

Minutes (Approved)
Community Development Committee
July 10, 2018

Attending: Garrett Peterson (Chair), Marne Zafar, Julie Madden, Elina Kolstad, Munir Nassar, John Kolstad, Sheldon Mains, John Tripp, KJ Starr, Sam Graf, Ellery Wealot, Geoffrey Abbott, Bob Hain, Peter Fleck, Patricia Mack, Mark Sulander, City Council Member Cam Gordon, Robin Garwood (Council Member Gordon's Office), Scott Shaffer (Seward Redesign), Doug Wise (SNG Housing Coordinator).

The May 8th and June 12th Community Development Committee minutes were approved with the following changes to the June 12th minutes: "the residents at the meeting strongly opposed the increased density and six story building height proposed on the Future Land Use and Built-Form Maps."

Truck Parking in Seward - Draft Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Doug Wise said potential safety hazards resulting from truck parking on streets in the Seward neighborhood has been an issue for a number of years and has been previously discussed at Community Development Committee (CDC) meetings. Recently, there has been online discussion about the issue and a request to have it placed on the CDC agenda. It has been pointed out that there is no mention of it in the Minneapolis 2040 Plan.

Robin Garwood said he has been talking to business owners about the issues and they would like to come up with a proposal to address the problem. Robin said discussions at committee meetings in the past have not included business owners. He suggested establishing a task force consisting of both business owners and neighborhood representatives.

There was a discussion about the safety concerns of increased parking on 26th and 27th Avenues and 25th and 26th Streets. It was pointed out that there are charter schools in the Industrial areas and the trucks parking around the schools are a real safety hazard for children crossing the street. Others mentioned almost being hit by cars because the drivers cannot see around the parked trucks.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group approves the establishment of a task force with business and neighborhood representatives to find an equitable, affordable, solution to the on street truck parking issues in the neighborhood. Munir Nassar moved and John Kolstad seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

Munir Nassar, Sheldon Mains and Doug Wise said they would like to be part of the task force.

There was a discussion about the truck parking issue not being mentioned in the Draft Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Concerns were also raised about semi-truck traffic on neighborhood streets. Sheldon Mains said that Policy 21, which discusses freight movement is where it could be addressed.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) recommends the following two items be added to the Action Steps under Policy #21, Freight: Accommodate freight movement and facilities in order to support the local and regional economy:

- ***Reduce semi-truck traffic through neighborhoods***
- ***Reduce semi-truck parking on public streets***

Sheldon Mains moved and Munir Nassar seconded. Due to some disagreement during the discussion on the motion, Chair Peterson conducted a separate vote on the two bullet points. Both bullet points of the motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

Discussion on Draft Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Doug Wise facilitated the discussion on the draft Minneapolis 2040 plan. Doug said that at previous CDC meetings the primary focus was on the Future Land Use and Built-Form sections. While additional discussion on these topics will be allowed, the purpose of the meeting is to focus on other topics addressed by the plan. The other topics include Transportation, Housing, Economic Competitiveness, Environmental Systems, Public Health, Heritage Preservation, Arts and Culture, Parks and Open Spaces, Public Services and Facilities, and Technology and Innovation.

There were several comments from the group about the process. Concerns were raised about the July 22nd deadline not being enough time. It was mentioned that getting the comment deadline pushed back to a later date would allow people to talk about the plan with their neighbors at National Night Out.

Doug mentioned that this was brought up at the last SNG board meeting and said that he had contacted Cam Gordon to see if this would be possible. He said that Kerry Cashman from the SNG office was also contacting other neighborhoods to see if there is broader support for making the request.

Several people had questions for Cam Gordon about how to make sure their voices were heard. Cam said it was highly unlikely that the deadline would change, but that comments could still be submitted after the deadline. He said that he would still be listening and accepting emails about the comprehensive plan all the way up to the final vote. Cam said that staff needs to take all comments submitted by the deadline and make changes to the plan based on the comments.

Cam said the revised draft would then go to the Planning Commission for their review and approval. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing, most likely in October, to take additional comments. The plan would then go to the City Council Committees prior to its adoption. Cam reassured people that the city council would be able to amend and change the final plan up until it is adopted.

Elina Kolstad expressed concern about parking. She said she was concerned that not requiring new developments to provide off-street parking would lead to poor visibility for pedestrians trying to cross the street. Cam said that new projects could still build parking if they wanted, and he said we could mitigate visibility concerns with street design and restrictions on on-street parking near intersections. Sheldon Mains said that banks won't lend to large projects that don't provide off street parking.

A few people expressed frustration about the lack of public awareness of the plan. One man cited his discussions with his work colleagues, none of whom were aware of the comprehensive plan.

Sheldon Mains mentioned that the neighborhood used to permit 4-plexes, then in the 1960's and 70's much of the city was down-zoned, and now the pendulum is swinging back.

One gentleman cited a recent Star Tribune editorial and said the comp plan was a financial boon and giveaway to developers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58.