

**Meeting Minutes of the Highland District Council
January 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

**Highland Park Community Center
1978 Ford Parkway
St. Paul MN 55116**

Call to Order - 7:02pm

Roll Call

Directors present: Jopp, Jossi, McMahon, Kolar, Cleaveland, Salmela, Anderson, Nichols, Dobier, Thompson, Gallatin, Brady, Heegaard, Petterson, McDonald, Schicker, Krivitz, Langford, Armstrong, Beaumaster

Absent: Dobier

Executive Director Carruth

Approval of Agenda

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve January agenda as presented, with understanding to move Rep. Pinto to later in the meeting if need be.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve November meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Treasurer Amy Salmela and ED Carruth

- Approval of 2016 Budget (changes to draft budget come from changes in salary as a result of approved increases to staff salaries); Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve 2016 Budget.
- Presentation of letter of engagement with Anderson & Baxter for full audit of 2015 books, the audit which happens every fourth year.
- Treasurer Salmela noted that this year will also include an update of Financial Policies and Procedures
- ED Carruth notes that a full year end financial update on 2015 will be given at the February meeting.
- Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve January Treasurer's report.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

Update from Representative Dave Pinto

- Addressing issues raised by HDC:
- CDBG designation and funding for W. 7th projects: will need to report back
- Watergate Marina and Environmental Learning Center: Rep. Pinto sponsored a bonding bill, but did not get passed; City has put this as #2 on their bonding list; St. Paul capitol delegation has not made a list yet.
- Riverview Corridor: will need to report back
- Local significance: Ford site-City asked Rep. Pinto to assist in securing TIF district for Ford, which would go toward infrastructure, site requires flexibility in declaration of TIF; SPPS-bill to allow schools to issue library cards, was passed.

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- Q&A: Transportation safety, Real ID,

Executive Director's Report

- Full ED report in packet. ED Carruth highlights particular items.
- New email address, merge from thunderbird to outlook so far successful; Patty Partridge has been updating HDC website links to connect to new City of Saint Paul website.
- Public Art timeline: hope to have artist by this summer; public art needs to be “durable art;” flow chart has been created for process, not yet begun.
- Give to the Max: \$545 raised, will be directed to new welcome signs
- Getten Credit: Chuck Repke, Executive Director of District 2 and Executive Director of Northeast Neighborhoods Development Association; working to change language to exclude Getten Credit from the alternative financial institution; developed language of “neighborhood loan office”; hopes to have the language goes from HDC to Neighborhood Planning Committee of Planning Commission (1/27/16) to full Planning Committee, which would hopefully suggest that the City Council adopt the language; Repke and Getten would like this to be a zoning issue, not related to the interest rates charged, which would be a licensing issue.
- Pool House: new roof has been put on, Frank and Kathy will meet with interest party on 1/20/16.
- Hwy 5 update: Josh Williams is the planner, Jack Dobier and Patty Brady on committee, will be exploring preferred alternative in February.
- Liquor License resolution: passed City Council.
- Serendipity Grant: very close to kicking off the full survey process; 6 HDC volunteers took preliminary survey
- SPPS Riverside School: Fort Road Federation meeting on 2/2
- HIF: Saturday, April 23
- Jimmy Johns: site plan approved
- 735 S. Cleveland: will be starting in early March
- Ford Taskforce: much discussion about future of the site and what body will oversee the development, variances, etc; no mention of the HDC, though this ought to be our job.

Executive Committee Report

- Review of staff surveys and reminder of staff salary increases and bonuses
- Exec purchased \$100 gift card to Coopers for Chuck Nehls
- A vote took place for Neighborhood Honor Roll.

Standing Committee Reports

Community Engagement Committee – Melanie McMahon, Chair

- Parks and Rec coming to talk about “Fitness in the Parks”
- Smart Power: nonprofit advocating for community solar, working with Energy Home Solar; interested in more support from the committee, and committee was interested but not comfortable with being a conduit to a specific provider (Mac Groveland is doing this).
- Friends of Highland Arts: coming to January 26th for update

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Transportation Committee – Kevin Gallatin, Chair

- Cleveland bike land approved, will go forward summer 2015 from Summit to Highland Parkway
- Car2Go reduced service area and left Highland
- Snelling Avenue Median: community meeting on 11/30 with 16 community members plus committee present; consensus was supportive, provided no parking was eliminated; size of median limited to 8 feet, from Randolph to Highland Parkway; “Resolution to Support the Snelling Ave Median” passed, after discussion.
- Riverview Corridor update: January 12th, Shepherd Road and 35E both dropped as routes; expect to decide on mode and route locally preferred alignment; update to
- Safe Routes to School: special meeting to come up with plan for Randolph schools (CDH, Holy Spirit, Randolph Heights, Expo) on January 26th

Community Development Committee – Amy Salmela, Chair

- Highland Bank redevelopment update
- Residential Design Standards:

City Council Report

- Conveyed CM Tolbert’s gratitude for help with the liquor license change
- Ford Plant: Environment study is in, currently with consultant to decipher, expect summary in “weeks;” unknown to what degree Ford is cleaning up the site; planning being made on assumptions (ex: TIF application)
- Organized Trash Collection: will be big topic in 2016; \$330K study approved to see what transition would look like; legislature has process in place for cities to move to organized trash hauling
- Paid sick and safe time: Saint Paul is looking at ensure that all people who work in Saint Paul are getting earned sick and safe time

Business Representatives Reports

HBA – Anne Langford

- Highland Fest meeting this morning; looking for new Green Team leader and Entertainment Coordinator
- Conveyed gratitude from Kari Tierney for attendance at HBA/HDC event

W7BA – Petterson

- Gearing up for the year

New/Other Business

- Gearing up for the year

Adjourn

Motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Joe Kolar, HDC Secretary