

## CapitolRiver Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting, 5:15 p.m., via Zoom videoconference.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jess Grams. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and name their favorite Saint Paul restaurant.
- II. Previous meeting minutes: The January 25, 2022 board meeting minutes were approved.

### Discussion Items

- III. Listening Session proposal: CRC Secretary Judy Miller presented an idea for a proposed new work group that will plan and coordinate listening sessions. She and several other board members have been planning the events, and she said the Pedro Park Work Group's listening session was an inspiration. The idea is to plan and coordinate two events per year. The working title of the event series is Downtown Saint Paul: A Place to Call Home. The group has prepared the following purpose statement:

The CRC will systematically, and regularly, bring together ALL District 17 residents and stakeholders to engage in listening sessions for two main purposes:

1. To get to know one another as neighbors and build community connections.
2. To identify what makes our downtown neighborhood unique and livable, to identify our concerns and what is missing and to identify ways we can build more connections.

Learnings from these sessions will be shared with the city and with one another to promote the health, safety and well-being of all.

Community Feedback received from these listening sessions will be shared with the city, CRC board and the community.

This feedback will inform the creation of annual CRC work plan goals and projects that address assets, livability and concerns, and that promotes the overall health, safety and well-being of all residents.

Furthermore, this community feedback will indicate on-going opportunities for building community connections.

Board members indicated support the idea, and planning will continue in March.

- IV. City Capital Improvement Budget: CRC Executive Director Jon Fure briefly summarized this opportunity to submit ideas for City funding for projects that will promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. Attendees discussed the process and potential ideas for projects. Public bathrooms were discussed, which creates safety for users (who would otherwise go in an alley or park).  
  
Motion by Judy Miller, seconded by Jess Grams, the CRC recommends public bathrooms to be funded through the Capital Improvement Budget. Motion passed.  
  
Jon Fure said he would follow up and prepare an application before the deadline. He also encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the Capital Improvement Budget to go to the City website and consider applying. A complete list of other City boards and commissions is on the City website: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/committees-boards-and-commissions>
- V. CRC Draft Annual Work Plan: Jon Fure described the draft annual work plan and asked for feedback. A suggested project to add is to update / improve the website, especially in anticipation of the listening sessions (promoting what we are doing and how we are involved). Meredith Heneghan offered to follow up with Jon Fure to discuss strategies for improving the website.

VI. [Monthly summary](#) prepared by CRC Secretary Judy Miller and Committee Chairs (these written updates were sent to board members and are posted on the CRC website).

- Merritt Clapp-Smith invited board members to submit comments to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board regarding proposed rules that govern monuments, memorials, and other commemorative artwork located on the Minnesota Capitol grounds. A public hearing is scheduled for March 14, 2022.
- Meredith Heneghan invited board members to attend a virtual Fireside Chat with The M Executive Director Dr. Kate Beane and Curator of Exhibitions Dr. Laura Joseph: Feb. 24, 6-7:30 PM, via Zoom videoconference.
- The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee has started having a weekly get-together to walk downtown. All are invited to join the group on Thursday mornings at 9 am. Rendezvous at First National Bank, by the security desk.
- John Ganey said the Development Review Committee heard a proposal from a group that is seeking to renovate the Grace Building (the former location of Walgreen's). The proposal is to make the building a nonprofit center with multiple tenants.
- Judy Miller said representatives of Fairview will be discussing plans for the former Saint Joseph's facility with the Public Realm Committee on March 3.
- Alan Ostergaard invited board members to join a virtual meeting on March 10 for the Ramsey County Continuum of Care annual meeting, which includes the election of people who make decisions about funding, and it's a great way to learn about funding and services for people who are experiencing homelessness.
- Olga Nichols sent board members the volunteer opportunities at Safe Space.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**