

Seward Neighborhood Group: Community Development Committee (CDC)

May 9, 2023 | 7:00 - 8:30pm | via Zoom and in person at Redesign

Summary Meeting notes

Committee members present: Sara Rothholz Weiner (minutes), Winston Calvert, Rebecca Blumenshine, Philipp Muessig, Sheldon Mains, Lisa Boehlke (President SNG) **Others present:** Michael Jon Olson (ED SNG), Andy Hestness (Seward Redesign), Jasmine Epps Flowers (SNG staff), Carissa Hansen

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. CDC recommends to SNG for Carissa Hansen to join CDC as a voting member
2. Meeting summary notes (not transcript) draft shall be distributed to all committee members for review and comment. The final meeting notes will be shared in the SNG Board Packet. They will then be shared on the website under the CDC tab.
3. By-Laws Clarification: only members can vote on items. 7 member committee.

REDESIGN

1. Andy provided a summary of the many projects for which Seward Redesign is involved. These include:
 - a. Seward Commons
 - b. Wadaag Commons which is currently undergoing State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) ordered archeological analysis of an outhouse vault. This will be on going through the summer. This project has received both federal and state funding.
 - c. Façade improvements at Zipps
 - d. Augsburg Bethany site
 - e. Playwright's Center
 - f. Seward Towers will be sprinklered
 - g. A new community engagement staff person has joined their team

ETHIOPIAN CHURCH SITE AND PARKING USE

Brad Ellis, Zoning and Enforcement City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development has provided updates to SNG CDC. (Italics from previous meeting notes tracking this item)

- Today SNG CDC members have observed no change at the site, with continued truck parking. This is past the 30 days compliance period extension. No update has been received to date. SRW will contact Brad Ellis for update and copy Michael John and report any updates to this committee at the next meeting.
- Feb 17, 2023. City issued orders to the Owner. Compliance required by March 8, 2023 - Owner had planned to appeal and then decided not to appeal
- When and if they do apply, there will be a public hearing and SNG will have notice of that - Owner has decided to comply and not pursue a CUP / site plan review as staff cannot recommend approval based on the goals of the comprehensive plan.
- Owner requested 30 day extension which was granted to remove all vehicles and assorted items.
- Any new development of over 20,000 SF of non-residential development goes to Planning Commission. Neighbors within 250 feet will be notified of the hearing.
- Soils need to be remediated. No update on that.

- No update if Owner has decided to request assistance from Hennepin County for remediation - No update from CM Wonsley. At our previous meeting, she indicated that her office would contact the Owner.
- No update from Representative Noor
- Further discussion of eyesore of this property for many years, including the years when it was owned by Kraus Anderson (they put up the fence)
- SNG CDC has tried multiple times to contact the Owner with no response.

36 AVENUE WORKING GROUP. Project shall be called 36 Avenue A.R.T Revitalization.

Update from Phillip Muessig (italics from previous meeting notes tracking this item) a.

Pending additional funds \$5,000 through SNG

- b. Planning continued working closely with Hiawatha School and their Public Art club.
- c. Awarded \$15K for the project, needs to be spent in the next 12 months
- d. Pending additional funds through MRAC (\$15,000)
- e. Hennepin County to address new lighting Elsa's at Lake Street has a long term presence at the corner
- f. Railroads have been contacted requesting support and information for maintenance of side walls, and painting/prepping

AGRA SITE

Concern was expressed on NextDoor regarding the removal of trees. Michael John has contacted Casey from the development team. Delays are due to funding issues. He will share updates, if available, to CDC at the next meeting.

NORMANNA TRIANGLE PARK WORKING GROUP (21st. St. & Minnehaha Ave.) Michael Jon continues to be in touch with Parks Board. We are working towards an agreement to use some of the funds for Community Engagement and Design services.

FUTURE MEETING

June 13, 2023 @ 7:00 pm to be held at Rebecca Blumenshine's backyard. 2020 27 Avenue South. No zoom option

END