## Dec 6, 2023 | [UPDC Board Membership Meeting](https://www.google.com/calendar/event?eid=NGJmNmxkazYzbDlldjF2cG02ZTU3dDFvZjhfMjAyMzEyMDdUMDEwMDAwWiBhcHJpbEB1bmlvbnBhcmtkYy5vcmc)

Attendees: April King, Enrique Ruiz (Andiamo Italian Restaurant), Henry Parker, Kirsten Fryer, Sarah Dvorak, Amy Gage, Rachel Callanan, Dean Cummings, Kent T, Joe Hughes, Demetrius Shaw, Mark Morrow, James Farnsworth (Saint Paul Audit Committee), Robert (??), Ellen Fee, Lisa Mueller, Katrina Peterson (late), Jerome Benner (late), Siri Knutson (late)

Notes

* Sarah gives a summary of the meeting, that people will need to be voted in
* Leah sent out survey for January’s meeting, please vote on date
* Agenda: Moved by Henry, seconded by Kent T, approved unanimously
* Henry Parker leads seating members to the board:
	+ Ellen Fee, Sarah Dvorak, Kirsten Fryer, and Dean Cummings voted to be made board members.
	+ Moved by April, seconded by Rachel Callanan
	+ Approved unanimously
* Sarah Dvorak announces compliance, vote to elect and seat April King, Joe Hughes, Dan Elenbaas
	+ Moved by Rachel Callanan, seconded by Amy Gage
* James Farnsworth from the Saint Paul City Council Audit Committee (SPCCAC) talks about the role of the SPPS Audit Committee
	+ Introduction, also a member of a district council, talks about auditing experience
	+ Description of SPCCAC audit committee’s mission and function
	+ Current membership: Jane Prince, Rebecca Noecker (co-chairs), Amy Brendmoen (Ex-officio), James Farnesworth, Dana DeMaster, Stephanie Dilworth, and Jeremy Lostetter
	+ History of SPCCAC
		- Staff used to be a lot more robust in 1990s
		- Audit committee was voted back in 2020
		- Audit topics get selected through mayor, city departments, district councils
		- $50,000/yr budget for auditing
	+ What doing they doing now?
		- Figuring out all of the city’s customer service inputs (phone numbers, etc.)
		- Residential housing development study, having some issues with consultant
		- Consultant on retainer to support ad-hoc audits
			* Parks and libraries collaboration
			* Reducing duplicative spending on shared services
	+ If there is a function of the city you think could be approved
		- <https://www.stpaul.gov/department/city-council/audit-committee>
		- Survey responses are revied on a rolling basis
	+ Amy Gage: With the loss of institutional memory with the younger city council, do you see someone stepping into the role that Jane has played?
		- Jane’s shoes will be difficult to fill, she often brought historical notes
		- No guarantee that committees will exist going forward
	+ April King: How much “oomph” is there behind recommendations that the audit committee would make? Are they advisory only?
		- We are a committee of the council, not a district council
		- Some relationship building with department heads has been helpful
		- It’s complicated political work, but the council has largely stood behind the findings of the audit committee
		- Meetings are public and in the council chambers
	+ Leah Sullivan: Do you think that it would hurt confidence and trust in the city if there wasn’t a functional audit committee? Do they need a more secure existence?
		- Not in city charter, but is an important function for a city
		- Important for people to know that we exist to encourage the furtherance of the committee
	+ Leah Sullivan: If there wasn’t an audit committee, where can you find comprehensive use of tax money?
		- SPCC doesn’t have a lot of committees
		- City council would be the body for questions around this?
		- Unique in having public volunteers on the committee
	+ Jerome Benner: How do city departments take the audit? What are relationships and partnerships like, how do they react to finding an audit?
		- Departments come to then sometimes to conduct audit, since they have a budget for it
		- Our money and capacity makes us attractive to departments in the city
		- Very collaborative and usually not driven from the top, but still tough conversations to be had
	+ Amy Gage: This concept is new, can you give us a couple recent examples of what the city has looked at?
		- Customer inputs (as above), residential housing study and development roadmap
		- Discussed district council system and their staff and reimbursements
		- Our results and discussions are published on our online portal
* **Committee Reports**
	+ CLUED (Dean Cummings):
		- Enrique Ruiz from Andiamo Italian Restaurant at 80 Snelling N, with father Ramone
			* Applying for class N liquor license
			* Started business 13 years ago (in Eagan), and Woodbury 3 years ago
			* Discussed personal history with Saint Paul
			* Father started in industry 40 years ago, in California
			* Family restaurant, for liquor indoors, closing at either 10 or 11
			* No plans (or space) for patio, not for many years
			* Mostly dine-in (food and drink with dinner)
			* In old Buffalo Wild Wings location
			* Mark Marrow: Appreciated the thoughtful considerations in site designs
			* Henry Parker: Is the request for a liquor license, or expedited liquor license?
				+ Anticipated opening is January 10, 2024
			* Sarah Dvorak: Looking at timeline for opening, it’s probably an expedited request
			* Dean: Because it’s a Class N license, that is the expedited license
			* Amy Gage: Noting location on bus rapid transit and bike lanes, will there be bike benefits or bike parking? Seems like there’s a real opportunity compared to suburban locations.
				+ Bike rack is outside, camera monitoring bike racks
				+ Have not yet considered offering incentives, haven’t had locations with foot traffic
			* Rachel Callanan: Have you heard any concerns from neighbors, and do you have plans to address them? Will the work site be smoke free?
				+ Have heard a little bit, have an email contact on our site
				+ We aren’t corporate and can make adjustments a lot faster
				+ Concerns about keeping the area clean
				+ Eagan location has neighbors and no problems with their neighbors
				+ Don’t currently have any smokers that work for us now, haven’t experienced any problems, will have a plan for smoking around areas where neighbors will be
			* Vote for class N liquor license: Moved by Dean Cummings, seconded by Jerome Benner, unanimous approval, Enrique will forward contact info
	+ NSVC (Ellen Fee)
		- Trying to bump up microgrant timeline a month earlier, due to outdoor and gardening projects
		- Visiting our work plan
		- Tree planting, contracting company determines watering
		- Determining how to fund Midway Peace Park Fall Fun Day, State Rep is interested in being involved and finding funding
		- Would need to be a strong focus of the committee
	+ Transportation (April King)
		- Discussed I-94 meeting
		- Work plan for 2023/2024
		- Amy Gage: Saint Thomas students are doing interviews about I-94, as a fall semester project
		- Kirsten Fryer: Some of the students were at the fall event as well
		- Jerome Benner: One of the students reached out, and wondering if can share flyer through neighborhood relations list. Wondering if we can scope distribution.
		- Jerome Benner: Students want to present
		- April: We can try December to fit in, otherwise January
		- Leah Sullivan: Wanted document voted on by committee?
		- Jerome: Document is about 25 pages, can we get an executive summary at the front, going to get
		- Sarah Dvorak: Wait for Jerome to draft prior to sending out for a vote, April and Lisa will get drafted executive summary to document. Board members will have a week to vote after receiving copy.
		- Leah Sullivan: Vote is required as document will act as official statement, and is consistent with our brand and our values
	+ WSNAC (Henry Parker)
		- WSNAC working group with Mac-Grove, looking at how we can closer collaborate
		- Had meeting last week to brainstorm, finalize ideas in January
		- Amy Gage: made decision to resign from group, as I bring a lot of history (positively and negatively) with WSNAC, urge those staying on committee to not let same old actors keep committee from changing, as groups can possibly dominate the meeting. I think there is collusion behind the scenes with Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA), and they are coming prepared, and we should bring Mitra in.
		- Jerome: Last meeting laid out how to be more collaborative, especially with capacity issues that WSNAC faces, Art is chair of Mac Grove Community Council Board.
		- Henry: Another party named “Neighbors United” that has formal stake in WSNAC but no formal organization
	+ Staff Report (Sarah Dvorak and Leah Sullivan)
		- January board meeting
		- Our last three photos (for mailing list) have been provided by UPDC board members - Lisa’s ornament, Allen’s walk, and Henry’s photo of turkey at Whole Foods. Please send me great photos!
		- Paperwork trying to get cleaned up by January
		- Completed shopping guide for Snelling-Selby business area, continuing to engage with businesses
		- Continuing engagement with Peace Park, looking forward to state rep vision for funding event
		- Trying to help community gardens recover from storm damage, $9-10,000 in storm damage
			* Just purchased accessible, raised garden beds
		- Feedback opportunities from Met Council on how appointments are considered
		- Amy Gage: Would like you to do self-promotion and talk about quote in Star Tribune
		- [Antique enclave in Saint Paul in Saturday’s paper](https://www.startribune.com/from-tiny-desks-to-mid-century-art-antiques-alley-has-transformed-selby-snelling-area/600323656/)
		- How else can we conduct neighborhood beautification through narrative
		- Make sure to vote on whether to defer meeting from January 3 to January 10
	+ Meeting adjourns at 8:32 (Kirsten Fryer, Jerome Benner seconds)