

Draft Minutes
Community Development Committee
April 9, 2019

Attending: Garrett Peterson (Co-Chair), Sheldon Mains, Matt Maruggi, Sheila Hougen, Michael Trdan, Dianne Trdan, Kristen Denzer, Bob Hain, Katie Nissly, Cris Gordon, Mary Mateer, Mehmet Konar-Steenberg, Eileen Dahill, Joe Buck, Rosemary Frazel, Roger Howley, Tracy Singleton, Robin Thomas, Zeb Thomas, Joe Benen, Mary Jo Wiatrak, Matthew Hendricks, Rosa Ramirez, Winston Calvert, Scott Shaffer (Seward Redesign), Doug Wise (SNG Housing Coordinator), Robin Garwood (Council Member Gordon's Office).

The March 12, 2019, Community Development Committee minutes were approved.

Parking Variance for a New Day Care Center at 35th Avenue and 25th Street

Doug Wise said that a parking variance was approved just prior to last month's committee meeting for a new Day Care Center on the southwest corner of 35th Avenue and 25th Street. The variance approved reduced the required parking from 12 spaces plus 2 drop-off spaces to 8 spaces plus 2 drop-off spaces.

Doug said there is an existing day care across the street on the northwest corner of 35th Avenue and 25th Street, which has created a number of parking problems in the area. Cars dropping kids off in the alley often block the alley and driveways making it difficult for neighbors to get out.

Kristen Denzer, CEO of Tierra Encantada, the new day care, said they have three other day cares, in Eagan, the Bryant neighborhood and the Windom neighborhood. Kristen said they are putting approximately \$1,000,000 into the building. Upgrades include sprinkling, new fencing and video surveillance. The day care will have a maximum of 160 children and a full-time staff of 30. She said all of the slots have been filled and there are 60 children on the waiting list.

Several neighbors living near the day care across the street talked about the difficulty getting out and that they often have to wait 10-15 minutes until parents move their cars. Kristen said that the Windom day care has 219 children, a staff of 65 and less off-street parking than in Seward. She said they have not received any complaints about parking at the Windom site.

Neighbors suggested that more drop-off spots be added on the street and the parking lot not be used for drop-off. There is also a bus stop directly in front of the building, which takes up several parking spots. It was suggested that the bus stop could be moved to the next block, making this space available for drop-off parking. Kristen said that hardly any of the employees drive and the parking lot is not needed for employee parking. She said the Windom site also has alley drop-off and it has not created any problems for the neighbors.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) Community Development Committee (CDC) is not opposed to the granting of the parking variance to reduce the minimum off-street parking requirement for a child care center located at 2504 35th Ave. S. if the following conditions can be met:

- **All street parking adjacent to the day care property, on 25th Street and 35th Avenue, be signed for 15 minute (drop-off) parking during hours of operation and signs be installed to prohibit parking adjacent to the alley entrance.**

- **No drop-off parking in the parking lot off the alley behind the building. The parking lot should be use for day care vehicles, employee parking and longer-term parking (in excess of 15 minutes).**
- **Move the bus stop in front of the building to the next block to the east (between 35th and 36th Avenues to allow the use of the current bus stop space to be used for drop off parking.**

Roger Howley moved, Joe Benen seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood Abstained.

Mike Trdan pointed out that the neighbors have appealed the variance and a hearing before the City Council Zoning and Planning Committee is on Thursday. This doesn't provide enough time for the SNG board to act on the motion. Doug said he forward the motion from the committee to the city prior to Thursday's hearing.

Seward Neighborhood Walking and Biking Safety Plan

Sheldon Mains said the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee presented the Draft Seward Neighborhood Walking and Biking Safety Plan at the committee's February meeting. The plan includes comments received online and at the annual meeting, previous SNG recommendations, items already being planned by the city or Hennepin County, and discussion items from the I-94 Reconnecting Neighborhoods Study.

Sheldon said the draft plan includes four guiding ideas. (1) Reduce speed; (2) make people walking and biking more visible; (3) get drivers to obey Minnesota laws about yielding to people walking and about sharing the road with people on bicycles and (4) improved facilities for people walking and people on bicycles.

Sheldon said the city is currently preparing a Transportation Plan and has committed to "Vision Zero" to eliminate traffic related deaths and serious injuries. It is hoped that our ideas can be incorporated into the Transportation Plan. The subcommittee would like approval of the draft plan before meeting with the design professionals and leaders of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Public Works departments, MNDOT design people, and our elected officials.

Several of the improvements recommended in the plan were discussed. It was pointed out that no improvements were indicated for 25th Street. In light of the previous discussion involving the day cares, as well as the Birchwood Café and Big River Yoga, crosswalks should be installed along 25th Street.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) approves the Seward Neighborhood Walking and Biking Safety Plan with the following change: additional crosswalks to be installed on 25th Street at 33rd, 34th and 35th Avenues. Sheldon Mains moved, Joe Benen seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood Abstained.

Designing Safer County Streets in Minneapolis

Scott Shaffer with Seward Redesign said they have joined a group of community groups from around the city who are working to meet with Hennepin County Commissioners to discuss designing safer County streets in Minneapolis. The groups include SCCA, Hope Community, Lake Street Council, Franklin Area Business Association, Sierra Club, and other organizations have been involved and signed a letter to the Commissioners requesting a meeting. Scott asked if SNG would be interested in supporting this initiative. A meeting with the Commissioners would likely take place in May at the earliest.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) approves joining with the other organizations in requesting a meeting with Hennepin County Commissioners to discuss designing safer County streets in Minneapolis. Chris Gordon moved, Joe Buck seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood Abstained.

Report from Robin Garwood, Council Member Gordon's Office

Robin said there was a meeting with Public Works staff on the proposed mid-block crosswalk on 25th/26th Avenues at Seward Tower West. The plan proposed by the I-94 Reconnecting Neighborhoods study has been approved by Public Works. Robin said Public Works will go ahead and change the striping. They will install the improvements, but will not pay for them. The cost is approximately \$150,000.

Scott Shaffer said that Seward Towers Corporation and Seward Redesign are trying to raise the funds in time for 2019 construction. He said that they have about half of the money needed. Someone suggested they do a "go fund me" campaign, this would give people a feeling of ownership in the project.

Report from Scott Shaffer, Seward Redesign

Scott said that Redesign had a meeting with a City Council committee on their request for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for Seward Commons Phase 3 A & B. He said that committee member's opinions differed and no action was taken. Scott said they are still hopeful that it will get approved.

Scott said they are working with the County to complete the bikeway connection between 20th Avenue and the Hiawatha LRT Trail as part of Phase 3.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.