

Upper Harbor Collaborative Planning Committee

Meeting Summary

Regular Meeting

September 11, 2019 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) 2001 Plymouth Ave. N.

In attendance: Committee Chair Alexis Pennie, Committee Vice Chair Tessa Anttila, Tanessa Greene, Grace Rude, Jashan Eison, Britt Howell, Markella Smith, Mary Jamin Maguire, Melissa Newman, Vanessa Willis, Phits Nantharath, Channon Lemon (Quorum 8)

Absent: Princess Titus, Gayle Smaller, Paul Bauknight, Bill English

Facilitators: Etonde Awaah & Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn

Staff: Hilary Holmes, 612-673-5070, hilary.holmes@minneapolismn.gov

Call to Order

Chair Pennie called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. He also invited CPC members to Pries Brewing after the meeting for a social gathering.

Fox News 9 asked to film parts of the meeting. After discussion by CPC members, they agreed that they would film the very beginning (introductions) and during parts of the site tour.

Adoption of the Agenda

Etonde Awaah went over the meeting objectives and agenda. The agenda was approved.

Adoption of Meeting Summary 8-28-19

Chair Pennie directed CPC members to review the meeting summary from August 28th and suggest any changes, additions, or correction. There were none. The meeting summary was approved as prepared.

Announcements

1. Learning Table, Sept. 18, Music Venue & Community Ownership Models

Ms. Awaah announced that the next Learning Table would take place on Wednesday, Sept. 18th from 4-8 PM at NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center (1256 Penn Ave. N, 5th floor) on the topic of community ownership models with a special focus on the music venue. CPC members were encouraged to attend.

Discussion

2. Community Process Work Group Report & Proposed Calendar

Erik Hansen, City of Minneapolis CPED, went over the Sept. 10th Memorandum that was sent out to the CPC, which is a summary of what was discussed during the Committee Process Work Group on Sept 5th. Mr. Hansen also explained the four maps handed out at the beginning of the meeting and the revised timeline for September and October from the Process Work Group.

A CPC member asked about whether the music venue was an agreed upon component of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT). Mr. Hansen explained that the music venue is a Council priority in the UHT Concept Plan and top bonding priority for the City. The same CPC member stated they felt like the Committee was not aware of that and that time was wasted discussing the venue as if they had no choice in the matter.

Chair Pennie then expressed worry that the urban development models recommended by the Committee Process Work Group was not showing up in the outlined process/timeline.

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn reminded everyone that they were introduced to the fixed development elements last meeting (August 28th), which included the music venue. The same CPC member stated that the Committee should not be spending time talking about the name of the venue, but should focused on understanding what is fixed vs. flexible within the UHT and discussing the more important flexible components of the UHT.

Vice Chair Anttila shared that there is some confusion on how the information is being presented e.g. what fixed means, etc.

Another CPC member stated they didn't believe the Memorandum Mr. Hansen shared reflects what had been discussed lately. That CPC member still does not understand what the key decision points are, who is responsible for making them, etc. They also do not like seeing music venue as part of "Step 1" in the process (although they don't mind the music venue itself) because it is a top priority. They want to see more on housing and said that there needs to be a real equity plan that is woven through every portion of the project - jobs, development, etc. They then expressed frustration by the structure of the information – they find it confusing and not reflective of the conversations had during CPC meetings. They also found it problematic that the Learning Table only talked about rental housing and not housing ownership. Finally, they stated that the votes on CPC prioritization survey on values and themes were not reflected accurately or possibly they voted incorrectly and would like the opportunity to correct their vote. Ms. LaCroix-Dalluhn said she would follow up with them directly.

Chair Pennie invited everyone to attend the Process Work Group meetings.

A public meeting member expressed frustration about not being able to speak during CPC meetings and asked whether they would be able to during the Process Work Group meetings. Chair Pennie stated he heard his concern and is available for conversation.

One CPC member asked for clarity about the meeting dates, particularly the October 12th meeting date since it is new and a full day on the weekend. They asked how much time they needed to set aside. Ms. LaCroix-Dalluhn agreed it was important to call CPC members attention to October 12th as a new meeting date. She added that it was currently scheduled as an all day event and the Process Work Group helped create the process/calendar. The plan for the day was to look the specific parcels and have conversations about their potential uses, e.g. housing jobs, etc.

Another CPC member reiterated that they are not sure about what is fixed/flexible and what the meaning of those words are. The CPC member that started the discussion (re: music venue) then asked for complete transparency – they do not want the CPC to be the "face" of something the CPC did not decide on. Vice Chair Anttila said it comes

back to trust building – it has been hard to see the collaborative component of the project. She knows that is the intention but she does not see or feel it.

Chair Pennie asked Mr. Hansen to speak to some of what was expressed by committee members. Mr. Hansen did not have time to respond to these questions as the group was preparing to board the buses for the scheduled site tour.

3. CPC Values Prioritization Update

Due to the scheduled site tour, there was not sufficient time to discuss this agenda item.

Site Tour

Ann Calvert & Hilary Holmes of the City of Minneapolis led CPC members and members of the public on a bus and brief walking tour of the Upper Harbor Terminal site. CPC Members and the public were able to ask questions and gain clarity on what the area could look like as a result of this project. In particular the entrance to the site along Dowling, the two options for parkway alignment north of Dowling, and the two proposed locations for the music venue and park space. The two locations for the music venue are 1) as approved in the Concept Plan – embedded in the park at Dowling/the river with additional park space in the southern future phase, or 2) the alternative option proposed – separate from the Dowling park and south. CPC members spent most of their time on foot on the north end of the UHT site, since this is targeted in Phase I.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned when bus returned to UROC.

Next Meeting: September 25th, 2019 at Robert J. Jones Urban Research Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) 2001 Plymouth Ave N.

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