DATE

Saint Paul Planning Commission:

On behalf of the Hillcrest Community Advisory Committee (CAC), we would like to convey the CAC’s comments on the draft Hillcrest Master Plan being brought forward for your consideration. Our CAC consisted of 11 members appointed by Mayor Carter, including residents of both Saint Paul and Maplewood, and subject matter experts on housing, transportation, and business. Our responsibilities included connecting other people to the process, providing constructive input, and raising issues and opportunities for the project. We met 18 times from October 2019 through December 2021, discussing site background, community engagement, and topics contained in the master plan. Early in the process we affirmed 20 community priorities to guide the plan, based on the first round of engagement. On December 14, 2021, the CAC authorized this letter to be sent on their behalf.

Generally, we support the direction chosen. In particular…

* Achieves the development goals of approximately 1,000 jobs and 1,000 households
* Takes community input into proper account
* Has helpful transportation connections to the west, with jogs at Howard Street to discourage cut-through traffic
* Locations and amount of green space
* Support for community agriculture
* Others…..?

We will miss the high point and the trees, but understand that the development will remove many of them.

Our biggest concerns with the draft master plan are that…

* There is too much range given for administrative modifications to the plan. The land uses and trails (OTHERS?), in particular, could be changed from what is being adopted to a degree we are not comfortable with.
* Important plan aspects are asterisked as being funding dependent.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Anne DeJoy Linda Martinez-Higgins

Co-chair Co-chair