

CRC Board Meeting – January 23, 2024

Present: Linda Spohr, Brett Bacon, Alan Ostergard, Amanda, Ed Coleman, Will Travis, Josh Vang, Tina Gassman, Victoria Fritz, Erin Zolotukhin-Ridgway, Rich Johnson, Joe Spencer

Meeting called to order by Josh Vang at 5:18 p.m.

1. Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board (CAAPB) Capitol Mall Design Framework.

Linda Spohr from Zan Associates partnered with CAAPB to help develop the new Capitol Mall Design Framework.

Background: CAAPB was created in 1967, served by architectural advisors.

Employees include the Executive Secretary, zoning administrator, admin staff.

Previously designed in 1980s. Plan is to have this completed by 2025 with the help of some consultants, using national design firm Sasaki and other consulting firms. Doing popups at the Winter Carnival family day, a virtual town hall in Minneapolis, and a final open house on the Capitol Mall.

Currently doing a survey in multiple languages spoken in the area. It will look at the capitol campus but also the connections to and through the Capitol area (how do people get there, any barriers to getting there, transportation, etc.). Better knit the campus into the surrounding area. They wish to preserve the open green space for gatherings and assemblies. They are looking at the human scale of the space and making it more comfortable. Also looking at sustainability of the huge lawn.

[2040 Comprehensive Plan](#) was developed in 2020-2021 contained 7 principals:

- a. Destination
- b. Focal point
- c. Model for Minnesota.
- d. Public realm
- e. Urban multi-modal district connected to destinations
- f. New development respects community, assets and context.

Currently in the Learn and Ideate phase, to be followed by Refine and Design, Celebrate and Launch, Future Implementation.

Ways to provide input:

- Take the surveys
- Join the events (Feb. 3 – Winter Carnival)
- Virtual town hall March 14th (tentative)

Spread the word – can sign up for email updates. They have a social media packet the CRC could use to help spread the word:

<https://mncapitolmall.engage.sasaki.com>

contact: lspohr@zanassoc.com

Ms. Spohr invited board members to be a part of a St. Paul Community Focus Group in February (Feb 5 1.5 hours, Feb 6 all day, Wed. drop in, Thursday is a closing focus group - 1 hour). She will send the information to join the focus group.

2. Financial Update – 2024 Budget

Jon presented a proposed budget. Highlights: considering moving office to Landmark Center, added moving expenses, may seek a grant with the St. Paul Foundation. If we don't get grant money we won't spend it.

CRC does not have directors and officers insurance which protects the organization in case someone is stealing money, or if for some reason the city decides not to pay CRC. Joe offered to get a quote from the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance. Ed made a motion to approve the budget, Victoria seconded, budget was approved.

Jon has two paychecks from 2023 still to come. Joe discussed the possibility of having a contract between the CRC and the Alliance where Jon would be an employee of the Alliance so Jon could continue to get paid in a more timely manner. Jon has discussed with Councilmember Noecker. Her feeling is that all district councils needed to band together. This should be a discussion in the future.

3. Proposed 2024 Workplan for City Community Engagement Contract

Jon shared the workplan draft. Hearing no objections, Jon will plan to submit this plan to the city.

4. Board Member Updates and Future Agenda Items

- a. Jon asked if we would be able to start at 5. Discussion will continue via email. How many meetings do we need to have? Is a monthly meeting necessary? Tina mentioned that BOMA has a meeting every other month with officers meeting every month. For now, CRC will continue monthly with two months free during the year (typically July and December) at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Future agenda item suggested: Should CRC investigate if things are actually getting more unsafe in downtown? Downtown Alliance does a monthly call "Downtown Public Safety Check-in" 30-45 minutes of report-outs on crime.

People can come and ask questions. Joe will see if the CRC board can get invited to the meeting.

- c. Skyway committee meeting is this coming Friday. Public Realm is the first Thursday of the month. We could have a discussion at Public Realm also.
- d. Downtown Alliance is working on having meetings with Residential properties about expanding the district into Lowertown. Hopefully this would conclude in 2025. They are in their final weeks of downtown investment strategy. That will rollout early March with a public event of some sort.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.