



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

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Date: Updated November 21, 2021

To: The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

From: Peter Musty, CAAPB Principal Planner and Administrator of the *Rules Governing Zoning and Design in the Minnesota State Capitol Area*

Subject: **Future of Bethesda Hospital Building** (*Memo for 12.01.21 CAAPB meeting*)

Background

MHealth Fairview (Fairview Health Services) purchased Bethesda Hospital as HealthEast several years ago and continued operations as a specialty hospital well into 2020, working in partnership with State as a COVID-care facility. In fall of 2020, the hospital turned towards service of those experiencing homelessness. Working with Ramsey County, the building has been serving as a shelter and COVID respite.



Update on Temporary Shelter and COVID Respite

Shortly after 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. The CAAPB permit for the shelter runs through May 2022. The facility is also permitted for an additional 60 beds for COVID respite, but

the demand has remained low for respite care, with between 1-5 people nightly. Ramsey County partners 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 2020** – and features reporting by Ramsey County leads (including Keith Lattimore, our guest on December 1st), 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 livability 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, followed up by a meeting in August, 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. The group has proactively and collaboratively addressed several issues together.

According to County leads, the shelter has been a successful tool in addressing the ongoing regional housing crisis in our region and community. In particular, this time at Bethesda has provided important lessons about the 'Step-Up' model utilized at this facility.

➤ At the December 1st Board meeting, CAAPB will host **Keith Lattimore, Director of Ramsey County's Housing Stability Department**, for an informational presentation. [Keith will discuss how the past year has gone, and also provide a brief regional summary of how the homelessness crisis has evolved in the larger community.](#)

Owner's Statement Regarding the Future of the Hospital

A condition of CAAPB approval in 2020 was that applicants come forward by December of 2021 with a statement regarding plans for the facility after May 2022, when permitting and leases for the temporary shelter expire.

➤ Also at the December 1st Board meeting, CAAPB will host representatives from MHealth Fairview, [who will provide information regarding plans for the future of the hospital building and site.](#) Please stay tuned; in the coming days preceding the meeting you may receive relevant announcements or supplemental information.

KEY to AERIAL MAP (next page)

A - Bethesda Hospital

- A1 Bethesda South Entry
- A2 Bethesda Parking Ramp
- A3 Bethesda Empty Lot (former Bank)
- A4 Bethesda Skyway Entry (from Ramp)
- A5 Bethesda Surface Parking Lot
- A6 Bethesda Park (Private w/ Public Use)

B - 590 Park Apartments (Now Leasing)

C - Office Building (KA Realty)

D - Office Building (and parking)

E - State Parking Lot AA

F - State Parking Lot C

G - Capitol Rice LRT Station

H - Leif Erickson Park

I - Minnesota State Capitol Building

J - Minnesota Senate Building

K - Christ on Capitol Hill Lutheran Church (CCHLC) and parking (K1)

L - Ford Building (State of MN)

M – Administration Building (State of MN)

N – Education Minnesota

O – Cass Gilbert Memorial Park

P – Residential Blocks of Capitol Heights Neighborhood

Q – State Parking Lot Q

