

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE MEETING

September 20, 2023

Minutes

Chair: Kate Baxter-Kauf

Secretary: Catherine Plessner

Staff Contact: Alexa Golemo

Attendees: Marsha Barry, Kensey Lipstreuer, Craig Skone, Beverly Savarin, Deb Burns, Regina Purins

I. Introductions

Attendees shared a few words about themselves.

II. Approval of July 2023 Minutes

Motion for approval made and carried.

II. Inclusive Decision-Making Guide (pg. 2) & Upcoming MGCC Committee Topics

Transportation: Cretin Avenue, St. Paul Bike Plan, Grand Avenue Reconstruction (Construction), Rethinking I-94.

Housing and Land Use: Phase 2 of the 1-4 Housing Study, St. Paul Dept of Human Rights, University of St. Thomas South Campus Arena

Community Building: Neighborhood Walkability Initiative, Fall Community Cleanup, Frost Fest

Brainstorming on ways to incorporate the Inclusive Decision-Making guide into the items listed above that are on our agendas:

Community Building and Transportation are working together on walkability study.

There are 120 questionnaires being compiled by our Intern. It comes from a concern about the condition of our walking infrastructure and snow plowing and shoveling. We're weighing accessibility options for Frost Fest and potential for an indoor winter option.

Honing down on "Nothing about us without us." as the guiding principle gives clarity. Using the walkability study as an example: Have we made conscious effort to include people who: use a walker, push a stroller, use a wheel chair, wear a brace, ride a scooter, use crutches ... How do we intentionally target groups who may not come across a survey themselves? Add it to school newsletters, outreach to churches, business cards.. more brainstorming! Looking at the Rubric, are there groups we should be thinking about who will be impacted by the upcoming projects on Grand Avenue regarding the design and the construction phase, This will have a big impact on the community so we will want to include the people who live on streets that are used as by-ways for the construction.

Check on the overlap with the Hidden Rivers School construction and Macalester College's plans. The small businesses are going to be impacted. Check in with the faith communities as this progresses. The Cretin Avenue project overlaps with the University of St. Thomas' (UST) Arena project so we will want to reach out to the groups who are impacted by the Arena; neighbors, students, community hockey and basketball groups who will be using the Arena.... Nothing about us without a true variety of us.

III. Upcoming Projects & Opportunities for Greater Inclusivity E-Illuminator Print Newsletter (End of October/Beginning of November)

Ideas people may not have shared about how to make things more equitable and inclusive, even if you don't have a solution: Really liked it when Joan Pasik wrote anti-racist articles for the E-Illuminator. Have an "Accessibility Corner" before events saying what accommodations will be available and inviting others ideas. It may be most helpful share what we've already thought of and then ask them to let us know other things they want. Encourage people to share good news stories. Share things that correlate to our "Live, work, learn, play and worship." Examples: Did you know "MacGrove has ? schools and something about each one", or "Part of MacGrove was part of Fort Snelling?" "Red lining and land use.", and other information.

Renter Happy Hours : Reach out to renters and landlords to have a point of contact to distribute renter packets. Take inventory by grid of rental properties.

Committee & Board Member Onboarding & Hybrid Meetings

Open Seats on MGCC Board of Directors Business Representative think outside of the box to be open to the evolution of business models. Educational Representatives aren't required to live in the neighborhood. We want to cultivate relationships with all kinds of educational institutions. It's on us to make people feel welcome in our neighborhood.

IV. Updates/ Announcements

- Scheduling ITF Trip to George Latimer Central Library (SPPL)
- Ward 3 City Council Forum: Thurs., Sept 21 at 7 pm at Highland Community Center
- St. Paul Snow Summit: Sat., Oct. 14th from 9 am - 2 pm at Dale Street Municipal Garage (891 Dale Street). More info at www.stpaul.gov/snowplow
- The MGCC Community Cleanup is also on Sat., Oct. 14th

V. Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted
Catherine Plessner