

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

WEEK OF MAY 27-31, 2019

Mon (27) _____ **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED**



Tues (28) _____

Weds (29) _____

**4:30- Comprehensive and Neighborhood
6:00 p.m. Planning Committee**
(Lucy Thompson, 651/266-6578)

13th Floor – CHA
25 Fourth Street West

Downtown Overnight Shelters Zoning Study – Review, recommend release for public review, and set public hearing for July 26, 2019. *(Bill Dermody, 65/266-6617)*

Ford Design Standards – Review, recommend release for public review and set a public hearing date. *(Mike Richardson, 651/266-6621)*

Thurs (30) _____

Fri (31) _____

**8:30- Planning Commission Meeting
11:00 a.m.** *(Luis Pereira, 651/266-6556)*

Room 40 City Hall
Conference Center
15 Kellogg Blvd.

Zoning..... SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. *(Tia Anderson, 651/266-9086)*

NEW BUSINESS

#19-335-381 Kevin Greenlee – Conditional use permit for a carriage house dwelling. 479 Ashland Avenue, between Arundel Street and Mackubin Street. *(Tony Johnson, 651/266-6620)*

#19-037-931 Waterford Bay – Conditional use permit for a building height of 45'.
And for construction of a fire access road and storm sewers in the FW floodway.
Variances for front yard setback >25', primary entrance location not in third of
building closest to Randolph, and rehabilitation slopes >18%. 380 Randolph
Avenue, Island Station Site. (*Josh Williams, 651/266-6659*)

***Comprehensive and
Neighborhood Planning
Committee***

Ford Design Standards – Release draft for public review and set a public hearing for June
28, 2019. (*Mike Richardson, 651/266-6621*)

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

Minutes April 5, 2019

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, April 5, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes. Anderson, DeJoy, Grill, Lee, Mouacheupao, Reveal; and Messrs. Edgerton, Lindeke, Ochs, Perryman, Rangel Morales, and Risberg.

Commissioners Absent: Ms. *Underwood, and Messrs. *Baker, Khaled, Oliver, and *Vang.
*Excused

Also Present: Luis Pereira, Planning Director; Yaya Diatta, Department of Safety and Inspections, Fay Simer, Department of Public Works, Bill Dermody, Lucy Thompson, Tony Johnson, Michael Wade, and Sonja Butler, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes January 25, 2019.

MOTION: *Commissioner Lindeke moved approval of the minutes of January 25, 2019. Commissioner DeJoy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

II. Chair's Announcements

Chair Reveal had no announcements.

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Luis Pereira announced that notice was received from the PED staff who works on Cultural STAR, there are 82 applications that have come in for round one with \$2.8 million in requests and \$620 Thousand available. Interviews are scheduled for mid-April. City Council held a public hearing on the Ford Site Master Plan Amendments and Zoning Text Amendments on Wednesday, April 3rd, no final decision has been made that will happen next Wednesday at City Council. At the previous City Council meeting on March 27th, Councilmember Tolbert introduced a set of amendments to the amendments, a few notable ones are reintroducing the single-family homes along the Mississippi River Boulevard as well as a higher parking requirement, Ryan had been requesting one space for 200 sq. ft., at the meeting on the 27th the majority voted in favor of those amendments and that is what's being considered by the City Council. Also, Lucy Thompson has circulated a notice calling for volunteers for the Congress for the Urbanism Conference.

Lucy Thompson, PED staff said that Saint Paul has been selected for the National Conference of the Congress for the New Urbanism next year mid-June of 2020. She is the co-chair of the Local Host Committee and they have started meeting, they have a program committee, a fund-raising

committee, marketing outreach committee and the flyer handed out this morning is about an event on Thursday, April 11th at Dual Citizen Brewing Company, in the evening a call for volunteers. They will tell people about the congress, about the CNU if not aware of the Congress for New Urbanism, the theme that they are working on now, and tell people about opportunities to get involved. About 2,000 people come so it is a year's work in planning, they would like to have Commissions involved in any of the programing or just brainstorming however they want to be involved. Ms. Thompson welcomes the Commissioners to attend this upcoming event next week. If you have questions contact Lucy Thompson also, the on-line link is CNU.org to learn more.

Commissioner Lindeke went to the CNU, one of the congresses in Florida about 10 years ago, a great conversation about architecture, urban design and planning stuff, a positive brainstorming perspective, it's fun and really a great experience.

Ms. Thompson said the thing that has grown over the years, she has been a charter member since 1996 and in the beginning it was super philosophical and now the real estate community understands that new urbanism sells. New urbanism maintained its value during the recession and there is a strong developer contingent that comes to the conferences, so it's a great opportunity to network with people that they are trying to influence, trying and set the stage for it.

IV. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. *(Tia Anderson, 651/266-9086)*

Three items to come before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, April 9, 2019:

- Raymond Avenue Mixed-Use – New mixed-use, updated plans at 918 Raymond Avenue. Stephen Mastey, Landscape Architecture Inc. SPR# 18-073301
- Gabriel Flats – New residential at 1402 7th Street East. Jeffrey Prasch, Demarc Land Surveying & Engineering. SPR# 19-024412
- Roseville Auto Mall – Parking Lot upgrades at 332/336 Larpenteur. Wayne Stark, Stark Engineering. SPR# 19-025075

NEW BUSINESS

#19-015-902 Flint Hills Storage Building – Conditional use permit for storage building below the regulatory flood protection elevation. 2209 Childs Road. *(Josh Williams, 651/266-6659)*

MOTION: Commissioner Edgerton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the conditional use permit subject to additional conditions. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

#19-017-008 Paula Schad Lilly – Rezone from R2 one-family residential to RT1 two-family residential. 321 Irvine Avenue. *(Michael Wade, 651/266-8703)*

MOTION: Commissioner Edgerton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the rezoning. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

#19-016-207 Dayton Avenue Church Use Variance – Historic use variance for a rental hall for weddings and receptions. 217 Mackubin Street, NW corner at Dayton Avenue. (*Tony Johnson, 651/266-6620*)

MOTION: *Commissioner Edgerton moved the Zoning Committee’s recommendation to approve the Historic use variance subject to an additional condition. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Commissioner Edgerton announced the items on the agenda at the next Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019.

V. Transportation Committee

Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan – Review public comments and recommended changes to draft; forward to the Mayor and City Council for adoption. (*Fay Simer, 651/266-6204, Public Works*)

Fay Simer, Pedestrian Safety Advocate with the Department of Public Works, presented briefly. The Planning Commission had a public hearing on February 8th on the draft Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan, and the packets at that time included all of the comments that were received up to that date. Also, testimony was heard from two members of the public at the hearing. Since, staff and the Planning Commission has had a chance to review all of the comments received as part of the public record for the plan. Ms. Simer has reviewed and summarized those comments and made some recommended revisions to the draft plan that were shared with the Transportation Committee last week. She will give a few highlights of what the recommended revisions are and share those today.

In general, some of the key things heard during the comments and speaking with district councils and various resident groups after releasing the draft plan were: Having a Pedestrian Plan was an important first step in making walking being safer and easier in Saint Paul; and a lot of comments affirming how important it was to do this plan and they appreciated seeing walking elevated as a mode of transportation in Saint Paul.

Generally, people said that the plan reflects the right vision goals and key priorities in Saint Paul. She also heard that objective prioritization is important to ensuring that resources for pedestrian infrastructure and pedestrian needs are distributed equitably throughout the city. A few people thought that the plan should address further: 1) the role of trees in the urban forest and making a comfortable walking environment; 2) the importance of non-sidewalk infrastructure, things like cut throughs through bluffs, stairs even things on private property like parking lot design or driveway openings and how those support a pedestrian environment; 3) the importance of people’s sense of personal security to their comfort while walking; 4) the importance of lighting in making pedestrians visible on the sidewalks and especially at crossings; 5) to address pedestrian needs at specific locations outside of the high priority areas for walking improvements. Meaning that people like the prioritization and understand that they need that to do that to be equitable but the needs in the city are vast and there are needs outside of the areas that the plan identifies as high priority; 6) the importance of educating pedestrians about safe crossing behaviors. They have a strong partnership in Saint Paul with the Police Department, and the Stop for Me campaign is the community effort to remind drivers of their obligation to stop for pedestrians. Also, some people are asking if there is a parallel effort that teaches pedestrians their responsibilities on the street.

In response to the comments are a few highlighted areas where staff is proposing revisions to the draft plan, specifically revisions to the action items made in the draft plan. Four new proposals came out of those comments: 1) Request that Ramsey County and MnDOT review local cost participation policies for consistency with their adopted multimodal policy goals. 2) Work with State agency partners to identify needs and strategies for increased education about safe walking behaviors. 3) Increase opportunities for community collaboration on street design and implementation in partnership with Saint Paul District Councils and other interested organizations. 4) Pursue opportunities to enhance pedestrian connectivity in places where streets do not connect across natural features or major pedestrian barriers. Also, one more key revision to an action item in the plan its Action 1-11: it should say Work with partners to support safe walking environments through initiatives such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, lighting improvements, and neighborhood walks.

Commissioner Lindeke said that at the City Council's public hearing on Wednesday, there was a testimony about how assessments work for mill and overlay projects especially for pedestrian improvements there were a couple of examples of streets in the City where ADA, curb ramps, and bump outs had been in stalled and homeowners have been assessed a very high amount for that. Especially in neighborhoods where there are people living in poverty, where he lives which is the street he is talking about. He wonders about the equity impacts of improving ADA and sidewalk walking infrastructure but also putting that burden on people who live there. He wants to know whether the plan has information about funding for these projects and how that will be done equitably.

Ms. Simer said that they do talk in the plan about how sidewalks are funded. Saint Paul's assessment policy has changed in the last few years, so they will be making some changes in the plan to make that more accurate, which is noted in the revisions matrix. The take away theme is that assessments for sidewalks can create an uneven distribution of assessment burdens. For example, if Ramsey County is constructing a road, Ramsey County would pay 50% of the cost of the sidewalk and the City would have to come up with the rest through assessments in the past. But if it is a City street then there is not that contribution from the County, so it can be uneven depending on the location what the process is. Ms. Simer is not an expert on Saint Paul's assessment policy, and if that is something the Planning Commission is interested in digging into the nuances of, then it would be good to have others come and talk about all the possible scenarios.

Commissioner Mouacheupao asked about ADA accessibility, what are the considerations around ADA accessibility or requirements in the plan.

Ms. Simer said that Saint Paul has an ADA transition plan which is the document that assesses the infrastructure in terms of how they serve people with disabilities and outlines the changes that they will make and how Saint Paul attends to achieve ADA accessibility by 2050. This plan makes recommendations about data collection in terms of gathering information about the conditions of the sidewalks which includes curb ramps, and having that data is an important step in being able to measure how the city will meet the ADA transition plan and track progress. Commissioner DeJoy asked if there is an evaluation of the work after implementation. Example, on Payne Avenue there was a sidewalk improvement, all new sidewalks laid, the old iron grades around the trees were removed and new structural soil which was supposed to be a better option was put into place. Now that soil is sinking, and the pavers are all crooked, the trees have died

and when called for replacement they said they cannot do it until next year or the year after. But there is not immediate maintenance follow-up on that and recently there was a sidewalk laid in front of Yarusso's and its pitched towards the front door of the business and water is coming into the business. But is there an evaluation afterwards that says this was done according to the plan?

Ms. Simer thinks Commissioner DeJoy's question is really about the evaluation of construction, and the plan is a policy plan that doesn't provide details about the quality of construction. There is a section in the plan which talks about how their sidewalk team makes decisions about maintenance that would somewhat get at some of the questions Commissioner DeJoy has. Having a comprehensive data set about the sidewalk condition in the City is an important next step and to keep it updated.

Commissioner DeJoy said that it is great to have a plan on paper, but if after implementation it's a crappy job, then it doesn't really promote the intention of the plan.

Commissioner Risberg is happy that the plan is looking at pedestrian safety but does the plan address driver education as it relates to pedestrians.

Ms. Simer replied that the plan does, in the plan they emphasize infrastructure improvements and the three priorities heard from the public were on how they improve snow and ice removal, adding sidewalks to streets without sidewalks and improving crossings of busy streets. Also, in the plan they emphasize four programs in Saint Paul that are underway today, that they want to sustain and support through the plan and provide policy foundation for those, and one of those is the Stop for Me campaign that started as a partnership between community members and Saint Paul Police. Under this program the Saint Paul Police work with community members - and they are looking to hear from the community for locations starting in spring of 2019 - which a plain clothes Police will walk through crosswalks to get drivers who do not stop for the officer as they walk through the crosswalk. They also work with the community members to select the sites, and it is by community request when people are seeing issues and want drivers to receive those reminders. It has been a really great program in Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Police are receiving national attention for pioneering this work.

Commissioner Risberg inquired if the knowledge of that program is being extended to other State agencies, so that drivers coming in for events in Saint Paul are aware of that?

Ms. Simer said that she knows other communities have reached out to the Saint Paul Police for training on how they can set up similar efforts, but Commissioner Risberg's question is a statewide lead.

Commissioner Risberg said is there a parallel to what is being done with pedestrian education?

Ms. Simer replied that there is not.

Commissioner Grill asked if speed limits were a part of the conversation and what came out of that?

Ms. Simer said that speed limits are set by the state legislature and it's really working to change the statute in order to make changes regarding speed limit. There's a recommendation in the plan that that be a part of Saint Paul's legislative agenda. It is part of Saint Paul's current legislative agenda this session and there have been hearings on a couple of bills led by Steve Elkins and

Scott Dibble about giving cities of the first class the opportunity to set speed limits for themselves rather than be a state statute in certain instances.

Commissioner Edgerton said that everything in the urban environment is connected and many know that he is a stormwater person. Regarding trees, he sees trees and he immediately thinks stormwater, he suggests that they keep in mind moving forward. Think about the multiple benefits that things can provide, as pushing trees, thinking about trees in terms of the urban forest, comfortable walking environment and if properly designed during installation they can provide great benefit for stormwater management. When installing trees for other reasons, think about that piece as well, and how to benefit the overall urban environment.

Ms. Simer said that they chose not to make a revision in the plan around trees because they have a strong policy in the Comprehensive Plan that sets goals for tree canopy cover throughout the city and they wanted the Comprehensive Plan to be the place to guide overall Saint Paul's goal for supporting their trees.

Commissioner Grill said from the original draft plan there were a lot of comments about the lack of priority around the West Side area and downtown. Downtown has some separate plans that are related to it, so were there additional streets added between the draft plan and the current plan?

Ms. Simer said that there were not. The prioritization system they used is created around Census tract, so they can incorporate demographics about the destinations and the people who live in those census tracts, which is harder to assign out on a street-by-street level. That is definitely a weakness of that methodology that there are still going to be certain streets where they need to evaluate the that are not going to necessarily pop up in the census tract look. The plan has strong recommendations about the types of locations where they need to make crossing improvements, they are starting a study about crash statistics to really dive into where they are seeing safety concerns.

MOTION: Commissioner Lindeke moved on behalf of the Transportation Committee to approve the proposed revisions in the comment matrix and resolution forwarding to the Mayor and City Council for adoption to the Pedestrian Plan. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Lindeke announced the items on the agenda at the next Transportation Committee meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019.

VI. Citywide Framework for Community Engagement – Informational presentation by Joe Mendyka, Office of the City Council.

Luis Pereira, Planning Director introduced Mr. Joe Mendyka. Mr. Mendyka works with the City's District Councils throughout the City and has been working with the Mayor's Office closely on a Citywide Framework related to community engagement. Recently, sent this around as they are beginning to share the approach and various tool kits that he will get into during his presentation. This was brought to the Planning Team and they considered it and discussed it. Many of them on the Planning Team have been involved with community engagement in the work that they've done in the past. They thought the whole approach would be of interest to the Planning Commission and have Mr. Mendyka come and talk about it.

Mr. Mendyka has been with city government for 3 years, serving as liaison with the 17 district council, and also providing consultation support to City staff on community engagement work. Mr. Mendyka gave a Power Point presentation which can be viewed on the web page at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/planningcommission>

Commissioner Rangel Morales said that the final slide was summarizing what was a lot of abstract language and a lot of that is theoretical. What it comes down to is that the City is proposing to do something different and different from what? The Ford site was 10 years of community engagement, 10 years of the city trying to plan and propose and getting input to build the plan. How is this different? How does this proposal change the Ford plan?

Mr. Mendyka said his role in providing research support and best practices as going through this development process, he acknowledges the quality of the international contacts of the engagement that takes place on behalf of the City of Saint Paul, specifically through the Planning team. This is a staff group that he has gotten to work with closely for the past few years. They are starting with a strong base of engagement practices. What is different is that they are setting these expectations for across the organization and they are raising the bar for all of their City departments that quality engagement can take place. And by developing common understanding, expectations across the organization, across our community, people would have a better sense of how engagement is supposed to happen. People are coming out and there is a way to find out about how the engagement is going to happen and there is going to be some accountability process, so people will be able to see what the plan was for engagement and when the engagement process is done people will hear about happened, what was heard and how decisions were made. The Ford site is a hard one to access because that was such a robust engagement process, but one thing that might be different is having a better shared understanding of how engagement is supposed to happen, and everyone involved would be able to understand what's going to happen next.

Commissioner Rangel Morales said when the acronym for REAL was laid out and to equitable and relevant, he is looking for a practical example of how this is going to be different then what for example; how the Ford outreach was. What is an actual example of how this plan is going to do something that was not done at the Ford plan or is it going to change something that was done in the Ford plan outreach.

Mr. Mendyka said that they would have a clear engagement plan on the front end of the process that would be available to the public so that people would understand what's going to happen through the engagement process, they'd be able to anticipate the steps and there would also be a clear expectation of how they would be able to access and hold the City government accountable to that plan through the process. The ability to find out what the City has in mind for engagement, to be able to contribute that on the front end and then be able to participate in a clear more transparent way.

Commissioner Lee agrees with Commissioner Rangel Morales about definition and that this is also very high and very philosophical. There are a lot of very heavy words in the presentation for example the Cultural & Spiritual knowledge she thinks that can go further down, reading through it she was curious like what does that mean? Are we talking about for city staff, or community we have to break it down more when it comes to the definition? Also providing specific examples that are relevant to each of the departments across the City, then to each of the cultural communities. In future presentations, tailoring it to the audience would be helpful as it is very

high-level work. One thing she did not hear or see included in this presentation was about language. Because that is a real barrier, a real critical piece, and real engagement that you're able to speak the language of the community and if not, how do we address that? She suggests that whoever you're working with think about this, for each component here breaking it down by phases and who do we start with. Also, she understands that this is the first phase in early planning and she wants to see break down of how the phases of the planning, the implementation and to monitoring evaluation of this framework.

Commissioner Lindeke said the uneven playing field of how they get feedback in the community and how they do engagement is so drastic. And there are people who cannot speak the language well or cannot afford childcare to come, on the other hand there are groups that can hire PR firms it is so unbalanced, that it's hard to make sure that the practices we put in place are working. Moving forward in your presentations provide specific examples of what this might look on the ground, here's what one meeting might look like, here's what another meeting might look like and there are lots of examples around to look at. Regarding district councils and neighborhoods, how it works around the City of Saint Paul depends on the neighborhood. Some neighborhoods have rules based on geographies, specific blocks get a representative, with others its different. What he would like to see the City do, and what Mr. Mendyka does with the district councils is to make sure that they collect metrics. Information about when they do outreach, specifically on four categories: household types, homeowners versus renters, age, race and geography within a neighborhood. To answer the question are all the people at the community meeting that's about the whole neighborhood from one block, or are they getting different parts of the neighborhood? And if that could be done, then that feedback could be given to the district councils, and they could get a score card. Are we doing the right kind of work here? Having that information and making it public and saying okay this neighborhood group is doing well, this one's not doing well, how can they learn from each other. He would love to see Saint Paul doing that.

Mr. Mendyka mentioned the work that the district councils are doing to be able to create the types of reports Commissioner Lindeke is talking about. District councils have been going through multiyear process of pushing a self-generated process, pushing themselves on equitable engagement; the City has been supporting that through the Innovation Fund dollars. One piece of that work that's coming from the district councils is an improvement on a reporting system to be able to report on. Providing some of the demographic information describing about their board members and volunteers as well as people that are involved in their engagement work.

Commissioner Mouacheupao said specifically talking about implementation, how you're starting to shift the culture which she thinks is also exciting and it is going to require a real shift. It sounded like these committees are people that are self-selected, people that are interested in this. Commissioner Mouacheupao is curious about how is this going to be integrated citywide? And is there a requirement for department directors or deputy directors to actually be a part of these groups? Because if there is no one at the leadership level then every staff member is out to fend for themselves. A true cultural shift would be that this becomes a priority for every department. So, what is being done at that level?

Mr. Mendyka said that the first stage through the department's equity change plan. That was established back to the previous administration this is the 5th year of the Mayor's Office requiring departments to have those change plans, and the format of that plan has shifted this year. Also, with the creation of the Chief Equity Officer position in the Mayor's Office, there is more of a direct conversation about those plans between the Mayor's Office and departments on an ongoing

basis. Department directors are responsible for the implementation of those plans, it's either quarterly or semi-annual review that they are doing on those plans. The plans broader, beyond the engagement work, including objectives around hiring, procurement and doing impact assessment on specific policies and programs as well as the engagement goal. That is the starting point for leverage on each department to be making shifts within their organization on how they look at engagement.

Commissioner Mouacheupao said each department has an equity change plan that the director is accountable for? (Mr. Mendyka replied yes) Commissioner Mouacheupao said so then Planning and Economic Development has an equity change plan, and is that something the Planning Commission can have access to?

Luis Pereira, Planning Director said the equity change plan that existed when he started, and last fall PED is in the process of updating that for this new year and the two components that Mr. Mendyka mentioned identifying policy or program that each department should be running through the equity impact assessment tool. That is something they have had some staff level conversations on that change team and have a few candidates, he thinks PED will settle on a program. For instance, the down payment assistance program, or the rental rehab program are most likely, and one policy question. What he was hoping to do at the retreat on May 3rd they have a really long list in the Comprehensive Plan about equity and there's actual implementation items and one of the things they could do at the retreat is identifying a short list; staff will be there, it would be more of a conversation of which of those implementation items we might want to look at assessing it against that tool. Next community engagement, given the nature of equity in the Comprehensive Plan he thinks the Steering Committee decided they were going to tackle community engagement at a future retreat. There is a relationship that this Mayor and Mr. Mendyka has been mentioning Community engagement as a mechanism for working on equity issues, but in some ways, they were waiting for this approach to be unveiled to learn more and it might be helpful to focus on community engagement in a future conversation. As it relates to the change team he is a member of that, its by volunteer, anyone in the department can be a member of it, right now the deputy director has been the leading that effort. Mr. Mendyka will be visiting all of the change teams along with Noel Nix and beginning to talk about how the departments actually do this work and what do they do differently from what they already been doing.

Mr. Mendyka said to have planning tools, processes to go through decision making is only as meaningful as the experience of using it. Having the tool kit is one piece of the process and consulting and working with the department staff on a regular basis on how to implement that is the other part of that. It would be an ongoing support process and collective learning process of what additional work is needed or what standards are being used. That's all under development, they're building this as they go, and building it also as a lot of engagement is happening, trying to integrate these together as much as possible.

Commissioner DeJoy said as they're doing the training different departments, in integrating this community engagement process into their work, for example are you anticipating things like, okay all that sounds fine all that engagement, but I still have to get my work done and how do I balance all of that and how do we get there. She wants Mr. Mendyka to give an example of going to a department and starting the training and understanding their work and also understanding the need to get this done.

Mr. Mendyka said that the training is happening in the context of discussing the departments equity change plans. Providing information background on the framework making sure that there is a working understanding to be able to have a conversation and then diving into actually workshopping those plans. This is actually the third stop of this presentation he appreciates the feedback. One of his first conversations was with the Office of Financial Services, they have goals related to both the budget engagements and also around capital improvement planning. Setting up first is the engagement, departments have in their engagement plan things that look like marketing promotion or more outreach, they're learning. Is it engagement, what form of engagement is it based upon the definitions being laid out and what steps do they need to go through for engagement planning. The budget process they're in a different place because they've done that already, they have some plan going in and its really more of a conversation about how they want to improve and how are they going to measure success in this. For the capital improvement planning, that is going through a major overhaul, it's a multi department process for engagement the final product is going to look like something different with a 5-year plan versus the 2-year capital improvement budget that was created before. They're starting earlier in the process of identifying the opportunity in engagement clarifying what the decisions focus for the engagement process, mapping out what the stakeholders look like. With each department, that's the intention, to begin with what you think your plan is, how does it fit against the framework and then what process do they need to go through for planning and implementation based on the actual engagement intended.

Commissioner Ochs said community engagement is planning 101, and being able to put together this as a tool to bring together a common language for all the departments is valuable and can that be extended further to other larger agencies? Also, outwards towards business developers as well as community residents. He sees pages of this on the web site and it would be a great goal to have a simplified version, so the common person can look it up and understand what the process is.

Commissioner Edgerton said it seems like the focus is on changing City culture. Which is a good first step, but it's very inward-looking what he is hearing, and community engagement is very much an external focus. Personally, he is looking for more, waiting to hear more maybe in the future about what does this really mean in terms of what are you going to do? He thinks the focus on public engagement community engagement is to get the community engaged and this seems almost right now to be getting staff engaged in the engagement process and hopefully that leads to doing things that get the community engaged. But he has not seen that connection. How will this get the community engaged?

Commissioner Grill said the value of metrics when this is done there is a danger of coming to the wrong conclusion about community engagement, i.e. we did a good engagement with the room of people who showed up, and at the end of the meeting people clapped and when you look around, it is not represented by the demographics of the neighborhood and that is her concern when talking about engagement, was it really measuring what it was supposed to measure?

VII. Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee

Commissioner Mouacheupao announced that their next meeting is on Wednesday, April 17th from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m., 13th floor, City Hall Annex.

Commissioner DeJoy asked if they were supposed to take any action on the items that were at the last meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2019?

Commissioner Mouacheupao said that they just met about those items, so they will be coming and a lot of it was informational they did not make any decisions to be presented today.

VIII. Communications-Nominations Committee

Luis Pereira, Planning Director announced that there are five Commissioner's that are members of the committee, and he e-mailed the group to figure out a time when they might meet as well as a few items. He is waiting to hear back from those commissioners. No specifics yet, but they have working on moving forward on one of the Planning Commissioners vacancies from the Ward 4 area. Which is in process at the Mayor's Office, nothing to report yet.

IX. Task Force/Liaison Reports

No report.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business


None.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Luis Pereira
Planning Director

Approved _____
(Date)

Lue Vang
Secretary of the Planning Commission

