**UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors held via Zoom**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 7:05-8:00pm**

**Minutes recorded by Kirsten Fryer**

**Present:** Jerome Benner (St. Thomas), Scott Berger (Grid 10), Rachel Callanan (Grid 3), Bruce Corrie (Concordia), Dean Cummings (Grid 9), Sarah Dvorak (Grid 7), Dan Elenbaas (Grid 11), Ellen Fee (At large), Kirsten Fryer (At large), Joe Hughes (At Large Business), Lisa Mueller (Macalester), Allen Saunders (Desnoyer Park Improvement Association), Demetrius Shaw (Skyline Community Seat), Kent Treichel (Lexington-Hamline Community Council), Claire Warren (Grid 4)

**Staff:** Leah Timberlake Sullivan, Paul Nguyen

**Guests**: Mike Hahm (United Village), Mark Morrow (CLUED Co-chair)

**Absent (all excused):** Amy Gage, April King, Henry Parker

**Open seats**: Grids 1, 2, and 6

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Sarah Dvorak called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, with a reminder of the Annual Meeting happening in November, replacing the November regular board meeting.

Dean Cummings moved to approve the agenda and the September meeting minutes. Jerome Benner seconded The motion carried unanimously.

**Open Forum**

Mike Hahm provided updates from United Village.

-St. Paul Cup on Friday, October 6. Tickets are free. There have been 3000 requests so far. <https://www.mnufc.com/news/minnesota-united-bell-bank-host-second-annual-saint-paul-cup-at-allianz-field> MSHSL rules apply for tailgating.

-Trash pick up: Leah has been good about communicating when trash pick up is falling behind. Commitment is to do better. Cleaning cycle is every two weeks.

-It is possible that POPS agreement will be on next Thursday’s (October 12) Parks and Rec commission agenda. Mike will contact Leah and neighboring district councils if it will be on the agenda. If agreement is cleared by Parks and Rec, it will go to City Council on October 25.

Sarah Dvorak and Leah Timberlake Sullivan introduced Paul Nguyen, UPDC’s Macalester intern for this academic year. Paul is a Sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Economics.

**Annual Meeting details**

The Union Park District Council Annual Meeting will be held on November 15, taking the place of the November board meeting at a TBD location where we can provide appetizers and/or dessert. Those seeking re-election will need to fill out paperwork. Open to the public, it is a great opportunity for folks to come out for elections, looking back on the past year, and looking ahead to the next year.

*Open seats*:

Grid 1

Grid 2

Grid 6

*Elected or re-elected in 2021*

*(eligible for re-election in 2023):*

Joe Hughes — At Large Business

Ellen Fee — At large

Kirsten Fryer — At large

April King — Grid 5

Sarah Dvorak — Grid 7

Dan Elenbaas — Grid 11

Bruce Corrie — Concordia University

(Amy Gage — University of St. Thomas (resigned in 2022, replaced by Jerome Benner))

(Harmony Neal — Grid 3 (resigned in 2022, replaced by Rachel Callanan in 2022))

*Elected/reelected in 2022:*

Rachel Callanan – Grid 3

Claire Warren – Grid 4

Henry Parker – Grid 8

Scott Berger – Grid 10

Demetrius Shaw – Skyline Community Seat

Amy Gage – At Large Non-Profit

Allen Saunders – Desnoyer Park Improvement Association

*Appointed in 2023:*

Lisa Mueller — Macalester College

Jerome Benner — University of St. Thomas

Dean Cummings (Grid 9)—Spring 2023

*Dates need to be confirmed*

Kent Treichel (Lexington-Hamline Community Council)

**Committee reports and updates**

* Land Use & Economic Development (CLUED) Dean Cummings

Thanks for engagement around United Village. In place of CLUED meeting last month, the 1% sales forum was a smashing success! It will be discussed in the October meeting. Mark Morrow will be joining Dean as co-chair.

* Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee (NSVC) Ellen Fee

Midway Peace Park Fall Festival was last weekend. No now maintenance the weekend before. NSVC okayed a purchase from the Cell Tower Fund for seed for the No Mow area, in the event that Parks and Rec can’t purchase the seed.

* Transportation Jerome Benner

Transportaion is working on Re-thinking I-94 engagement specifically in Union Park. They are planning a forum on Thursday, October 26 from 6:00-7:30 pm, held at Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway (436 Roy St. N), to provide a bit of background and other information so neighbors can take the MnDOT survey. They also hope to learn from attendees about what they envision happening with the interstate and learn about how neighbors engage with the interstate on a daily basis. Dinner will be provided with facilitated table prompted questions and the possibility of mini-survey. Transportation will be asking MnDOT to incorporate geographical information and how far the average car traveled data points in the results of the survey.

* WSNAC Jerome Benner

WSNAC working group will be meeting on October 18. The working group is charged with looking at how WSNAC can be working within District Council system. St. Thomas will continue to engage the community about the parking/traffic impacts and will be attending the upcoming CLUED meeting to update about arena plans. Creighton parking and traffic safety concerns raised by UPDC and Macalester-Groveland Community Council will not be addressed by the City of St. Paul at this time.

**Staff Report** Leah Timberlake Sullivan

Ice Cream Peanut Butter and Jam proceeded as expected on September 16. Vendor tabling is developing a reputation as a good networking place. Face painting and yard signs were very popular! Thanks to the St. Thomas volunteers who scooped 750+ servings of ice cream.

Midway Peace Park Fall Festival was held on September 30. Rep. Samakab Hussein (MN House 65A) attended Midway Peace Park Fall Festival and pledged to look into future funding for this event.

Tree planting started October 3 in Midway Peace Park. UDPC and Skyline staff will continue to engage with the City about water sources in the park to assure that these new trees are properly watered.

On the night of the 1% Forum, 98 devices were logged in and 60 views on Facebook. Over 450 views since forum. Leah has received largely appreciative feedback that the forum was balanced and differing opinions were well represented. Eric Moho’s moderation was much appreciated.

Ward 1 Forum included 7 candidates. It was sponsored by League of Women Voters, in cooperation with the district councils in Ward 1.

Annual Meeting planning in place, with hopes of launching hybrid meetings in December.

**Adjourn**

Jerome Benner moved to adjourn. Dan Elenbaas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.