

SAPCC
Equity Committee Meeting
February 22, 2021

Attendees: Meliss Williams, Melissa Pappas, Heather Humbert, Em Rodriquez, Kathryn Murray

Guests: Adam Holm, Manu Junemann, Marcus Young, Juli

Kathryn opened the meeting with introductions and shared that there were several guests from the Union Flats apartments who would be discussing concerns they have around crime within their building and the surrounding area.

The Union Flats tenants shared that their building, owned and managed by Dominion, has seen a noted increase in crime including drug dealing, theft in the covered garages including bicycle and catalytic converters as well as a recent shooting.

Em shared that the increase of crime is likely due to the current climate of the pandemic and systemic issues. She encouraged more talking within the building and organizing to present their needs, including perhaps other apartment complexes.

Melissa Williams asked them to share what would make them feel safer. The tenants shared they have created a group on Facebook and have around 80 people that have joined. They have reached out to the management company for assistance and guidance and they are then referred back to safety protocols that management provided which tenants are already adhering to. The management company also cited that they have fulfilled all required safety protocols. Melissa Williams then asked if they feel unsafe outside of the building too, or just within the building. They noted their primary concern is with the safety issues within the building. The tenants have asked if, as a council, it was possible to help them, specifically asking if there are experts we can suggest or bring in for guidance. Kathryn shared she is happy to help hold community led discussions and provide resources. Kathryn also said she would share their concerns with our Ward 4 representative and suggested reaching out to Stable, Accessible, Fair & Equitable (S.A.F.E.) Housing as well as homelinemn.org. The tenants asked if they could attend the SAPCC Equity Committee meetings and Kathryn invited them to join the meetings which are held the last Monday of each month.

Before the guests departed, Melissa Williams shared information regarding the Brightside Program, noting that food insecurity is an ongoing issue right now. Kathryn noted that the council will be covering the difference for folks who qualify on a sliding scale so that they owe nothing. This coverage is available for the next three months, possibly longer dependent on the SAPCC budget allowance.

Melissa Pappas noted the community meal at SEAL went very smoothly and all meals were delivered within an hour. Melissa Williams did note she felt uncomfortable due to the number of

people not wearing masks within the building. Melissa Pappas shared that it has been tricky getting folks to wear masks within the building, but they do set out that expectation for folks. Melissa Pappas noted that tenants of SEAL were very excited and appreciative of the gift cards that were donated within the meal boxes. Kathryn noted it was a “two for” as the council had money that required spending and this seemed like a good place to spend it. **Melissa Pappas will provide Kathryn with the invoice.**

Melissa Williams and Heather Humbert asked who else we could be reaching out to connect with for our next community meal? The suggestion to perhaps hold the next meal at Union Flats was unanimously agreed upon, to help build community and connect to our neighbors. Hopefully these meals could rotate between apartment complexes in the neighborhood and help create the relationships we are seeking to build.

In other business, Em noted they talked to someone from Ramsey County regarding housing for the unhoused. There was a meeting on Thursday that they planned to attend on how a fundraiser for this cause might work.

Kathryn shared that Saturday would be the second showing of “Jim Crow of the North, Mapping Prejudice Project” and for this discussion a speaker will be on hand to help facilitate the conversation.

The meeting closed by confirming that the next community meal will be at Union Flats and SAPCC will provide a flyer on housing rights, Brightside and rental stabilization. **In early April, Kathryn will e-mail Markus and Cc. Melissa Williams to help form a plan for meal orders and delivery.**