

**Saint Paul Planning Commission &
Heritage Preservation Commission**
MASTER MEETING CALENDAR

WEEK OF OCTOBER 24-28, 2016

Mon (24) _____

Tues (25) _____

3:30- Comprehensive Planning Committee
5:00 p.m. (Merritt Clapp-Smith, 651/266-6547)

HAS BEEN CANCELED

Weds (26) _____

Thurs (27) _____

Fri (28) _____

8:00 a.m. Planning Commission Steering Committee
(Donna Drummond, 651/266-6556)

Room 41 City Hall
Conference Center
15 Kellogg Blvd.

8:30- Planning Commission Meeting
11:00 a.m. (Donna Drummond, 651/266-6556)

Room 40 City Hall
Conference Center
15 Kellogg Blvd.

PUBLIC HEARING: Outdoor Commercial Uses Zoning Study– Item from the Neighborhood Planning Committee. *(Tony Johnson, 651/266-6620)*

Zoning..... SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. *(Larry Zangs, 651/266-9082)*

NEW BUSINESS

#16-085-721 Schurmeier Lofts, LLC – Rezone from I1 Industrial to B5 Central Business-Service district. 328-330 9th Street East, SW corner at Pine. *(Jake Reilly, 651/266-6618)*

#16-085-666 Residence Inn-Grand Avenue – Conditional use permit for building height of 45 ft., providing for a 55 ft. height for portions of the building set back more than 10 ft. from setback lines. 200 Grand Avenue between Smith and Leech. *(Lucy Thompson, 651/266-6578)*

#16-064-562 St. Paul Tennis Club – Conditional use permit for replacement of existing clubhouse and pool facilities. 1055 Osceola Avenue between Oxford and Lexington Pkwy. *(Jamie Radel, 651/266-6614)*

#16-085-577 Jim Seabold – Appeal of a Planning Administrator denial of a proposed lot split. 661 Orange Avenue West between Maywood and St. Albans. (*Josh Williams, 651/266-6659*)

Informational Presentation.. Capital Improvement Budget: Process Changes and Funding Outlook – Informational presentation by Daley Lehmann, Budget Analyst, Office of Financial Services.

**Saint Paul Planning Commission
City Hall Conference Center
15 Kellogg Boulevard West**

Minutes September 2, 2016

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, September 2, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes. DeJoy, McMahon, Reveal, Thao, Underwood, Wang; and Messrs. Edgerton, Fredson, Gelgelu, Lindeke, Makarios, Nelson, Ochs, Oliver, and Ward.

Commissioners Absent: Mmes. *Merrigan, *Shively, *Wencl, and Mr. Wickiser.
*Excused

Also Present: Donna Drummond, Planning Director; Lucy Thompson, Kady Dadlez, Tony Johnson, and Laura Eckert, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes August 5, 2016.

MOTION: *Commissioner Thao moved approval of the minutes of August 5, 2016. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

II. Chair's Announcements

Commissioner Reveal, the Commission's First Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting. Acting Chair Reveal read a resolution thanking Commissioner Wang for her service on the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Wang said that it has been an honor to be on the Planning Commission. And if anyone is curious about the Welcome Hats ceremony the final celebration is on Tuesday, September 6th at the History Center and the Mayor will present hats from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

MOTION: *Commissioner Thao moved approval of the resolution honoring Commissioner Wang. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Donna Drummond reminded the commissioners of the upcoming River Balcony prototyping festival on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10th. The goal is to generate excitement about the River Balcony and show people what might be possible. Festival activities will be set up all along the proposed route of the river balcony, starting at the Science Museum down to the

Union Depot, with the core of activities centered on Kellogg Mall Park. Friday night starts the pre-party with food trucks, a beer garden and live music located at Kellogg Mall Park. On Saturday the festival runs from 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

IV. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. (*Larry Zangs, 651/266-9082*)

One item came before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, August 23, 2016:

- Dorothy Day Place-Phase 2 – New housing and courtyard at 183 Old 6th Street & 400 Main Street. Richard Johnson-Catholic Charities SPR # 16-063649

One item came before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, August 30, 2016:

- West Side Flats Phase 3 A & B Buildings – Mixed Use Development at 81 Livingston Avenue. Sherman Associates SPR# 15-031101

NEW BUSINESS

#16-064-802 St. Paws – Determination that dog day care and boarding is similar to other T3 Traditional Neighborhood District uses. 1920 University Avenue West between Prior and Lynnhurst Avenue West. (*Jacquelyn Kramer, 651/266-6708*) This case was continued to the September 22nd Zoning Committee meeting.

Commissioner Nelson announced that the next Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2016 has been cancelled.

V. Minnesota State Capitol Renovation – Informational presentation by Wayne Waslaski of the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Wayne Waslaski gave a power point presentation which can be seen on the web page at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>

Commissioner Ward noted that from 1905 – 2011 there were no efforts to maintain the capitol building and in 2011 the Preservation Commission was established. Now the renovation is costing \$513 million. What is being put in place now in terms of on-going maintenance to prevent a large cost for renovation in the future?

Mr. Waslaski said in 2012 the first thing the Commission did was create a master plan for the preservation of the Capitol to preserve the building for the next 100 years. At the end of this process Dept. of Administration staff has now engaged the Preservation Commission in conversation about stewardship and maintenance. For example, on the exterior stone how often does tuck pointing need to be completed so water infiltration into the building is not happening? How often does it need to be investigated? There will be recommendations from the project team. A preservation plan and budget will be presented to the Preservation Commission for their consideration and follow up with the legislature. That conversation is part of the master plan. Commissioner Ward said a lot of specialized skills were needed for the capitol restoration such as stone masonry, stained glass repair and restoration of artwork. Is anything being done to let local

young people know about these types of jobs and how they can train for them? He imagines that there is a need for these skills in other places where old buildings are being restored. What can the Capital Board do to promote jobs and training for these types of unique skills?

Mr. Waslaski said that is a difficult but good question. When this project ends the funding is gone so the master stone carvers will need to move on to the next job elsewhere in the country or in the world. At the peak the Capitol project had 7 master stone carvers on the project from all over the world. One was Mimi from Montana, who was 26 when she thought that this would be a great career to get into but she is the exception. The master stone carvers average age is closer to 60 but Mimi was the example of somebody who got engaged in this trade and saw an opportunity and really capitalized on it. However, he does not know what Mimi's next job is, where she is going to have to go to or move to for a period of time to work. And you have that same thing with a number of the specialty trades on a project like this, such as historic lighting, fine art work, decorative painting. They have to move on to the next job as there is not enough work to stay in one area. From an industry standpoint they are well aware of their challenges on the labor side. One thing that they are particularly proud of on the Capitol project is the diversity of the workforce. They wanted it to reflect Minnesota and Jay Dunn led the way with an excellent program working with the Department of Human Rights. They are at about 40% between minority and women on the Capital restoration.

Commissioner Lindeke asked if the parking on the Capital lawn is just temporary and whether it will return to lawn after this process is over.

Mr. Waslaski said it is temporary and will be removed in the summer of 2017.

Commissioner Nelson said that a lot of the project was deferred maintenance and a lot was upgraded technology from 1905 mechanical systems. For example, plumbing was totally different from what we have today. How was sustainability brought into the work that was done?

Mr. Waslaski said that all state projects have to follow the Minnesota Sustainable Building guidelines so that is their starting point. The number one thing he can think of from a sustainability standpoint is the lighting. They moved to all LED lighting in the Capitol and they are already on District Energy on the campus. So they already are sustainable from a heating and cooling standpoint. There are all new windows and the mechanical systems that meet certain efficiency levels. There are some challenges with energy consumption because the building operates on a unique schedule, especially when legislature is in session. There will still be flood lights lighting the exterior of the Capitol as it is an important symbol for the state of Minnesota. Overall from an energy efficiency standpoint the systems have been improved but you also have to balance that with increased energy use by upgraded mechanical and ventilation systems.

Commissioner Underwood asked if expanded recycling, including organics, are planned for the building.

Mr. Waslaski said there is a campus wide recycling program that includes the Capitol building, but doesn't include organics recycling.

Commissioner Ochs asked about the extent of renovations of the grounds surrounding the building.

Mr. Waslaski said that much of the stairs and the plaza are a roofing system for the space below in the basement, so when dealing with the leaking water issue they had to deal with the plaza and the stairs. The commission and the legislature provided funding for that in 2015. All of the structural repairs have been completed and waterproofing done on the stairs and the plaza surrounding. Another major change is to parking lot O on the northeast quadrant of the Capital. That is now going to be greenspace. There still will be about 25 parking spaces for senior leadership there. Additional security measures will be added on site. The landscaping has changed over the years and the intent is to return the overall landscaping to much of what it looked like in 1905.

Commissioner Wang about plans to include new art that depicts our current population and the people who have contributed in the past, including Native Americans.

Mr. Waslaski said that the Preservation Commission created a subcommittee on art. They have put forward close to 90 recommendations for art in the Capitol dealing with both existing art and the potential for new artwork. The Preservation Commission has referred the recommendations to the Historical Society and they will do a review of all the recommendations and make a decision on which ones they are going to implement. Much of the artwork and much of the building was a tribute to the Civil War, so there are a lot of conversations about how to also better reflect the current population of Minnesota.

Commissioner Ward asked if there will be any documentation of lessons learned in this process? This could be helpful for state capitals around the country.

Mr. Waslaski said they started out the process not knowing how to accomplish restoration of the Capitol building. They reached out to states that had accomplished their restoration projects and our Preservation Commission is closely modeled after the preservation commission of Idaho and Utah. Since the project began they have had six or seven states reach out to them to learn how Minnesota's restoration was being done. Our preservation commission does not have a sunset date and there is still a question of whether or not the legislature will choose to sunset it. There are pros and cons to both. The greatest weakness in the past was that top leadership in state government was not engaged in being stewards of the building. Through documentation of this process, we want to make it clear what needs to be done in the future so that the Capitol building is maintained on an ongoing basis into the future.

Commissioner Ward asked what information is being disseminated to the state's citizens so that they can understand that this is what we had to do, and to show off the finished building that they paid for with their taxes.

Mr. Waslaski said that the head of the Department of Administration has been doing a statewide tour giving presentations like this, for that very reason. The grand opening is another opportunity. The state of Utah did it where they worked through the school system, because not everybody is going to come on the week of the grand opening events. It's important for all the citizens of the state to be recognized for their significant contribution to make this happen. The highlight for him is the bipartisanship that this project has had. They have had the most conservative and most liberal legislators in support of this work. This is an important symbol of the state.

Acting Chair Reveal thanked Mr. Waslaski for his presentation and looks forward to the grand opening.

Ms. Drummond thanked and recognized Mr. Paul Mandell for coming today also; he is the Executive Secretary of the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board and has been with that board for a long time but is fairly new to the lead position for staff of that board.

VI. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Commissioner Thao announced that their last meeting was canceled, and the next Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for September 13th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. with the agenda to be determined.

VI. Neighborhood Planning Committee

Union Park (District 13) Community Plan Update – Approve resolution recommending approval of the Union Park Community Plan and forward to the Mayor and City Council for adoption. (Kady Dadlez, 651/266-6619)

Commissioner McMahon gave the report.

Commissioner Thao asked whether the plan addresses the soccer stadium since the stadium is in the Union Park neighborhood.

Ms. Dadlez said that the plan did not specifically address the soccer stadium but it did address the Snelling-Midway redevelopment block and it talked about trying to achieve the planning goals set forth in the Snelling Station Area Plan and the Smartsite TOD Redevelopment Strategy.

Commissioner Thao said she did not know if they would have to redo it based upon the new changes. Usually these things are always a work in progress.

MOTION: Commissioner Oliver moved on behalf of the Neighborhood Planning Committee to approve the resolution recommending that the Union Park (District 13) Community Plan be adopted by the Mayor and City Council. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Outdoor Commercial Uses Zoning Study – Release draft for public review and schedule a public hearing for October 14, 2016. (Tony Johnson, 651/266-6620)

Tony Johnson, PED staff gave a power point presentation which can be seen on the web page at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>

Commissioner Nelson asked about the 10% of the zoning lot/1,000 sq. ft. trigger for a conditional use permit requirement (CUP), how that relates to use of public right-of-way (ROW), and if zoning extends to the center of the street.

Mr. Johnson said that zoning district boundaries usually follow the centerline of streets. Use of street ROW is also regulated by the Dept. of Public Works, and commercial use of public street ROW requires a permit from Public Works. A sidewalk café, for example, needs a sidewalk

obstruction permit from the Dept. of Public Works, needs to maintain a 4-foot width for pedestrian flow, and needs a sidewalk café license from the Dept. of Safety and Inspections. The CUP requirement and the 10% of the zoning lot/1,000 sq. ft. trigger for a CUP applies to use of the zoning lot itself, not to use of the public right-of-way.

Commissioner Nelson asked about controls on generators used for food trucks, which can be very noisy and smelly.

Mr. Johnson said that food trucks are regulated and licensed by the state, and the city noise ordinance applies.

Commissioner Nelson said there seems to be little enforcement. Commissioner Lindeke said that food truck generator noise is a pet peeve of his. A loud food truck generator at Mears Park kind of ruins the public space. Quieter generators are more expensive.

Commissioner Gelgelu asked about outdoor events, and whether shops can conduct sales at a special event some distance from the shop as an accessory use.

Mr. Johnson said special events such as community festivals are regulated separately under Chapter 366, which requires a permit for each event. The proposed amendments would provide for regular outdoor markets such as at the Union Depot to get a conditional use permit that would be more permanent. Accessory uses must be located on the same zoning lot as the principal use to which it is related.

Commissioner DeJoy asked if a shop selling clothing, for example, could sell a different product such as fruit out on the sidewalk. Commissioner Gelgelu asked if a store could use their license to sell their products at an event at a different location.

Commissioner Nelson said these are more of a licensing issue rather than a zoning issue.

Acting Chair Reveal suggested that staff can do some follow-up research on this.

Commissioner Ochs asked about multiple vendors on a site, who is responsible for applying for zoning approval, and how the lot area/conditional use permit requirement would be managed.

Mr. Johnson said that property owners are responsible for managing and leasing their property in conformance with the code. When commercial outdoor uses occupy more than 10% of a zoning lot or 1000 sq. ft. on a zoning lot, conditional use permit and site plan review requirements are triggered. Any person having an ownership or leasehold interest in the property is eligible to apply for a conditional use permit and site plan approval.

Commissioner Edgerton said that for fireworks stands the Planning Commission sees a site plan showing the layout, and he assumes they would see something similar for these types of conditional use permits.

Mr. Johnson confirmed this, and said one of the benefits of requiring a conditional use permit for larger scale outdoor commercial use is that the Planning Commission can add conditions that are specific to the particular use and location.

Commissioner Nelson asked if there would be any notification or review when conditional use permit and site plan review requirements are not triggered.

Mr. Johnson noted that other standards and requirements still apply, that a lot of these sales are already occurring without site plan review or serious issues, and DSI is able to address minor issues. Ms. Drummond added that the requirement not to obstruct the building entry and pedestrian flow, for example, can be addressed on a complaint basis.

Commissioner Ochs asked if maintaining pedestrian flow on the public sidewalk should be more defined, for a sidewalk café on a tree lined sidewalk with a fire hydrant and lighting, for example.

Mr. Johnson said that building egress and ingress has to be maintained, and a sidewalk café needs to maintain at least 4 feet of access. Public Works addresses this through the sidewalk obstruction permit.

Commissioner Lindeke said that he thinks this is great. A friend of his just moved her vintage store to a new location in Saint Paul. At her old location she displayed goods in the windows and in front of the store, making the sidewalk gorgeous and interesting and encouraging people to go into the store. He asked about her new location and if she was going to do the same thing there, and she said she did not want to get in trouble with the City. He did not know what that meant, but now it makes sense that this is a use that happens all the time but has not been officially sanctioned. Vintage stores on 7th Street and at the corner of Selby and Fairview are examples of outdoor display of merchandise that works fine. He really likes and supports this.

Commissioner Gelgelu echoed that sentiment. When they were working on guidelines for Snelling Avenue one of the points raised was that outdoor commercial uses could help to mitigate safety issues in the area.

MOTION: Commissioner Oliver moved on behalf of the Neighborhood Planning Committee to release the draft for public review and set a public hearing on October 14, 2016 (subsequently rescheduled to October 28, 2016). The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Oliver announced that the next Neighborhood Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 is canceled.

VIII. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Lindeke announced that at their last meeting they discussed the Comprehensive Plan update process and brainstormed about what the priorities should be for the Transportation Chapter. The next meeting, which had been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 7th because of the Labor Day Holiday, has been canceled.

IX. Communications Committee

Commissioner Thao had no report.

X. Task Force/Liaison Reports

No task force or liaison reports.

XI. Old Business

None.

XII. New Business

None.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Recorded Laura Eckert, and prepared by
Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Drummond
Planning Director

Approved _____
(Date)

Daniel Ward II
Secretary of the Planning Commission

**Saint Paul Planning Commission
City Hall Conference Center
15 Kellogg Boulevard West**

Minutes September 30, 2016

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, September 30, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes. DeJoy, Reveal, Thao, Underwood, Wencl; and Messrs. Fredson, Lindeke, Makarios, Ochs, Oliver, Ward and Wickiser.

Commissioners Absent: Mmes. *McMahon, *Merrigan, *Shively, and Messrs. *Edgerton, *Gelgelu, and *Nelson.

Absent: *Excused

Also Present: Donna Drummond, Planning Director; Margaret Jones, Allan Torstenson, Kady Dadlez, Tony Johnson, and Sonja Butler, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes August 19th and September 2, 2016.

MOTION: *Commissioner Reveal moved approval of the minutes of August 19, 2016. Commissioner Lindeke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

and

Chair Wencl announced that the September 2, 2016 minutes are not available at this time.

II. Chair's Announcements

Chair Wencl had no announcements.

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Donna Drummond announced that the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendments recommended by the Planning Commission were considered by City Council. There were several layovers to provide more time for the Summit University neighborhood to hold some meetings. The ordinance was amended to eliminate the area east of Lexington from the Green Line Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance which will go into effect for the areas along the Green Line west of Lexington. Some of the discussion at City Council was that they would see how it goes and potentially in the future consider it for other areas of the city.

The October 5th meeting of the Neighborhood Planning Committee will be a joint meeting with the Comprehensive Planning Committee and actually the whole Planning Commission is invited

also. They will be doing a tour of the River Balcony, led by Lucy Thompson, starting at the Science Museum and walking along the future location of the River Balcony. At 4:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on Union Depot, followed by a tour of the Custom House at 5:00 p.m.

Lastly, former Planning Commissioner Bob Spaulding has been hired by Planning and Economic Development as a Research Analyst. He started about 3 weeks ago.

IV. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. (*Larry Zangs, 651/266-9082*)

NEW BUSINESS

#16-064-802 St. Paws – Determination whether dog day care and boarding is similar to other T3 Traditional Neighborhood district uses. 1920 University Avenue West between Prior and Lynnhurst Avenue West. (*Kady Dadlez, 651/266-6619*)

Commissioner Reveal gave the report.

MOTION: *Commissioner Reveal moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the determination of similar use subject to additional conditions. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Commissioner Reveal also, announced that the next Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2016 has been canceled.

V. Rethinking I-94 – Informational presentation by Brian Isaacson, Project Manager and Bill Goff, Transportation Planner, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Brian Isaacson, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation gave a power point presentation which can be seen on the web page at:
<http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>

Commissioner Thao said there has been a lot of community engagement with this project. How can we change the system so this is not a one-time thing and this approach of co-creation is incorporated in the entire system going forward?

Mr. Isaacson said this has not been a smooth process but it really does feel like cultural change within the department. He said he had his own concerns taking this on in the beginning. They started this project in the usual way but MnDOT wide leadership decided we should do this differently. He was identified as the lead staff person with four staff in a project office at Fairview and University. MnDOT recognizes that they have a long way to go and a lot of progress to make relative to engagement and how they include people both on a project like this and on the construction side.

Commissioner Underwood commented that she served on the Smith Avenue Community Advisory Committee and MnDOT staff Tara McBride is really doing a great job. She has done a nice job of setting expectations of explaining really complicated things in a simple way and the advisory committee would agree that they are seeing their input have an influence on the process.

Tara has talked openly about how this process is different, doing something new for MN Dot and it feels really good. They will see when the reconstruction happens if their influence is really there.

Commissioner Lindeke said he is thinking about the tradeoffs between traffic volume and the regional picture of what I-94 does and the impact on Saint Paul specifically around livability for any property or people that are near it. The idea of rethinking the freeway is an interesting question. A lot of those things you can't really do a lot about like pollution, noise, and noise walls are a standardized thing and access to bridges is a key thing. When you get to the question of safety and speed it is interesting to think outside the lines of the freeway a little because the volumes of cars and speeds of cars don't end at the borders of I-94. Think of all the streets that are next to the freeway or all the on and off ramps where you have an interchange. There are issues of livability and safety, because people are dying on streets right next to the on ramps. He would like them to think larger about the impact that I-94 has on Saint Paul and include St. Anthony and Concordia and the downtown interchanges and think about how those are done. A crucial distinction should be made between the way people drive on the freeway and the way people drive in the city. The point is to recommend they think a little larger in terms of scope.

Mr. Isaacson said that has come up in a number of forms. There is an advisory committee on ADA and accessibility at Met Council and they have highlighted these issues. There is a lively discussion about Lexington. They just did some work at Lexington and 94 and there are a lot of uses on one side and a lot of residential on the other. So how do you make this more livable? If you are driving 70 mph on I-94 and you come roaring up the ramp and you want to go somewhere you tend not to see pedestrians so how do we cope with that? Even the pedestrian crossings from the schools to the pedestrian bridges are challenging, and that is part of the mix. He does not have a good answer about how to fix that but it is on their radar.

Chair Wencl asked why the project stops at Highway 61 because that is not the border of the city. And there is a lot of work being done in the Highway 61 location at this point.

Mr. Isaacson said some of the issues are probably exacerbated by infrastructure questions. When they look at a managed lane coming in east bound into Saint Paul operationally it doesn't seem to fit so there are questions about how could you make something work. The same is true on the west side of the Lowry tunnel; it's about what leads into it and there are infrastructure pieces to it but then there are operational pieces to it too. What they are trying to do is go as far as they can in understanding what the patterns are and hopefully that will be some indication of how things are working. They didn't go to either city limits but they tried to include parts that were going to be impacted.

Chair Wencl said she's not sure about the folks east of the Highway 61 area would agree they are not impacted.

Mr. Isaacson said the same is true in North Minneapolis, so they have to draw the line somewhere and to some degree the work that they are doing on the east side today is a longer term preservation activity. Part of the consideration in North Minneapolis was that the infrastructure is not as old so it doesn't have as imminent a need. That was part of their challenge how to look at those pieces that are going to be farther out and that they are not going to replace in a shorter time frame.

Commissioner Ward asked about all the data collection underway and the different paradigm about how to do business. Who is going to take ownership of this data? Where is it going to be warehoused and is there a chance for the public to be able to view it and make comments and weigh in on it?

Mr. Isaacson said all of the data they are collecting from what he knows is public information. For example the traffic data, they purchased three months of traffic pattern data from a provider that shares navigation and cell phone data. That is 6 million trip records and each record has 100 data points so it's 600 million data points, and there are limitations depending on your capacity but he thinks it's public. All of the analysis that they do is certainly going to be out in the public. They intend to both share it in whatever format makes sense at a neighborhood level as well as on a website so that people have access to it.

Commissioner Ward asked if these new approaches will be carried on throughout the state?

Mr. Isaacson said they are taking their experiences from the metro area and trying to figure out how to apply them statewide. In the case of this project, they are trying to reach more of the targeted group businesses for both the consultant work as well as the construction work. They are focusing on building partnerships and developing capacity.

VI. Rondo Land Bridge – Informational presentation by Lars Christiansen, Director, Friendly Streets Initiative, Marvin Anderson and Melvin Giles.

Marvin Anderson said he is a Rondo resident and 40 years ago he was a member of the Saint Paul Planning Commission. Brian Isaacson who he has had an opportunity to work with over the last year mentioned the name of Anthony Foxx, the Secretary of Transportation. Anthony Foxx has been a marvelous public servant in that he has given all of us an opportunity to think beyond the confines of old government thinking. What he had to say about the use of public dollars and transportation has inspired all of us, not just the Highway Department but the citizens who live around and who engage with transportation decisions every day. Having lived on Rondo and his father lost his home and business on Rondo and having been victimized by the decisions that the MN Department of Transportation made in the 1950's he can relate to and understand Anthony Foxx. Mr. Foxx who lost his home and his father lost his business to a transportation decision. So what Mr. Foxx has done has inspired us to combine our collective thinking on the citizen side so that we are not just waiting for the Transportation Department to make decisions and they react to them. They were inspired as citizens to go out and gather their own set of facts and bring that to the Department of Transportation so that they can be co-creators of a project that affects them in a way that I-94 has affected them for over the last 50 years. As they gathered information over the last two years Rondo Avenue Inc. has found a partner in the Friendly Streets Initiative. Their thinking has gelled and combined to believe that there are five elements to creative projects and those five ingredients are found in what they call the Rondo Land Bridge. You have a government department that is committed to doing things differently so that they are engaged. That is a very important ingredient. You have citizen engagement that has been able to bring their thinking together on a common project. They have done the work, the surveys and collected the information which is very important so that you have a citizen voice. Another ingredient is the commercial and housing possibilities that are present in such a concept. The fourth would be the city itself that wants to set itself apart and engage itself in creative and mind changing activities that not only can inspire the commercial and the housing but puts the city on the line with what they are about as a city government and a 21st century entity. Lastly, is the concept of

the rehabilitation, reconciliation and healing powers that a land bridge could bring. Mr. Lars Christianson will give a presentation on what a land bridge is all about and what a land bridge can do for this community.

Lars Christiansen, Director, Friendly Streets Initiative, gave a power point presentation which can be seen on the web page at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>.

Commissioner Reveal said that she worked and lived in Seattle and she cannot emphasize enough how transformative these things have been for that city. The sculpture park is her favorite single place, it is really remarkable. She wished that they had this discussion when they were reviewing the master plan for West Side Flats, because she thinks there were many similar issues about having made public works determinations, and industrial use determinations that destroy communities. She can think of all kinds of places in Saint Paul where looking backwards at transportation and land use decisions and the impact on communities and neighborhoods could be very helpful and we could do a lot to provide that leadership. She is really pleased to see this.

Mr. Anderson said they are excited about the fact that if they had this sort of conversation 50 years ago perhaps the conversation now would be completely different and that is why the citizen's part of this as a co-partner with MnDOT makes sense. That is why the Planning Commission's support and understanding will invigorate the conversations so that 50 years from now we will have better decisions being made between the government and citizens. This is the beginning of a whole new way of looking at government, looking at community engagement, looking at progress and using transportation as the kick off for that. There is a lot of work to be done but now we have an opportunity to be fully engaged where Rondo had absolutely no input and the decisions made 50 years ago are still affecting residents. Here we have an opportunity to correct that through this Rondo Land Bridge where it all comes together.

Chair Wencl thinks this is very exciting, the way that the freeway runs through really does separate the areas and the bridges that were put in certainly are not friendly. And in the winter when the wind is blowing that is the last place you want to be.

Mr. Anderson replied that before they took down the Grotto and Mackubin bridges you were walking through an enclosure of wire over the bridge and those bridges were called the "cage". Walking through there as an adult you would say how did this happen and how did it happen for the last 50 years?

Commissioner Ward thanked both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Christiansen. He is impressed at their vigor and the amount of energy that they have going into this. Because it is so emotional he hopes they can find the resources in order to keep this moving forward. Find someone else you can pass the torch to and keep it going because the work you are doing is so important that it cannot be lost at all. Not just for the community but for the entire nation because this is a model moving forward if they can do it the way that both Mr. Isaacson talked about and the way that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Christiansen talked about. This isn't just about healing a community through transportation but it is about healing a community economically and culturally bringing people together. Develop a whole new culture for any construction that can be done so that its equitably beneficial to everybody. The speakers have done a lot with a little and it is impressive work.

Mr. Anderson said getting a protégé is number one on his list. The opportunity in Saint Paul is to

do something that not only makes transportation decisions much more equitable but it is a way in which they can deal with government decisions that has not been done before in the United States. We can do something here in Saint Paul again to lead the nation as a forward thinking community and a national model for getting things done. With what FSI has done in support of Rondo, what MnDOT is doing and reaching out to us, what Ramsey County is doing in terms of the Dale Street bridge and the eight bridges of Rondo is all this concept of rehabilitation and healing. If we all just pull ourselves together we can achieve progress on these ideas that have a good chance of coming to fruition and realization.

Commissioner Fredson asked what other metro locations were locations for the site visits for the ULI technical panel on the freeway lid concept?

Mr. Christiansen said that the other sites are downtown Minneapolis East and connecting that over toward Cedar Riverside and Farview in North Minneapolis that connects a park.

Mr. Isaacson added that Farview Park is about connecting Farview Park over to the river. It's a long standing plan in Minneapolis and it is in the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Boards plans to make that connection. The ULI example is instructive, and when they engaged the services of business leaders in the Twin Cities in the commercial real estate industry the initial reaction was guarded cynicism. But throughout the course of a three day workshop and hearing those stories and the emotion it made an impact. In the transportation projects he will say that that emotion is contagious and it is important that they don't leave it out of this conversation. It feels like they are going pretty far by saying they are going to solve the world's ills but when you start to have compelling projects that do address some of these things and you have a series of partnerships that are developing it's progress. At the end of that workshop those business leaders were not only fully embracing the idea of doing this work and saying there is a business need but they were fully embracing the fact that we're here to connect communities and address some equity issues issues. They fully embraced that and they are taking it farther than we asked them to.

Commissioner Ochs said that land bridges have always been a design study and through the efforts and progress in the State of Washington and some of the projects in Minnesota these land bridges are becoming a reality. It is important that you keep this initiative moving forward for the better of us all.

VII. Comprehensive Planning Committee

No report.

VIII. Neighborhood Planning Committee

Commissioner Oliver announced that their next meeting on Wednesday, October 5th is a joint meeting with the Comprehensive Planning Committee; however all of the Planning Commission members are invited. They will take a walking tour of the River Balcony, Union Depot and the Custom House. Everyone will meet on the Science Museum Plaza at 4:00 p.m. to start the tour.

IX. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Lindeke announced that the next Transportation Committee meeting on Monday, October 3, 2016 has been canceled.

X. Communications Committee

Commissioner Thao had no announcements.

XI. Task Force/Liaison Reports

No reports.

Additional Announcement:

Chair Wencl thanked the students from Humphrey School of Public Affairs for joining the meeting this morning and hopes they got a better understanding of how the Planning Commission works.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. New Business

None.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Recorded and prepared by
Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Drummond
Planning Director

Approved _____
(Date)

Daniel Ward II
Secretary of the Planning Commission

FOR THE FULL ZONING COMMITTEE **AGENDA** and **SUMMARY**

of this packet go to the link below:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>

Thank you

Sonja Butler

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