



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



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Date: May 24, 2021
To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: CAAPB Staff

RE: Agenda Item: Other Business

This board memo contains staff member updates on four projects. No presentation or discussion is scheduled for the June meeting, however Board members are invited to contact staff with questions before, during or after the meeting.

Sears Site Design Process Questions: contact Peter Musty, 612-743-5994 / peter.musty@state.mn.us

A public-private staff team of the site designers, City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development and CAAPB staff have been collaborating on a four-tiered public outreach and engagement framework approved in March. The engagement activities will inform three iterations of ownership team's 'MX Master Plan' submittal to CAAPB later in 2021. Staff will track progress on survey, stakeholder meetings, research and community forum schedule at [CAAPB's Sears Site Design Process webpage](#). An online survey has been launched for the duration of 2021 activities. Over a dozen meetings have been conducted so far with public and private groups and organizations. A full update will be brought to the Board in the near future.

Saint Paul City School Questions: contact Peter Musty

Following CAAPB approvals, the school design and development team obtained conditional site plan approval from the City and is now collaborating on final revisions to address technical details ahead of receipt of final City permitting. They will apply for CAAPB's Certificate of Design Compliance, a final step required to ensure that City and CAAPB approvals are in alignment. Final land sales have been negotiated with League of Minnesota Cities and City of Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Construction start is scheduled for 2021 with goal of opening for (or during) 2022-23 school year.

Commemorative Works Task Forces Questions: contact Paul Mandell 612-757-1501 / paul.mandell@state.mn.us

In 2020, CAAPB authorized parallel advisory task forces; the first to review the policies and procedures for changes to existing commemorative works such as civic art, memorials and monuments on the Capitol Grounds and the second to gather input from the public. Minnesotans are invited to watch live stream meetings and submit input on the [Commemorative Works Task Forces page](#). Staff from Governor's office and CAAPB staff have supported the group's work.

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AGENDA ITEM: OTHER BUSINESS

- The **Decision Process Task Force**, chaired by Dr Gwen Westerman had this original mission: *“The Decision Process Task Force will conduct a comprehensive review of CAAPB policies and procedures that relate to the addition, alteration, or removal of monuments, memorials, and works of art on the Capitol grounds and in the State Capitol. The Task Force will provide recommendations in the form of a report to the CAAPB on how to best develop a decision-making process regarding the addition, alteration, or removal of monuments, memorials, and works of art on the Capitol grounds and in the State Capitol.”* > The group has now met five times, and is currently completing work on a draft (full revision) to the CAAPB’s Commemorative Works policy.
- The **Public Engagement Task Force**, chaired by Carl Crawford set out with this goal: *“The Public Engagement Task Force will create space for members of the public to share experiences about what the Capitol means to them and feedback on the monuments, memorials, and works of art on the Capitol grounds and in the interior of the State Capitol. The Task Force will also address how the CAAPB can ensure proactive and meaningful public engagement in its decisions.”* > The group has developed a survey and is gathering ideas through a range of activities conducted all over Minnesota.

Bethesda Shelter Questions: contact Peter Musty

Soon following December 2020 Board approvals, Ramsey County opened the doors at [Bethesda Shelter](#). The facility provides 100+ beds (now at full capacity) along with 24/7 services for those experiencing homelessness through spring 2022. The facility is also permitted for an additional 60 beds for COVID respite, but the demand has been very low, with between 1-5 nightly. Ramsey County has now partnered with The Salvation Army to lead day-to-day operations and management.

A key condition of CAAPB approval was the convening of a regular group on monthly basis. The **Bethesda Good Neighbor Group** has met monthly since December – and features reporting by Ramsey County leads, the contracted Shelter director, Shelter security contractor, M Health Fairview representative, Saint Paul Police Department, Capitol Security and a range of stakeholder representatives from the community. Discussion and questions surround shelter operations, relevant neighborhood and resident safety issues, public safety statistics, physical improvements, communication and information sharing, and community building opportunities. CAAPB’s Peter Musty facilitates the group with Pastor Joy McDonald Colvet of Christ on Capitol Hill Lutheran Church and Hannah Hills of Capitol Heights Block Club. [Download the group’s 5x8 Informational Flyer for printing and distribution or for circulation to neighbors and community networks.](#) On May 20th, Pastor Joy and group member Londel French of Education Minnesota coordinated ‘Good Neighbor Training’ to increase understanding of issues commonly faced by our unhoused community members.

Looking forward: Another condition of Board approval was that the owner (MHealth Fairview) come forward by December 2021 with a statement regarding plans for the facility after May 2022, when permits and leases expire.

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