

CapitolRiver Council Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

Board members and the public were invited to attend via Zoom videoconference.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jess Grams at 5:15 p.m.

- I. Introductions -- Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer the following ice-breaker question: What is a song that you associate with summer? Responses included Summertime by Porgy and Bess; Boys of Summer by Don Henley (and a cover version by The Ataris); various camp songs; Hot Town Summer in the City by The Lovin' Spoonful; Surfin' USA by the Beach Boys; Who Let The Dogs Out by Baha Men; various Reggae classics; Summer Nights (Grease soundtrack); American Pie by Don McLean; and Soak Up the Sun by Sheryl Crow.
- II. Previous meeting minutes: The April 2022 board meeting minutes were adopted.

Discussion Items

- III. Annual Meeting Planning: There are 5 seats for a 2-year term. The group discussed ideas for speakers and / or discussion topics. A board member suggested contacting Michael-jon Pease, Executive Director at Saint Paul Parks Conservancy for an update on their work, especially Downtown projects. Jon Fure said he would follow up and find out if he is available.
- IV. Downtown Saint Paul: A Place to Call Home updates: CRC Board Member Judy Miller presented plans for the event that is scheduled June 16.

Action Item

- V. Motion by Judy Miller, seconded by Joe Baierl, that CRC designates a working fund of \$1,500 for the Downtown St. Paul: A Place to Call Home Listening Session 2022 - 2023. There will be a minimum of three sessions (two already scheduled). Approved expenses to be reimbursed from this fund include food and beverage, supplies, and rental or purchase of a portable welcome table and banner.

Financial Update

- VI. Board members received the monthly financial statements, which are also posted on the CRC website.

Board Member Updates

- VII. Updates and discussion of services for people who are experiencing homelessness: Alan Ostergaard, RADIUS Health provided updates on activities to support homelessness. A homelessness response team had recently counted 27 active encampments, which included 47 tents, in Saint Paul. The numbers have approximately doubled in the last month now that shelters have closed, as temporary funding has been spent. The City's legal interpretation of laws regarding camping is that if no shelter is available, they have to refer to a hotel or other option, and if none are available, they can't clear an encampment. There are some vacancies at temporary shelters, but that is not considered housing. Another issues is that there are housing vouchers available, but it is often difficult to find a landlord who will accept the voucher, especially when the value of the voucher is less than what other tenants are paying in rent. Tati Terfa, Saint Paul Central Library, also provided an update of the Community Resource Outreach Project, which is a partnership with Ramsey County, RADIUS Health, and other community organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.