography, a deck was proposed to bridge the depression between the house and the proposed garage (two stories) which would then connect the garage to the house creating a single structure. Under the current zoning code the proposed garage would then require a 25 foot rear-yard setback. As there is not enough room on the lot to have this large of a rear-yard setback if the deck is also created, the applicant applied for a rear-yard setback variance of 17 feet in order to proceed with the project.
- iii. Two neighbors who attended the hearing raised the following two concerns:
 - 1). about building of a two –story garage when all other neighboring garages are only one-story. But since the garage would be built into the side of the embankment next to the alley, it would only appear as a one-story garage.
- iv. The second issue was that this proposed deck could be modified by some future property owner to create an back addition to the house with living space, possible multiple floors – and in doing so, creating a massive addition blocking sunlight and not fitting in this area of the neighborhood. Members of the ZLU Committee voiced similar concern. In the end, the ZLU recommended approval to the city subject to conditions including that the structures to be build conform to the same height as in the plans included in the application and no higher.
- v. Roy attended the city's BZA hearing on this variance for SHA and reported that all parties attended. A restrictive covenant was suggested – to be created by homeowner that would stay with property could help alleviate concerns of future building rights. Even so, the BZA vote was unanimous in favor of the variance, no requirement of a covenant. As nothing formal was done with the suggestion of the restrictive covenant. Roy encouraged the neighbor to contact the owner to encourage creation of a covenant on the property.

12. Additional announcements

- a. Please help recruit for board candidates in advance of the October 13th elections!
- b. Please consider and send in Good Neighbor Award nominations. These do NOT need to be board members – anyone who is doing good work in the community.
- c. Staff evaluations – please send these in – August 15th deadline for returning Jeff Roy's evaluations to Pramas. Evaluations for Diane Hilden – Jeff has copies – please try to return these to Jeff by the 20th.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm