

Union Park District Council

Board Meeting / January 4, 2023

Board President Sarah Dvorak

Notes: Submitted by Amy Gage

Members present: Scott Berger, Rachel Callanan, Bruce Corrie, Sarah Dvorak, Dan Elenbaas, Kirsten Fryer, Amy Gage, Henry Parker, Allen Saunders, Demetrius Shaw, Kent Treichel

Members absent: Ellen Fee, Joe Hughes, April King, Harmony Neal, Claire Warren

- Open seats: Grids 1, 2, 6, Macalester College and University of St. Thomas

Staff members: Leah Timberlake-Sullivan, Executive Director

Welcome: Sarah Dvorak, president, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

- *Action:* Parker/Callanan moved to approve the January 2023 agenda and the December 2022 minutes as amended.

UPDC business: Sarah welcomed Leah Timberlake-Sullivan as the new executive director. The organization still needs a secretary, who would also be part of the executive committee. Sarah reminded members to alert either her or Leah if they need to miss a meeting.

Committee reports and updates

Land Use and Economic Development: Bruce Corrie, co-chair, reported on the 1619 Dayton Avenue project: 44 one-bedroom apartments, some of which are affordable. Two variances were requested for height and building setback. CLUED voted to send a letter of support.

- Parker said UPDC pushed the developer, PAK Properties, to create five three-bedroom units at 30% AMI. This is a 100% affordable tax-credit project, he said. Parker noted the depth of affordable housing expertise on the UPDC board; some suggested this be a topic for the board retreat, a CLUED meeting or a roundtable for the public.

Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality: Allen Saunders said up to 200 people were at the Desnoyer Park skating party on December 28. Hot dogs, potato chips and s'mores were a hit, and a lot of people skated. Allen thanked UPDC for subsidizing the event.

- Henry suggested this be a template for winter events in other parts of the district council that UPDC could support.

Transportation: Co-chair Scott Berger said Union Park now has a radar gun to record vehicular speeds. Jimmy Shoemaker from Public Works presented on the MnDOT active transportation grant for two median crossings on Marshall: at Dunlap (near Central High) and Oxford (near a community center). The committee voted to send a letter of support.

- Kent Treichel asked why the speed limit there is still 35 MPH. Marshall has a 35 MPH limit from Snelling to Lexington; it's a county road from Lexington to the river and a city road with a 25 MPH speed limit east of Lexington.

- Parker/Treichel moved that UPDC send a letter to elected officials of Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul asking to equalize the speed limit on Marshall to 25 MPH. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- Parker added that, by state law, cities cannot establish speed limits for town roads, county highways or trunk highways.

The Safer Summit organization also was at the Transportation meeting, urging people to allow the process to take its course. The city plan is now 60% complete.

- <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/summit-avenue-regional-trail>

West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Council: The next meeting will be on February 14, 2023.

Staff report: Leah got her first newsletter out. She's going to ask board members to suggest people and organizations that she should connect with, as an incoming executive director. Abdulrahman Wako, past executive director, will stay on in a consulting role until the spring, at which point he'll be coming back to the United States from Colombia.

- Bruce suggested that we invite the new senior commander of the Western District police to a board meeting.
- January 24, 7–8 p.m., was selected for “new board member” orientation.

Board retreat: A date has not been set, but it normally happens in February. Leah will send out a Doodle poll for dates and preferences to be in person or via Zoom.

Treichel/Saunders moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.