



Uptown Community Planning Group

April 21, 2023

MINUTES-FINAL, approved AUGUST 1, 2023

In attendance: Susan Blackwell, Mary Brown, Christopher Cole, Patty Ducey-Brooks, Juli Hyde, Don Liddell, Stuart McGraw, Mary McKenzie (arr. 6:15), Lu Rehling, Tony Silvia, Mat Wahlstrom, Jim Walsh, Clifford Weiler, Susan White

Absent: Matthew Brown, Stu McGraw, Blake Peterson

I. Board Meeting: Parliamentary Items.

Meeting called to order at 6:13 by Mat Wahlstrom

1. Introductions/Roll Call.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Order.

Clifford Weiler moves for approval. 2nd by Patty Ducey-Brooks. Approved.

Clifford Weiler will place hard copies of meeting documents on back table for public or BOD members.

Mat moves that Lu serve as timekeeper. Mary Brown 2nds. Approved unanimously.

II. Action Items.

1. Motion to appoint Mat Wahlstrom to serve out the term of Helen Rowe Allen, expiring in March 2024.

a. Consideration of and action upon cure and correct letter of March 8, 2023 challenging the Uptown Planners' action of February 7, 2023 to appoint Mat Wahlstrom to a vacant position allegedly "without the item being included on the noticed agenda." Discussion of and action upon option(s), with options for consideration and action to include at least curing and correcting by vacating the prior action at issue and/or rescinding and/or reconsidering the prior February 7, 2023 action by Uptown Planners of the motion to appoint Mat Wahlstrom to serve out Helen Rowe Allen's term and re-voting, if moved and seconded, upon filling the vacancy at issue by appointing Mat Wahlstrom or taking such other action as allowed by law, plus authorizing timely notice to the requestor of the cure and correction action.

Agenda Public Comment

Sharon Gehl. Bylaws do not permit appointments. UP risks its City's indemnification.

b. Investigation and consideration of and action upon pending complaint(s) and city representative's recommendation(s) of pending complaint(s) regarding appointment on February 7, 2023 of Mat Wahlstrom to a vacant Uptown Planners board position. Options include at least holding an interim election, the seat remaining vacant until the next March election, or other options.

Clifford Weiler: There are actually three things we're considering. 1) Brown Act issue about whether the February 7th agenda provided adequate notice; 2) Did the Bylaws allow the appointment of Mat to the vacant seat; 3) What to do with the recommendations made by the Planning Department in response the filed complaints.

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Motion: Clifford Weiler moves to rescind the February 7th decision to appoint Mat Wahlstrom and declare the decision null and void. The resolution also declares the seat vacated by Helen Rowe Allen vacant effective immediately. Second by Chris Cole.

Lu Rehling. Does not think it has been demonstrated that the issue was not properly agendized. She does not believe there was a violation of the Brown Act on this issue.

Patty Ducey-Brooks. Seeks clarification of what the Election Committee decided on January 25.

Mary McKenzie. The 1/25 Election Committee meeting discussed a lot of options. First would it be appropriate for the UP to appoint someone to fill Helen Rowe Allen's seat? Second, would it make sense to appoint Mat to that seat, recognizing the importance of regularizing the terms of office? The committee members separately came to the conclusion that the Bylaws were ambivalent about filling vacant seats by appointment and didn't think such a motion would pass.

Chris Cole. Dedicated to trying to do what the public wants on issues of planning. Seems that this a personal vendetta that is distracting us from our work. If this motion puts this issue in the past, then I think we should support it.

Tony Silvia. If we didn't have the power to appoint, we could not notice the public of that power. We should try to clean up the bylaws.

Vote on Clifford Weiler's motion: 8-4-1, with Susan Blackwell, Juli Hyde, Lu Rehling and Mary McKenzie opposing. Mat Wahlstrom abstained. Mat Wahlstrom leaves the dais.

Mary McKenzie stepped in as acting chair for the remainder of the meeting.

b. Investigation and consideration of and action upon pending complaint(s) and city representative's recommendation(s) of pending complaint(s) regarding appointment on February 7, 2023 of Mat Wahlstrom to a vacant Uptown Planners board position. Options include at least holding an interim election, the seat remaining vacant until the next March election, or other options.

Chris Cole moved to appoint Mat Wahlstrom to fill the vacant seat out of respect for the job he has done.

Substitute Motion: Lu Rehling moves to hold a special election to fill the seat vacated by Helen Rowe Allen, expiring in 3/24. 2nd Mary Brown.

Don Liddell calls the question. 2nd Tony Silvia. Unanimous in favor.

Lu Rehling's motion passes: Unanimous in favor; acting chair abstaining.

2. Determination Regarding a Special Election

A Board member elected in March 2023 for a 4-year term has resigned.

Public Comment:

Mat Wahlstrom. Combine the two seats for the same election. Limit to folks who had qualified in March 2023?

Tom Mullaney: a special election is needed.



Motion:

Clifford Weiler. I move that the Board approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Election Subcommittee with Mary M. McKenzie as Chair to oversee the Special election for two Board vacancies. 2nd Don Liddell.

All in favor: unanimous, with acting chair abstaining.

III. Adjournment. 9:00PM