**Seward Neighborhood Group – Community Development Committee**

**March 12, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:30pm (Second Tuesdays)**

**Zoom link and In person at Redesign Inc. 2619 East Franklin Avenue**

**Attendees:**

* CDC members: Lisa Boehlke (SNG Board member), Rebecca Blumenshine, Winston Cavert, Carissa Hansen (notes), Sheldon Mains, Steve McCauley (SNG Board member), Philipp Muessig, Pat Rosaves, Sara Rothholz Weiner (Chair), Michael Sedki.
* SNG Board members: Terri Barnes.
* SNG staff: Ella Quainton.
* ReDesign staff: Andy Hestness.

**Meeting notes:**

1. Recommendations sent to SNG Board – status update:
   1. Board approved Pat Rosaves as a CDC member.
   2. Board approved Sheldon Mains to represent SNG on 1-94 task forces: Re-thinking I-94: Tier 1 EIS Section 106 National Preservation Act; Community Leaders Group.
2. **(Motion)** Revision of Seward Neighborhood Boundary in coordination with Longfellow:
   1. Sheldon Mains moved and Lisa Boehlke seconded to resend a request to the SNG Board for SNG to work with the City of Minneapolis to adjust Seward’s official boundary (see attachment). No opposition. Motion carried.
3. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan:
   1. Phil will lead a task force to review and compose an executive summary of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan written by Sheldon Mains. The goal is to use the plan to proactively address issues and make recommendations to the City on behalf of the neighborhood.
4. **(Motion)** Discuss request for Letter of Support: Bench Pressed for Parklet:
5. Bench Pressed has requested a letter of support from SNG to accompany its application for a parklet.
6. Rebecca Blumenshine moved and Carissa Hansen seconded to recommend that the SNG Board provide a letter of support for Bench Pressed’s parklet application. No opposition. Motion carried.
7. Group discussed creating a public document outlining how to request a letter of support from SNG. Sheldon and Carissa will work on putting a document together.
8. Other updates:
   1. **I-94**: Sheldon reported on the recent I-94 meeting. Currently, MnDOT’s plan is to reconstruct the pedestrian bridge across I-94 by 2027. Additionally, MnDOT is looking for community engagement opportunities. Summer 2024 would be a good time to help MnDOT plan a community engagement event in Seward.
   2. **Augsburg and Bethany site**: On March 7, 2024, [Augsburg officially announced](https://www.augsburg.edu/news/2024/03/07/augsburg-university-to-sell-east-franklin-avenue-property-to-somali-museum-of-minnesota/) it will sell the Bethany Lutheran church property at 2511 East Franklin Ave. to the Somali Museum of Minnesota. The Museum, along with Augsburg and Redesign, considered redevelopment options that included saving the sanctuary, but found them financially infeasible. Sara and Philipp, and Steve Peacock from Augsburg, talked with community member Joel Albers about his interest in a grassroots effort to save the sanctuary. That approach would require an organizational and/or financial commitment that is lacking at this time.
   3. **Redesign**: Andy reported that Redesign is close to starting construction on Wadaag Common, ReDesign’s affordable and supportive housing project.
   4. **SNG Board update**: Ward 6 Council Member Jamal Osman attended the last SNG Board meeting. Osman hosts office hours on the 1st and last Wednesday of each month at 10am at Seward Coop.
   5. **36th ART**: The project is getting ready to begin Phase II. Hiawatha Academy has agreed to help with fundraising for Phase II. The University of Minnesota Design Center has agreed to participate in the project and will study the project to understand the effects of art on traffic calming.
   6. **26th Avenue**: Nothing to report.
   7. **Parkway lighting update**: Sara is taking the lead on continued discussions with the City about theft of wire and resulting lack of lighting along West River Parkway. Group discussed the seriousness of the safety issue the lack of lighting has caused.
   8. **Perpetual Affordable Housing Ownership**: City of Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) reached out to CDC with information about its [Perpetually Affordable Housing Ownership program](https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/14023/Perpetually-Affordable-Housing-Guidelines.pdf).

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