

Community Conversations meeting Notes

Friday, February 16, 2018

6:30 PM

Board members in attendance: Kirstin Scanlan Madore, Holly Windingstad

Community members: 4 (Attendance sheet available in Dayton's Bluff archives)

[Summary of conversation provided by neighbor attendee, Barry Madore. Speaker names withheld from posted version of notes.]

Issues raised

- Online neighborhood communication tools, specifically Nextdoor.com need to be organized better to provide neighbors with the information and the forum necessary to make change on a block by block basis as well as get info to and from elected officials and City staff.
- We need to preserve Engine 7 on the East Side and also get a larger new station to accommodate the greater needs on the East Side.
 - Opinion article by local representatives was cited:
<https://www.twincities.com/2018/02/15/hawj-johnson-mahoney-engine-7-should-stay-on-the-east-side/>
 - A new station has been in the planning stages for 30 years. Now is the time.
- City plowing crews are not properly plowing, especially on corners. They know it and City supervisors have acknowledged. Need a way to better communicate as a neighborhood to Public Works (and other departments about issues like this) because one on one is not effective.
 - Recognized that sometimes shoveling and sidewalk issues are the fault of neighbors but some are elderly and need help. East Side Elders was cited as a resource.

How can/should DBCC address these and similar issues?

Engine 7/ East Side Fire Station

- The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors needs to **write a letter to the mayor and the City of St. Paul to support the position of keeping Engine 7 on the East Side** and build a new larger station. Put this on an upcoming DBCC Board Meeting agenda.

Snow plowing / Public Works issues

- Keep Public Works informed of issues and accountable to neighbors by **having Kathy Lantry and/or other staff come to DBCC public meetings on a regular basis** or specifically in response to particular issues. Having the conversation and decisions arising from them public and open would be more effective and better for both sides.
- For more neighbor-centered code enforcement type issues, it was suggested that DBCC could help **coordinate volunteer teams to canvass the neighborhood** on foot to identify issues and inform neighbors of the problems, how to fix them and provide resources they can access to help. This was done in the past in D4 and also (noted by an attendee) in District 5 as well, to some success.

NextDoor/online communities for neighborhood

- **Augment "Resources" section of current Nextdoor.com** areas to include DBCC and public events happening at East Side Enterprise Center

- several neighbors in attendance agreed to investigate how this can be done and communicate with Nextdoor to make this happen
- **Agree to be more civil and to respond appropriately** to posters who ask for help or express frustration so that all neighbors see neighbors helping neighbors is the way to go.
- Have DBCC Board and future staff **develop protocol and communications strategy** for posting to and monitoring discussions on specific neighborhood community online forums like NextDoor.

Making sure the City of St. Paul is more attentive and responsive to East Side issues and happenings

- **Invite the new Mayor, Melvin Carter, to speak** at a DBCC Board Meeting or other public meeting to introduce his agenda and plans for the East Side and to hear our concerns and our pride of place. Take him on a tour of places of importance including Engine 7 fire station.

Making sure neighbors have a way to be heard and included in DBCC's activities and policy agendas

- It was suggested that **more community meetings/gatherings** outside of the more business-oriented DBCC Board Meetings be held on a regular basis. These would allow neighbors to participate without being tied to a specific agenda or Roberts Rules of Order meeting format to talk about what's on their minds, brainstorm ideas, etc. and forward action items to the DBCC Board for inclusion on DBCC meeting agenda in a more proactive efficient way.
 - It was noted that this Community Conversation has been very helpful and welcome – it could serve as a model for having these regularly.
 - It was also asked if a Police representative could be invited to attend these meetings to address questions and inform neighbors of what is happening on the East Side.