

St. Paul Greenway Committee Meeting  
November 13, 2009  
St. Paul Smart Trips' office

**Present:** Mike Madden, Brian McClellan, Brian Longley, Tia Anderson, Paul Nelson, Laura Baum, Bill Turek, Tracy Farr

### **Minutes from previous meeting**

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

### **Scheduling future meetings / district council involvement**

Baum and Nelson introduced the idea of changing the meeting time and location to better accommodate community representatives who can't meet during the work day.

→Action Item: Baum will send out Meeting Wizard email to try to determine the best date and time.

Madden expressed a desire to formalize his and other members relationships with their respective district councils. He suggested Baum send out a letter to each of the district councils that does not have an official representative, asking them to nominate someone.

→Action Item: Baum will send the letters recommended by Madden

### **Ward 4 Updates**

Baum spoke with Ward 4 earlier this week and they did not have any updates to share. Madden shared an update from the St. Paul Bicycle Advisory Board (BAB) meeting earlier that week. Madden reported that David Kuebler was not optimistic about the status of the litigation between the city and Canadian Pacific Rail (CP Rail). Lisa Falk-Thompson is the staff assigned to the project in Public Works. Madden stated that he would like to have more information on the details of the lawsuit.

→Action Item: Baum will contact Lisa Falk-Thompson with a list of questions related to the project and lawsuit, including those to be submitted by Madden.

### **Ayd Mill History Update**

In response to a request at the previous meeting, Madden shared some additional information about the history of Ayd Mill. He stated that the history from 1900-1961 is very anecdotal. Madden had heard from George Jurgensen that the area had been largely treated as a playground during this time and had a ski jump at the southern end. Though it is not confirmed in writing, Madden believes Horace Cleveland did a plan for a park in the area between 1900 and 1910. Madden also reported that up until 2002 there were active springs running through

the corridor, though they were capped or diverted by Mayor Kelly and sent into the storm sewer system. The springs used to ice or dam up during the winter.

### **Vision discussion**

Nelson reported that he got rid of most of the language that came from the Midtown Greenway Coalition's vision statement. However, one bit, "together we will create..." still remains. McClellan recommended keeping the language and just attributing it to the MGC.

The group discussed the ordering of some of the bullet points in the vision.

Nelson discussed the possibility of creating a separate resolution related to the Mississippi River crossing, which would be in Minneapolis. The committee wants to advocate for a bridge, even though it wouldn't be in St. Paul. Nelson discussed some of the reasons why a bridge project was shelved in 2007.

Anderson asked how Segways or motorized wheelchairs will be accommodated, given that they are motorized. The committee agreed that their intention is to have motorized wheelchairs be grouped with pedestrians, however, it was unclear how language might need to be changed to make this explicit.

The committee discussed the extent to which they think the vision should address sustainability.

Nelson suggested that something is not a highway unless it has provisions for walk/bike. Therefore, something like Interstate 94 is, by definition, not a highway.

Longley asked if details about the committee and the project could be put on a website.

→ Action Item: Baum will work on getting project information hosted on St. Paul Smart Trips' website.

Madden stated that the committee has yet to talk about a preferred alignment east of Victoria. He is interested in how the trail will reach the Sam Morgan trail and ultimately, downtown St. Paul. Madden stated that the city got 50 ft of right of way when it purchased the land in 1961. He suspects the city currently occupies all of that 50 ft, but he wants to know whether this is the case.

### **Next meeting**

Madden suggested the Nelson work on putting together a final draft of the vision. At the next meeting, the committee will start initial planning for the spring inter-neighborhood summit.