

District 6 Planning Council-Board of Director's Meeting

Tuesday September 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Matt Sletten, Keith Allen, Alison Warford, Steven Struhar, Patrick McGuire, Noel Nix, Betti Ingman, Rich Holst, Katheryn Schneider, Ethan Osten, Shannon Eckman

Absent: Jeanette Jones

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of tobacco letter under new business and the Rice/Maryland garden to old business was M/S/A

A motion to approve the consent agenda was M/S/A

Presentation : Edie Meister: The Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA)

The Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) has worked for the past two years gathering information and best practices and has submitted their recommendations for the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan in a report called Reframing Aging: Opportunities for Aging in Community.

Ms. Meister began by saying she read the District 6 Large Area Plan and was delighted to see the high level of detail in our plan and that it looked like have some good things in place for Aging in Community.

The ACOA has three main recommendations; 1. Broaden housing options, 2. Cultivate healthy aging and 3. Expand connectivity to heighten engagement and socialization. She mentioned that St Paul's Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Initiatives are a good start but the ACOA volunteer members encourages all community members and organizations to initiate conversations about what we must do today so that we have the opportunity to age successfully in our communities. . Ms. Meister encouraged all who might be interested to consider joining the committee.

Action Item: Review and Accept Updated Financial Policies:

Patty Lammers revised and updated the policy with a main change being that check signatories should not be depositors-this brings us in compliance with our contract. A motion to accept the policies was M/S/A

Review By-laws Phase II

Betti reviewed last month's structural changes to term limits, committee structure change and guidelines, all committees and Task Forces will report to the Board, Land Use will not be autonomous to the Board, the Board size will remain the same but 2 student representatives will be added.

A discussion followed about board continuity with the addition of term limits. Some community members had concerns that all board members terms would end at the same time or that there may not be people that want to join the board. Betti stated that -article 4 section 7, 3,4 and 9 addresses the continuity-if there are no interested people when a member's term ends an additional term could be added. Precincts are elected in different years so any limits are staggered. It is necessary to add term limits to the By-laws because state guidelines mandate board terms up to ten years.

Another discussion followed about Youth (sixteen years and older) as a part of the Board. A board member suggested that we should consider a stipend for youth. It presents a new opportunity for youth it would be a great way to build leadership. Stipends would be a budget question. One third of our community is under 17 years of age.

The by-laws committee will begin to review the election structure and have recommended changes to present to the board next month, which will then be voted on in the following month's meeting.

Review and Vote on Updated By-Laws-Phase I

A motion to accept phase I changes to the bylaws, term limits and committee structure as they were presented in August was M/S/A- to pass there needs to be 2/3 membership-which is nine 9 in favor 2 opposed-Keith Allen and Matt Sletten

Resignation of Treasurer

Patty Lammers resigned as treasurer if members are interested please contact the Executive Committee or the Executive Director

Updates

There were no updates

New Business

The St Paul City Council asked that all district councils weigh in on their proposed ordinance changes that will prohibit the sale of menthol flavored tobacco products in grocery and convenience stores, gas stations and all other locations EXCEPT tobacco shops.

Kerry stated that the North End Business Association Board does not support this.

Community Discussion followed: There was worry that businesses would lose revenue. A board member asked a community member what the average age was of people who purchased menthol cigarettes. She said it was all ages. One third of her sales are menthol.

There is thought the city council is overstepping their bounds with this-it is beyond its purview.

A nurse stated that menthol is easier to smoke than regular cigarettes.

Tom Goldstein would like to see less kids smoking if this would work then he would support it.

All agreed that it would be best to not have young people start smoking but what the City Council is saying may not change smoking habits.

There are other public health issues that they should be working on.

A neighborhood store could not sell but a tobacco store could-it looks like a monopoly. And the North end has more than one tobacco store so it wouldn't necessarily help the north end.

Bigger issue is if D6 supports the City Council dictating what stores can sell against what the neighbors and businesses would want.

This would add menthol to a list of already prohibited flavored cigarettes.

Community Discussion was closed. A shorter discussion was had by the board.

A member stated there are two issues-health and education it is not fair to businesses to not sell them-it does overstep and there might be more tobacco stores moving in-small businesses need to continue to thrive. There is an impact to small business and it is concerning.

A motion to not support the City Council's proposed ordinance changes to prohibit the sale of menthol tobacco products in stores and gas stations and all other locations EXCEPT tobacco shops was M/S/A 6 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention.

Motion carries, D6 does NOT support the City Council's proposed ordinance changes to prohibit the sale of menthol tobacco products in stores and gas stations.

Old Business

Rice Maryland Rain Garden

The lot will be a planted with native and pollinator plants. The cost of the project is approximately \$5700.00. There is \$3000 from a 2016 COPP grant, \$1,000 from Capitol Region Watershed District, community engagement dollars and the rest from donations. Volunteers will be picking up the plants, Ramsey County and the City will be supplying free compost and mulch, respectively. This will keep the cost down. There is a planting event on September 17, 2017.

A neighbor mentioned that the workhouse has plants.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Board Comment

There was no Board comment

Adjourn