Meeting Minutes of the Highland District Council
May 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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

Call to Order - 7:05pm

Roll Call
Directors present: Jopp, Gallatin, Jossie, Fischbach, McMahon, Kolar (tardy), Cleveland, Salmela, Anderson, Whitehead, Armstrong, Hood, Heegaard, Brady, Langford
Absent: Dobier, Thompson, Petterson
*At-large alternate Sally Bauer elected and seated; marked as present

Elect Alternates to HDC Board
Sally Bauer nominated and appointed to At-large Alternate #1. Sally lives near St. Kate's, recently left position at U of MN

Elect HDC Officers
President
- One nominee
    - Melanie McMahon: elected President by unanimous voice vote

Vice President
- One nominee
    - Frank Jossi: elected Vice President by unanimous voice vote

Secretary
- Two nominees
    - Nate Hood: declines nomination
    - Peter Armstrong: elected Treasurer by unanimous voice vote

Treasurer
- One nominee
    - Amy Salmela: elected Treasurer by unanimous voice vote

Approval of Agenda
Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve April agenda as presented, with understanding of accepting guest speakers when they arrive.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting
Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve March meeting minutes as presented. Director Thompson abstains.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area
Suzanne Rhees

- MRCCA rules change is long process; lots of public input so far
- MRCCA has been in place since 1970
- Rule Development and Public Involvement
    - Comment period runs through early July
- Next steps: Formal Comment and Hearings
    - Dakota County, Anoka County,, Minneapolis
    - Rebuttal period
    - Changes if needed
    - Report is prepared
    - Adoption of rules
- After rules adopted
    - A few more years to actually implement
    - Need local governments to update their critical overlays
- Top issues
    - Flexibility requests
    - State and regional agencies
    - Plans and ordinances
    - Bluff and BIZ (Bluff Impact Zone)
    - Nonconformities
    - Building height and visual quality
    - Vegetation management
    - Land alteration
    - Subdivision and land development
- Existing MRCCA Districts in Highland
    - Urban open space (35’ height/100ft river set back/40ft bluff setback)
    - Urban diversified
- Proposed districts
    - Rural and open space (35’ height/200ft river setback/100’ bluff setback)
    - River neighborhoods (35’ height/100ft river setback/40’ bluff setback)
    - River towns and crossings (48’ CUP > 48’ height/75’ river setback/40’ bluff setback)
    - Urban mixed (65 ft’ height CUP if > max height/50’ river setback/40’ bluff setback)
- No change in height since last version of draft rules in 2014
    - Ford Plant as example; has two proposed MRCCA districts within it
        - Tiering: stepping back and up in height
- Questions
    - Is Ford aware of the the MRCCA?
        - They ought to be, city staff has been in talks with DNR for long time
    - What was split in Ford plant based on?
        - Not sure; appears to be street grid
- Bluff and Bluff Impact Zone (BIZ)
    - Bluff newly defined as:
        - Slopes with > 18%, rise 25 ft, and 25 wide or

        - Any feature that rises 10 feet with an average slope of >100%
    - BIZ, as 20 ft buffer, remains
    - Old definitions of very steep slope removed.
    - Everything needs to be field verified, and local governments responsible
- Vegetation management
    - Purpose: avoid large scale vegetation removal in sensitive areas and provide framework for restoration through permit process
- Land Alteration-land disturbance
    - Purpose: ensure that land alteration activities don't negatively impact the river and primary conservation areas
    - No land lateration w/in BIZ unless work meets exception rules
- Subdivision and Land Development
    - Provide protection for primary conservation areas and increase opportunities for river access
    - System of set-asides
        - Certain percentage of the site to be set asite for open space, if site includes certain natural resources.

Public Comment
None

Station 19 Renovation
Chief Tim Butler
- Current set-up: one crew running both fire and EMS
- Goal: two crews in each station, ability to independently respond to both EMT calls and fire calls
- Project total: $3million for project, bids were $2.9 million
- Scope of project
    - Add 2nd apparatus bay
        - Not in budget to have pull through
    - Increase crew quarters
        - New kitchen
        - Separate facilities for men/women
        - Upgrade plumbing
    - New 3 phase electrical power
    - Public art component: TBD
- Operational impact
    - Current: 6-8 hours of uncovered time
    - Upgrade: third truck means almost 24 hour coverage in Highland
- Neighborhood impact
    - Edgecumb Road
- Groundbreaking: Monday, May 9 at 3:30p
- Expected completion: November 2016
    - Ladder truck moved in by October/November 2016

        - Open House: Spring 2017
- Questions
    - Will capacity to respond be hampered by construction? No, plan is to be totally operational during construction
    - Volume at Station 19: 6-10 calls per day
        - 75% medical
        - 25% fire
    - Neighborhood groups: SPFD will provide presentation on fire safety
        - Project Safe Haven: free program to help prevent fire

City Council Report
Libby Kantner, CM Tobert's Office

- Walk/Bike to school event: over 1500 participants, huge success
- Business development: lots of interest from businesses in all kinds of things, licenses, outdoor seating, expansion
- Snelling and Saint Clare: potential redevelopment
- Old Catmando building: Grand and Macalester
- Earned Sick and Safe Time: 2 weeks till recommendations
    - CM Tolbert will address group at Gloria Dei
- Highway 5 Committee
    - Advisors are back
- Sibley Plaza
    - CM Tolbert had a meeting with Paster, encouraging movement
- Johnson Bros: no update

Highland Business Association
Anne Langford

- Highland Fest: 8 weeks away (!)
- Music in the Parking Lot: June 23
- Tour de Highland: Brochures

West 7th Business Association
Kent Petterson

- Representative absent

Executive Committee

- Board training: June 2nd
    - 6:30p start
- By-law change
    - No second needed, coming from exec.
    - By-law change passed unanimously

Executive Director's Report
Kathy Carruth

- Standing committee assignments announced

Standing Committee Reports

- **Community Engagement Committee: Melanie McMahon, Chair**
    - Pool House events
    - Financing and funding for pool house
- **Transportation Committee: Kevin Gallatin, Chair**
    - Road Construction season
        - Map available for Ward 3
        - The silent work of the district council: ED Carruth and CM Tolbert worked to get SPRW from closing westbound lanes of Ford Parkway this summer, delayed to summer 2017.
            - You WILL see this good work recognized in the minutes of the HDC. Kudos to ED Carruth for working on behalf of the residents of Highland to head off a potential "last straw" in a summer already full of construction.
    - Snelling median
        - MNDOT now proposing to to widen Snelling, thought to be a potential poison pill.
        - Still working on design of the potential median.
    - Pedestrian Events
        - May 23: Shepherd-Davern area
            - Davern and Saint Paul; evening event
    - A-Line Kick-off, June 11 10-2p
        - Volunteer sign-up available for community member
- **Community Development Committee: Amy Salmela, Chair**
    - 1338 Bayard: resolution sent in support of permitting change
    - Blue Plate Liquor License Resolution: resolution sent in support
    - Sakana Liquor License Resolution: resolution sent in support
    - Saint Paul Public Schools: presented at April meeting
    - Update on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
        - Funding sources for Shepherd Davern area
    - Saint Anthony Park District Council
        - Accessory dwelling units

Treasurer's Report

Amy Salmela, Treasurer

- Welcome signs up
- Budget overview
- Check signers
    - Current: Salmela, Jossi, Anderson, Dobier
    - Motion made, seconded, and passed to make Salmela, Jossi, McMahon, and Armstrong check signers for 2016-2017.

Executive Director's Report

Kathy Carruth, Executive Directors

- Tour de Highland
    - Register
    - Volunteer
- Board members directed to look at upcoming events

Meeting adjourned at 8:59p.