

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Leslie McMurray <d5-director@visi.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2013 10:56 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Cc: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul); d5-director@visi.com
Subject: 676 Wells Street - Legislative Hearing Follow Up
Attachments: 2013_CPEDMINUTES_AUGUST_7_2013.pdf

Hello Marcia:

Attached is a copy of the Community Planning & Economic Development Committee (CPED) minutes from August 7, 2013. Director Hahm and Director Cervantes and other city staff were present for a discussion by community members on the future disposition of the installation at the 680 Wells property. One of the concerns is the retaining wall that is shared with two other properties. A number of people in the community believe that the retaining wall can be ... retained. There were many eloquent and heartfelt statements regarding the value of the folk art environment at 680 Wells and arguments to keep the retaining wall and the installation were offered by residents. This was a lengthy meeting and the comments were not yet transcribed from the meeting tape.

A motion was passed to have an ad hoc group work from a CPED directive to identify possible solutions with Parks and Recreation to address safety concerns and to seek ways to retain what is valued at the site. That ad hoc group has met and is exploring options with Director Hahm.

I will note that the matter of the retaining wall appears to have come before the District Five Board in 2006. Mike Grealish, former Board member, brought up his memory of this at the August 7th at the CPED meeting. We later recollected that a motion was passed that afforded a general affirmation of the wall's existence - and expressed that there was local value to the wall. We are still searching for that older document and District Five has changed offices and computers since that time - and we have not readily found that specific document. It is likely in storage with other permanent files. I am not sure of its relevance to the matter before you but wanted to note this.

Romi Slowiak and Mike Grealish attended the recent Legislative Hearing on the matter of 676 Wells. Though CPED and the Board did not pass a motion specific to the 676 Wells property - many community members hold concern for the welfare of the owners. As you know, the issue has received broad public attention through the media due to successful resident efforts to make their interests known.

As District Council staff, I individually perform work directly with individual community members. If there is some way that District Five can be generally helpful to the owner we will assist. We have to date offered some referrals which were given to Beth Woolsey and nearby residents who are in touch with Ronald J. Adams.

Feel free to contact me at 651-774-5234 if I can answer any questions or be of assistance. Thank you for your work.

Leslie McMurray, Executive Director / Lead Organizer Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council
506 Kenny Road, Suite 130
Saint Paul, MN 55130 -4554

Phone: (651) 774-5234

Fax: (651) 774-9745

www.paynephalen.org

MISSION: To improve our Payne Phalen neighborhoods by engaging, educating and empowering all residents in our diverse community