**UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Board of Directors meeting**

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7–9 p.m. | Via Zoom

**Board President Sarah Dvorak | Minutes taken by Amy Gage**

**Members present:** Jerome Benner, Scott Berger, Dean Cummings, Sarah Dvorak, Ellen Fee, Kirsten Fryer, Amy Gage, Joe Hughes, April King, Allen Saunders, Demetrius Shaw, Kent Treichel and Claire Warren

**Members absent:** Rachel Callanan, Bruce Corrie, Dan Elenbaas, Lisa Mueller, Henry Parker

* Open seats: Grids 1, 2, 6

**Guests:** Jane McClure, *My Villager;* Mark Morrow, CLUED; Julian Ocampo, Los Ocampo restaurant; Robert’s OtterPilot

**Staff member:** Leah Timberlake-Sullivan, executive director; Paul Nguyen, Macalester intern

**Agenda #1: Call to Order and Welcome**

Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Kent/Allen moved to approve the December 2023 minutes and the January 2024 agenda. *Passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #2: Open Forum**

The Hamline-Midway Coalition is inviting UPDC board and committee members to engage in joint Allianz Field work; they’ve invited us to a potluck on Monday, January 29, 6–7:30 p.m.

The speed limit has changed on Marshall between Lexington and Marshall; it is now 25 mph. The Pierce Butler speed limit changed on January 1, 2024, from 40 to 35 mph.

**Agenda #3: Upcoming Items**

**Upcoming Retreat:** We typically schedule this in February or March. Looking at February 24, March 2 and March 9, all Saturdays. The focus is on the 10-year community plan, which must be updated by 2026. We’ll break into groups. <https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Planning%20%26%20Economic%20Development/Union%20Park%20District%20Plan%202016.pdf>

**Bylaws Check-in:** We may establish a committee to examine and refresh. Amy, Claire and Rachel originally had volunteered previously. Sarah stepped forward tonight.

**Agenda #4: Committee Reports and Updates**

**Land Use and Economic Development (CLUED):** CLUED member Mark Morrow said the Los Ocampo restaurant, next to Black Coffee Waffle Bar on Marshall, is applying for a Class N liquor license. Julian’s parents opened the first iteration of the restaurant on Lake Street in 2003; <https://www.losocampo.com/>. They have a location farther east on University Avenue and one in the suburbs but enjoy being in the city.

* They’ll have a small patio in the back where they’ll also serve liquor and will work with Black Coffee on use. They hope to open by early April, certainly before Cinco de Mayo.
* The parking lot in the back will be split among the businesses. They will talk to the landlord about bike parking. They hope to promote use of Metro Transit through Route 63 (Grand Avenue) and the coming B Line (Marshall and Lake).

*Action: Dean moved that we write a letter supporting the Los Ocampo Class N license. It passed unanimously.*

**Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee (NSVC):** Co-chair Ellen Fee said the committee talked about its work plan. They’re aiming to get the microgrant announcements out a month earlier, since the projects often are related to warm weather. And they’re part of a collaborative effort with Friends of Midway Peace Park about tree planting and watering. They take three to five years to establish.

* The annual Fire & Ice Event has been postponed in Desnoyer Park.

**Transportation:** Co-chair April King said the committee met in person at the University of St. Thomas and discussed its 2024 work plan.

* Sarah encouraged committee chairs to organize in-person meetings at least quarterly.
* Scott reminded the group that the next iteration of the St. Paul Bike Plan has been released. A public hearing will be held February 2: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation-and-transit/bike-saint-paul/saint-paul-bicycle-plan>

**West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee:** WSNAC representative Henry Parker was absent. Jerome said WSNAC will meet Tuesday, February 13. The last working plan meeting is February 1, and that group will make recommendations about how WSNAC’s transition into the District Council system may work.

**Agenda #5: Staff Report and UPDC Budget**

Executive Director Leah Timberlake Sullivan said we need an updated map and brochure. She reminded the board of its financial responsibilities to the organization. In the past, the board has supported the organization through Ice Cream Peanut Butter & Jam. “We definitely don’t want to foster an expectation” that board members give, said Leah. Maybe instead you donate some skills, such as grant writing.

* Sarah said board member activity is a greater expectation than donations.
* Scott said that we want “to avoid shame to those who struggle financially.”
* The operating budget that the city offers “goes quickly,” said Leah.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.