

St. Paul Greenway Committee Meeting
January 13, 2010
Merriam Park Library
7:30pm-8:45pm

Present: Mike Madden, Paul Nelson, Laura Baum, Annie Strupeck, Tia Anderson, Bill Turek

Minutes from previous meeting

No changes made to the minutes from the previous meeting on December 9, 2009

Anderson asked Nelson about the practicability of the committee's efforts, given the litigation going on between the city and CP Rail. Nelson responded that while a result in favor of CP Rail could have serious implications for the St. Paul Greenway, the committee's process is still of great value. Hopefully, the summit will garner community support and that positive energy can be used for good, regardless of the outcome of the litigation.

Greenway Committee website review

Baum shared a screen shot of the current website and asked for suggestions of changes or additions. Anderson recommended we include language about what it means to be a member of the committee. Madden suggested we are a committee of organizations with individual representatives. Turek pointed out he does not technically represent an organization, though he lives in St. Anthony Park.

→ Action item: Baum will write up a blurb for the website about membership that is inclusive of all current members

Communications update

Madden reiterated the fact that the committee's stated goal, as articulated by Jessica Treat, was a trail from the Midtown Greenway on the west to the Sam Morgan Trail on the east. He said that if we are not able to make progress on an alignment along the CP Rail tracks east of Victoria, the trail could connect up with the future Jefferson Bike Boulevard, as a way to connect to downtown St. Paul. Baum still has not heard from District 9 (West 7th/Fort Road) regarding an appointment to this committee.

The committee discussed inviting Ann Mulholland, Deputy Mayor to Chris Coleman, to the next meeting. Anderson pointed out it could be beneficial for someone from the Mayor's office to come to the same meeting at the Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC).

→ Action item: Nelson will invite MGC to our February meeting

→ Action item: Baum will invite Ann Mulholland to our February meeting

Vision discussion

Nelson shared the latest version of the vision document. He is still puzzling over a few words/phrases, but otherwise the draft is essentially done. Baum asked what the plan is for this document, prior to the summit. Nelson stated the plan is to share a draft at the summit, but that it is fine to continue to revise it until then.

Anderson asked about the definition for the phrase “Greenway edge” used in the vision. Nelson asked if anyone had suggestions for other words, such as “border” to refer to the edge or potential access points throughout the corridor.

Madden asked about the definition of the phrase “clear”, as in “Our Greenway will be striped with separate walk and bike lanes within the 16 to 20 feet clear of 20 to 24 feet ROW (right-of-way)”. Nelson stated that clear is an engineering term and basically means the area that is paved and totally clear for travel. Madden recommended keeping the phrase “clear” but being sure to define it when talking to new participants in the process.

Madden and Nelson discussed rewording specific design point #1 to read “narrow bridges and spaces mitigated” or something similar, rather than mentioning RockTenn directly. Anderson recommended saying the greenway will be “plowed and maintained as needed in winter” or something similar, rather than talking specifically about salt or sand.

The committee discussed whether to keep references to “our greenway” or to change it to “the St. Paul Greenway” and “the Greenway” for short. Several members expressed concern that saying “Our greenway” may cause outsiders to think the document is just referring to the committee. Nelson stated he meant “our” to refer to the public. Baum stated the word “we” also appears at the start and end to the document. It was suggested that we define “we” at the start of the document, however, it is difficult to define, because we don’t want to claim that the whole public agrees with our vision.

→Action item: the committee will think about this issue more and re-assess at the next meeting.

Inter-Neighborhood Summit

Since the last meeting, Nelson extended an invitation to the MGC to attend one of the committee’s meetings. Eric Hart, one of two co-chair’s on the MGC’s land use and transportation committee agreed to attend a meeting and to share MGC’s experience with a community visioning meeting they held in 1994.

The committee discussed potentially including winter maintenance issues into the summit, including photos and examples from places like Copenhagen, that are committed to maintaining bicycle and pedestrian pathways during the winter. Nelson suggested using the Merriam Park Rec Center (their meeting room with a stage) for the summit.

Turek suggested tying the summit to Earth Day (April 22). Nelson suggested the summit will be an opportunity to invite participants to engage in advocacy, get them on a mailing list and solicit volunteers. It will be important that we have concrete things for them to do and that we stay in touch about the process. Anderson suggested we work with the media (including Jane McClure with the *Villager*) to promote the summit. We might also be able to learn lessons from the open houses held as part of the Bike Walk Central Corridor Action Plan.

Other news

Baum stated that she will not be posting Madden's photos publically on the committee website, but will distribute them to the committee via a private link. The suggestion was made to contact CP Rail and ask if we could have permission to enter their property to take pictures of the corridor.

Next meeting

Baum shared news that the Merriam Park Library will be closing at 8pm (instead of 9pm) on Wednesdays starting February 1, 2010. Therefore, the standing time for the committee will have to be changed. The group agreed to move the start time to 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

Madden suggested the February meeting would be a good opportunity to invite people beyond the regular committee to get involved. Members could share info about the meeting at their respective district council board meetings.

→Action item: Baum will draft language that people can send to their respective contacts inviting them. Baum will also include an announcement of the meeting in the February St. Paul Smart Trips newsletter.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 10, 6:30pm-7:45pm at the Merriam Park Library.**