

Minutes (Approved)
Community Development Committee
May 8, 2018

Attending: Ken Webb (Chair), Dan Handeen, Alexis Troschinetz, Sheldon Mains, Becca Staley, Sam Graf, Fred Kreider, Roy Sorenson, Addio See, Bruce Brunner, John Kolstad, Sue Kolstad, Munir Nassar, Elina Kolstad, Aaron Tovo, Winston Cavert, KJ Starr, Ben Walen, City Council Member Cam Gordon, Scott Shaffer (Seward Redesign), Doug Wise (SNG Housing Coordinator).

The April 10, 2017 Community Development Committee minutes were approved.

Eagles Sign Request

Doug Wise said at the last meeting, the committee recommended approval of a proposed new sign for the Eagles building at 2507 East 25th Street. At their April meeting, the SNG board of directors tabled the motion because it was added to the CDC agenda late and Seward residents were not notified in advance of the meeting.

Doug said the sign would be a pole mounted sign on the corner of 25th Street and 25th Avenue. It would be a two sided sign facing east and west. It will be electrically lit with the bottom part of the sign changing to show current specials. Pole signs are not allowed in Minneapolis, so the Eagles are requesting a variance from the city to construct the sign.

Several people living half a block to the north; said the west side of the proposed sign would be visible from their homes. They passed around photos showing the sign location taken from their homes. They said they support the Eagles Club and want to see them succeed, but would like the Eagles to consider other options for the sign. They said they felt the sign could be located on the east side of the building by the parking lot.

Alexis Troschinetz said that she is a leader of the Evergreen Block Club located adjacent to Evergreen Drive. She said she has 10 emails from people opposed to the sign as proposed. Alexis said club members would be glad to meet with the Eagles to discuss their concerns and other options for the sign.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) recommends denial of a variance to allow the Eagles to construct a pole sign at 2507 East 25th Street and recommends affected residents be allowed to meet with the Eagles to discuss other options. Ken Webb moved and Dan Handeen seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion on the Draft Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Doug Wise said Minneapolis 2040, the draft Comprehensive Plan, is available online at <https://minneapolis2040.com/>. Doug said he attended a meeting the previous week on the plan convened by City Council Member Cam Gordon. Comments can be submitted directly online at the website and it was stated at the meeting that all individual comments will be considered. The city will be receiving comments on the plan until July 22, 2018.

At the meeting, Cam Gordon said that comments submitted by neighborhood organizations may carry more weight with the Council. Doug said if there are particular items in the plan affecting the neighborhood SNG may want to submit comments as well. A couple of committee members felt the neighborhood should not comment and individuals should submit their own comments.

Scott Shaffer with Seward Redesign said the draft plan covers topics such as housing, job access, the design of new buildings, and how we use our streets. He said that the neighborhood should particularly pay attention to two maps, the Future Land Use Map and Built Form Map. The Future Land Use Map shows the future uses for land in the neighborhood and the Built Form Map illustrates building height and density. The maps are specific down to the individual parcel.

Scott said there are a couple of places Redesign is concerned about, in particular east 25th Street. There are several commercial buildings along 25th Street that are not shown as commercial on the map. It is shown as Urban Neighborhood and there are questions about whether commercial uses will be allowed.

There was some discussion about density and the height of buildings that would be allowed in the neighborhood. The map shows up to 20 stories around Minnehaha and Franklin Avenue and 6 stories going east along Franklin.

Cam Gordon suggested the neighborhood go back and look at issues they have taken a position on to see how they are addressed in the plan.

The committee decided that their June 12th meeting should just focus on the Comprehensive plan and use the meeting structure called "meeting in a box". The committee also asked that city staff be invited to the meeting because there were a number of questions raised at the meeting that could not be answered. Doug Wise said he would set the meeting up.

Report from City Council Member Cam Gordon

Cam Gordon said that he has scheduled a meeting with the city assessor on May 30th at Matthews Park from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The meeting was requested by the SNG board. The assessor will discuss how they arrived at this year's property values and answer questions from property owners. Doug Wise mentioned that property values in the Seward Neighborhood increased an average of 18.8% this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52.