

Union Park District Council
MINUTES / Committee on Land Use and Economic Development
Monday, December 18, 2023, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Co-chairs: Dean Cummings and Mark Morrow

Committee meeting minutes submitted by: Mark Morrow

Committee members present: Scott Berger, Dean Cummings, David Guetschow, Joe Hughes, James Johnson, Jim Marti, Mark Morrow, Ben Quam, Kelly Vinson-Taylor, Austin Wu

Staff present: Leah Timberlake Sullivan

Guests: Anthony Adams (Ryan Companies), Jim Brummer (University of St. Thomas), Amy McDonough (University of St. Thomas), Mike Hahm (United Village), Anastasia Mastorgiorgis (Saint George Greek Orthodox Church), Noelle Jacquet-Morrison, Daniel Kennedy, Rosemary Maun, Ellen Meyer, Catherine Plessner, Ed Shinbach, Irene Suddard, Rick Wihoit

Media: Jane McClure

1. Welcome and Introductions; Consent Agenda

Mark Morrow, co-chair of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Committee on Land Use and Economic Development (CLUED), welcomed members of the community and encouraged active respectful participation in the meeting.

The December 18, 2023 meeting agenda and the November 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

2. University of St. Thomas Lee and Penny Anderson Arena Update by Amy McDonough, Anthony Adams, and Jim Brummer

Ms McDonough, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Brummer provided an update on the Arena, including:

- entitlement schedule (site plan review, Capitol Region Watershed District, and permits)
- architectural plan
- energy efficiency (goal to achieve LEED silver certification),
- landscape plan (trees to be removed: 68, trees to be planted: 68)
- construction schedule (target completion 08/2025)
- construction logistics (heavy equipment routes, construction parking)
- event traffic management plans (including upgrades to the traffic signals at the Cretin-Grand intersection)
- event parking.

They addressed concerns about construction parking, student parking, event parking, event traffic, the Cretin-Grand intersection, and energy efficiency. They discussed ideas to encourage the use of public transit.

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-and-economic-development/planning/current-activities/university-st-thomas>

3. United Village Update by Mike Hahm

Mr. Hahm provided an update on United Village, including:

- construction
- financing (including the recently approved Tax Increment Financing [TIF] of \$4 million and \$13 million)
- renewal of the temporary parking permit for an area north and east of Allianz Field, which will be used by the planned restaurants (on the City Council's agenda 12/20/2023)

- platting (expected to be on the City Council's agenda 01/10/2024 or 01/17/2024)
- loon sculpture (images of the planned sculpture are now available)
<https://www.mnufc.com/news/new-sculpture-announced-for-the-midway-and-united-village>

A concern was raised about the poor condition of the trees around the property. Mr. Hahm stated that the trees that are the responsibility of the developer are in good condition, but many of the trees that are the responsibility of the City are in poor condition.

A request was made that construction updates include landscaping plans for the areas that are currently being developed as well as the areas that are not.

A suggestion was made to increase the use of Allianz Field beyond soccer in order to attract people more frequently to this area.

4. **St. George Greek Orthodox Church Variance Request Update by Anastasia Mastrogiorgis**
Ms. Mastrogiorgis provided an update on the plan for renovating St. George Greek Orthodox Church. After review, a motion to support this plan was made, seconded, and approved..
5. **Staff Update by Leah Timberlake Sullivan**
Ms. Timberlake Sullivan reminded the Committee that we will need to assess our progress in meeting our goals for 2023 and establish our goals for 2024 by February, 2024 in order to meet the March, 2024 deadline.
6. **Announcements**

Resources:

City of St. Paul meeting calendar:

<https://stpaul.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Next CLUED meeting: **Monday, January 22 December 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**, Zoom meeting
 o Next UPDC Board meeting: **Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**, Zoom meeting
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