

**Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council  
February 4, 7:00 p.m.  
1978 Ford Parkway  
St. Paul MN 55116  
Highland Park Community Center**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

Directors present were: Jopp, Jossi, McMahon, Anderson, Gallatin, Brady, Krivitz, Armstrong, Beaumaster

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve February agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the January meeting minutes.

**Outside Speaker(s)**

Ward 3 Council member Chris Tolbert spoke on a wide variety of topics. He said the Ford plant was the biggest issue in our neighborhood, noted the public meetings held about it and said Phase 1 results of pollution have been delivered to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He said so far there are no surprises because Ford's records were good.

Ford is legally obligated to clean up to industrial standards. The city and neighborhood would like Ford to aim higher. Ford is in the state VIC program and is working on a cleanup action plan. Ford moves prudently.

The city gave the site a TIF designation starting in March. It may not get used. It can only be used for public uses and public infrastructure. It had to be done because the Legislature could not act within a three year renewal time frame.

Riverview Corridor is in Phase I of the process. Routes from Union Depot to the Blue Line have been drawn. A locally preferred alternative will be chosen this year – buses, light rail, streetcars. And a route might be determined. Tolbert believes without transit options St. Paul just becomes a Minneapolis suburb.

He thanked Kevin Gallatin for his committee's work on the Snelling median and on safe routes to school. He thinks there is money to help both projects.

He spoke about getting money to repair St. Paul Avenue, Fairview, Edgumbe, and West Seventh. Those needing full reconstruction will need needs bonding. Rough streets such as Highland Parkway from Snelling to Hamline will struggle to get funding because of low traffic volume. A study of centralizing garbage collection is moving forward. Sibley Plaza is still looking for tenants and may add housing; Johnson Bros. has no update.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Executive Directors Report**

- HDC Email Accounts: New accounts noted.
- Spring Print Newsletter –Letter from the Board volunteer writer and a need to submit content by the end of February
- St Paul Strong –Facebook page Saint Paul Strong and [www.saintpaulstrong.com](http://www.saintpaulstrong.com), would like to come to a committee meeting and talk about ways that they can support the work of the District Councils. They believe the DC's are a very valuable tool for the City and support an increase in funding.
- Gayle Summers – Will purchase a tree to honor her at cost of \$150, they send the location and a map to the family.
- DC City Contract, Travelers Audit, Secretary of State Registration, HDC Audit will be sent.
- Public Art: Trying to negotiate a contract. A questions of whether HDC agree to their timeline so project can move forward.
- Neighborhood Welcome Signs have been ordered, and negotiated started with Public works for installation.
- Bike Racks: Decide on a process for ordering bike racks in 2016.
- June 16 - Local talent music night. Serve as the kick-off for Music in Highland series.
- Ford Notes: In March City Council approved to decision to have HRA establish a District to keep the TIF, because the Legislature will not be able to approve the renewal of the 3 year deadline fast enough. By doing this the City won't lose TIF as a tool. If the Legislature approves it, the City can then repeal what they have established, keep it and modify, or at least have options.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Waiting for \$3,739.51 from city; \$3,385 net income is not included in this report. The HDC made \$400 in 2015.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### *Executive Committee Report*

- Jon Commers coming from Met Council in March. May discuss community block grant eligibility in Shepard Davern.

- Anderson and Rep. Dave Pinto met with Shepard Davern HDC reps and community people. They will not create an ad hoc committee of the HDC.
- The Highland National parking lot did not receive money and kitchen updates are needed.
- Picnic pavilion was not funded. Could be applied for in second CIB cycle.

#### *Transportation Committee*

- Safe Routes To Schools – Randolph Heights, Cretin- Derham, Expo involved in meeting. Supporting campus idea and strategies that will work. Gaps in sidewalk network need funding. School patrons are being trained. Each student get postcard on how they get to school.
- Working on Snelling median design. A full PowerPoint presentation of projects from county and city.
- A Line BRT coming in late May.

#### *Community Development Committee*

- Getten Credit discussed, resolution supporting Getten passed out of the CDC , but situation is in limbo because the office is for sale. Chuck Repke’s proposed resolution also has problems. No Resolution was brought to the Board, until further work is done on the issue.
- Supported Joan’s in the Park move to offer a full bar after getting liquor license. Only one neighbor showed up and was supportive.

#### **City Council Report**

- No one present.

#### **Business Representatives Reports**

#### **New/Other Business**

None.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

