

BUILDING, LAND USE & HOUSING
Minutes of Committee Meeting
May 17, 2012

Members Present: Paul Ireland, Jerry Dustrud, Tracy Berglund, Mike Nosser, Ryan Eckman, Jon High, Dean Jacobson, Howard Young, Brian Nasi, Nancy Nasi, Millie Schafer, Larry Ligocki, Dan Collison

Others Present: Jill Hentges, John Dillery, Michael Mechtenberg, Marilyn Porter, Anita Tabb, Al Bangoura, Steve Horsfield

The meeting was convened at 6:04 PM by Chair, Paul Ireland.

The agenda was approved, as were the minutes for the April meeting.

Madison School Apartments

Representatives of the Landon Group and Kaas Wilson Architects presented a proposal for the rehabilitation of the Madison School Apartments between 15th and 16th Streets on Portland Avenue. It was agreed that once a decision was made by the owner, National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions, on the feasibility of either restoration or reconstruction of the townhome apartments the neighborhood would form a task force to advise on the design and development plans of the project. The following motion was advanced by Millie and seconded by Jerry for support of affordable housing funds to be used on rehabilitation: *“The BLUH committee of Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) gives conceptual support to the proposal by the National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions (NFAHS) to rehabilitate the Madison School Apartments. Whether as a restoration of the present townhomes or an entire new construction of the units, NFAHS and its partners will collaborate with EPNI on the design and development plans for the project.”* The motion was passed with unanimous support.

Metro Transit

Members of the planning and operations staff of Metro Transit engaged the committee in a community discussion on how to improve transit service in Elliot Park and connections to other neighborhoods. A priority suggestion was to study the possibility of running circulator buses between destinations in downtown neighborhoods.

Soccer Field at Elliot Park

Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb introduced a proposal for a collaboration between the Park Board and North Central University to install a regulation sized (capable of accommodating Division III university team contests) in the “dust bowl” area on the western side of Elliot Park. Such a field would involve the likely removal of some trees and the existing tennis courts and a relocation of the skate board facility. If the neighborhood approves, the Park Board and the University would proceed to study the feasibility of financing such a collaboration. Brian advanced the motion, seconded by Nancy: *“The BLUH committee of Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) supports the collaborative proposal by the Minneapolis Park Board and North Central University (NCU) to install a regulation sized soccer field in Elliot Park. The Park Board and NCU will explore the feasibility of the project and will consult with and seek the approval of the neighborhood before a commitment is made to install the soccer field.”*

The motion was passed with one Nay vote registered.

First Covenant Shelter

Pastor Dan Collison and Steve Horsfield of the Salvation Army gave a final update on the functions of the seasonal homeless shelter at First Covenant Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fields

EPNI staff, Building Land Use & Housing committee

