

Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council
September 6th, 2018 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul MN 55116
Highland Park Community Center
1978 Ford Parkway, St Paul, MN 55116

1. **Call to Order** – Kevin Gallatin, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00.
2. **Roll Call** – Amy Schwarz, Secretary took roll call.

Directors Present: Miller, Gallatin, Jossi, Hood, Teggatz, Lindsay, Whitehead, Dobier, Hurse, Duffy, Bauer, Long, Schwarz, Langford, Tinnes (7:45 pm)

Alternates Seated: Grill, Basgen

Directors Absent: Mattson, Willis, Soderberg

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the September agenda as presented.
4. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the August meeting minutes as presented.
5. **Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC):** Julian Roby, PCIARC Coordinator and PCIARC Board Member Eric Forstrom.
 - PCIARC was originally established in 2001, audit recently occurred. Audit recommended moving PCIARC to City of St. Paul Office of Human Rights and Equal Opportunity which has occurred.
 - Complaints range from excessive force to general behavior or attitude issues by police officers. The PCIARC reviews evidence and information is sent to the SPPD internal affairs office. PCIARC makes a recommendation on the course of action. This is forwarded to the Chief of Policy who has ultimate decision-making power on cases.
 - All new board members to PCIARC were recently appointed. The board member process follows: Interested parties apply through the city, then interview and final recommendations are made by the mayor and forwarded to the City Council. Three-year term and two term limits. Once approved, attendance at the Civilian Police Academy is required.
 - Complaints can be made online or in paper, but a signature and contact information is required. There are four locations where complaints can be taken or PCIARC Coordinator can come to complainants to assist if needed.
 - Four official intake sites:
 1. West ride community organization
 2. St. Paul chapter of NAACP Haley Rec Center
 3. Internal Affairs, central SPPD
 4. City Hall
 - Highland could establish an intake site with appropriate training and if a computer was provided. Mr. Roby would then do monthly check-ins.
 - Complaints can be initiated by individuals, organizations or on behalf of someone else. No statute of limitations, but the PCIARC recommends filing complaints as soon as feasible.

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- Online report shows classification of complaints. Much of the date is private, including officer specific information. General demographic information and there is a public portion of the PCIARC meetings.
- Eric Forstrom, resident of Hamline Midway neighborhood and PCIARC Board Member spoke. Mr. Forstrom has been on the board since August of 2017. PCIARC receives all the same information as internal reviews, including videos, body cameras, testimony, etc. PCIARC will also look at policy changes too as needed.
- Motion to have the Community Engagement Committee explore intake site options in Highland Park at the next meeting (October 23, 2018). Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Metro Blooms, Blooming Alleys: Tara Hanlon Nevins presented.

- Nonprofit established in 1983. Goals are to Create habitat, capture runoff, beautify alleyways. Metro Blooms has been involved in 20 neighborhoods in Minneapolis.
- Alleys are a great way to address stormwater runoff, beautification and habitant. In general, 60% of stormwater runs down alleys which is why this organization focuses on alleys. Recently worked with Union Park District on 7 projects.
- Explained Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP). BMP's include pavers, native plantings, rain gardens water diversion.
- Sediment, nutrients, bacteria, salt, organic matter, oil, heavy metals, cigarette butts etc run directly into the Mississippi River and BMP's can reduce this.
- Ms. Hanlon Nevins explained the basic mechanics of a rain garden and how it is able to store and absorb rainwater while breaking down pollutants and providing habitat.
- Native plants are encouraged because they have the largest root systems and are adapted to MN climate and pollinators benefit. Permeable pavers allow water to infiltrate into the soil beneath. Downspout redirection off of hard surfaces and into a garden or green area is the best BMP.
- Metro Blooms would like to engage blocks using block leaders to discuss alley gardens with neighbors. Conservation Corps is often utilized for labor. Examples of projects were shown.
- Tara asked for support from HDC to promote BMP's in Highland Park in alleyways. This may include marketing in newsletter, writing a letter of support for grants, telling neighbors and friends.
- Capital Region Watershed District may provide funding for projects.
- A Highland Park resident Mike Stoick spoke about his experience.
- Metro Bloom acts as the contractor, project coordinator and assists with follow-up and education for homeowners.

6. **Public Comment:** None.

7. **Standing Committee Reports:**

Transportation: Nate Hood, Chair presented on the following:

- Circus Juventus will present at the next meeting and try to resolve issues related to safety with Circus attendees parking in the bike lane.
- *Crossing Concerns near Cretin Durham School and the Nook.* Transportation had a conversation with residents and city staff regarding pedestrian safety and lighting. Curb extensions at Hamline were discussed.

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- *St. Paul Avenue*: overlay coming up in 2020 and committee had a discussion regarding improving the intersection at Montreal and St. Paul Avenue. Group discussed round-about and other options for traffic at this intersection. There are plans to reduce the road to run lane and add bike lanes. Parking would not be affected. Reducing to one lane would reduce speeds.

Community Engagement: Bob Whitehead, presented on the following:

- *National Night Out*: members attended NNO and distributed surveys. Great participation and engagement.
- *Food Drive*: food drive will be held during neighborhood cleanup event on September 29, 2018.
- *Neighborhood Welcome*: scheduled for October 12 from 6:30—8:00 p.m. tentatively at Pieology.
- Theater for public policy improv event is September 25, 2018 at Summit Brewery.

Community Development: Frank Jossi presented on the following:

- Conversation on October 1, 2018 regarding the nine-hole golf.

8. Executive Director Report: see attached.

- *Highland Clean-Up Event*: Volunteers needed. Pizza and coffee provided. 7:30—10:45 a.m., 10:30—1:45 p.m. This is the HDC's main volunteer event. Sign-up sheet was distributed.
- *Membership with MN Council of Nonprofits was renewed.*
- Board members attended City-Wide District Council update and event at Bad Weather Brewing.
- *Ford Documentary*: Premier of Ford Plant Documentary in October, exact date TBD.
- *Fall newsletter*: should hit mailboxes the week of September 19th.
- *November HDC Meeting*: meeting was moved to **November 15, 2018.**
- *Public Art*: HDC has received donations from Moeller, Highland Bank and Xcel Energy. HDC continues to work on installation. Issue with lighting.
- *Sidewalk Construction*: near Expo. Work should start mid-September.
- *Variance Request*: Development Committee has reviewed variances recently.
- *Snelling Median*: Trees will be planted on the Snelling median next year.
- *Highland 9-Hole Visioning Meeting*: October 1, 2018, 6—7:30 p.m.
- *Sibley Plaza*: Aldi will likely be open by Fall of 2019.
- *Draft Budget*: needs to be approved at November meeting.

9. Treasurer's Report: Bob Whitehead, Treasurer. Kathy Carruth discussed finances, delays in payment, COPP fund requests etc. HDC is waiting on a number of receivables. No concern about cash balance. Assuming all receivables come in, the HDC is still over by \$6,300. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed.

10. Business Representatives' Reports: None. West 7th Business Association and Fort Road Federation have established a new cooperative Riverview Transit Joint Transit Task Force between the two organizations. The goal is to "coordinate strategy, communications, and position of the two

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organizations and make recommendations to (the boards), ask for input from, and generally keep each organization's constituencies informed.

Keg and Case at Schmidt Brewing opening on Friday, September 14, 2018.

11. City Council Report: Melanie McMahon, Aide to Councilmember Tolbert presented:

- Mitra Nelson is the new City Council member. This marks the first elected female majority for the St. Paul City Council.
- Ongoing engagement on minimum wage. Citizen's League is hosting engagement activities. Four facilitated meetings. See City website for dates and locations. City Council will take public testimony at the meeting on September 12, 2018, prior to introduction to the ordinance. The Citizens League will provide a presentation and then public testimony will be taking.
- Nine-hole golf visioning meeting on October 1, 2018. Councilmember Tolbert obtained funding for a feasibility study to look at the modern needs of park uses on this park land. Meeting will be at 6 p.m. at Highland Community Center. Pop-up event was held at Highland Pool. Parks and Recreation will do a city-wide and neighborhood assessment for the space.

12. Executive Committee Report: Kevin Gallatin, President presented on the following:

- *Hidden Falls/Crosby Master Plan Committee: Motion made to appoint Mike Lindsay, Kristine Grill, Tyler Teggatz to the Master Plan Committee for Hidden Falls/Crosby Parks.*
- *Innovation- Equity Plan Committee Task Force:* HDC will ask for volunteers for this after the Board Retreat.
- *Communications Plan Task Force:* Community Engagement Committee discussed revising communications plan ("where to share" information).
- *Board Retreat:* 5:30 p.m. and pizza provided to board and community members. All board and community members are encouraged to attend.

13. New Business: None.

14. Adjourn: 8:55 p.m.

Notes by Amy Schwarz, HDC Secretary