



Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council
January 4th, 2018 7:00 p.m.
1978 Ford Parkway
St. Paul MN 55116
Highland Park Community Center
Email: info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org

Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood

Call to Order: 7:00pm, Kevin Gallatin, President

Roll Call: Mike Lindsay, Acting Secretary

Directors present: Miller, Gallatin, Willis, Tinnes, Salmela, Lindsay, Whitehead, Long, Hood, Bauer, Thompson

Alternates seated: Zuro-White

Executive Director Carruth

Approval of Agenda: Kevin Gallatin

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve January meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Kevin Gallatin

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

Winter Carnival Update: Mark Helgerson

Mr. Helgerson shared information from The Saint Paul Festival & Heritage Foundation about this year's Winter Carnival. The carnival is in its 132nd year and will last for 17 days rather than the normal 10. Plans for an ice castle fell through due to funding. They have started making snow. Art work will be on display from two rounds of ice carving contests. The public is invited to snow stomping shift on January 20th. The first medallion clue will be released on January 21st. There are three parades this year and volunteers are needed for indoor and outdoor events. Visit www.mnsnowpark.com to register as a volunteer.

Ford Documentary: Peter Myers

A five minute trailer called "Made in Saint Paul: Stories from The Ford Plant" was projected (<https://vimeo.com/249706844>). In support of the project, interviews have been conducted with people that worked at the Ford Plant all the way up to the end of its operative time. Mr. Myers expects the project to be broadcast on public television in the fall of 2018. Screening events will happen in Highland Park. Some funding work remains. Brookfield Renewable Partners has express interest and a Cultural Star Grant is an option. Crowd funding is an option at the end of the process.

Standing Committee Reports:

Transportation: Nate Hood

A locally preferred alternative has been approved for Riverview Corridor. Preparation to apply for federal funding has begun. It will likely be a long time before we hear any updates. At the Albion School/Lexington realignment site the county, city, state DOT, school board, and developer are all getting along quite well. The county continues to work on securing the right away to allow for a connection to Sheppard Road. The city has applied for grants to fill in some gaps of sidewalk near Expo School. They are expected to exist in the near future and no homeowners will be charged.

Community Engagement: Sally Bauer

Based on initiatives and priorities from the latest work plan several subcommittees were formed including one for new resident welcome, national night out, outreach to underserved populations, and service initiatives. Parks is attending the January meeting. Ashley Newby was approved as a committee member. Ken Jopp has stepped down.

Community Development: Amy Salmela

Tiffany's Sports Lounge is seeking an expanded liquor license in light of increased square footage (inside and patio). No action was taken but the packet resolution was approved. The Saint Paul Jewish Community Center is seeking a conditional use permit. Fliers will be going out soon re: the parking lot proposal from St. Kate's. Contact Kathy if you can help flier. The January meeting will start at 6:00pm on purpose. Some notes about The Tropicana Ethiopian restaurant on West Seventh were shared.

Executive Director's Report: Kathy Carruth

See attached.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Whitehead

Motion made, seconded to approve the 2018 HDC Operating Budget.

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Grid Boundaries and Election Procedures: Mike Lindsay

Mike Lindsay volunteered to be chair. Gary Fischbach volunteered to be secretary. The goal is to realign grids with population distributed more evenly while leaving the grids user-friendly (straight lines, not dividing HOAs, following existing boundaries like train tracks). Work remains to alter the map to arrive at a final draft and help from Nate Hood or another GIS intern may be available. Amy Salmela provided a draft of bylaw changes. Draft language and a map will be presented at the February and March meetings. Language changes would allow for a one year term during realignment but maintains staggered elections between even and odd grids. Additional draft language was added to prompt reevaluation every ten years. Based on subcommittee conversations no changes to election procedures are being proposed. Rather, a focus on training in advance of and organization at the annual meeting will be emphasized.

City Council Report: Melanie McMahon

- Sidewalk In-fill project between Snelling and Hamline, Highland Pkwy and Randolph is moving forward
- Disc Golf –residents were encouraged to attend the HDC January Development meeting, so everyone gets the same information at the same time.

New/Old Business

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Submitted my Mike Lindsay, acting secretary.

Administrative

Peter Myers -Ford Documentary –Fiscal Agency –project is still moving forward, we submitted a grant request from the Hardenbergh Foundation for \$20,000, and a “modest” grant request to Hognander Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. Hognander gave \$5,000 and the Hardenbergh Foundation declined. Peter Myers will be attending the January Board meeting to update you and show you some pieces of the Documentary that he has completed.

2016 COPP Grant for Public Art –Frank and I met with City of St Paul ROW, Ramsey County ROW, the artist, Public Art and HBA to look for new space. There is enough ROW on the southwest corner of Ford and Cleveland even without using the private portion. The artist will make a slight modification to the bench, and we will submit to PW for approval. They will fast track and move to a Public Hearing at City Council in Feb (hopefully) The artist can’t get the drawing done until Jan 9th

Lease –We are still operating under the 2015 lease

D 15 Steering Committee Update – Ellie did census data, formatting, many edits and we posted the draft plan to the website a month ago. We need to make an engagement plan moving forward.

2017 COPP Funds –Working with Liz at MGCC on the planning stages of the project –Ellie Galer, Mac Intern has put together an initial research for selecting and evaluating Ped projects. We will work with Fay Simer, City of St Paul Ped coordinator when she is back from Maternity leave and Transportation Committee. We were thinking of having a joint MGCC and HDC Transportation meeting to discuss the 2017 COPP fund??

CRWD –not sure if MGCC received the grant yet, I will follow up

2018 Calendar is available in hard copy up front, all dates have been added to the website, and listed as an event for easy sharing.

2017 Review –Anderson and Baxter will be working on the Review the end of January and February

Upcoming Speakers

February- City Council Update – CM Tolbert

March - St Paul Comprehensive Plan – Lucy Thompson, PED

City Contract – I will be working on the 2018 City contract over the next few weeks

HDC Programming

Citywide Cleanup – we received the \$7900+ reimbursement, and it was deposited.

New Resident Welcome – Bob Whitehead is working with local businesses to find some sponsors to help make sure that this event continues in 2018. Thank you Bob

HIF –Home Improvement Fair applications are coming in, not very fast –may need to do more outreach, probably after the first of the year. Ellie has been doing some research for Senior participants.

Honor Roll – Honorees are Jenny Winkleman, Johnny Allen Jr, and James Farnsworth. HDC is in charge of all the planning with UST, menu selection, set up and beverage contracts.

Other Projects

Snelling Ave Median Update- they will be installing the parking bays this Fall, and medians spring of 2018

HPCC Play Area –construction this spring (we hope)

Sibley Plaza –attended the Oct 12 Shep Dav meeting. I talked with them about designing input Boards for the neighborhood. They seemed receptive –haven't heard anything, and will follow up. No Grocery locked in

South Highland Reservoir – 5 proposals –I attended the Board of Water Presentations, Frank and I met with HyVee after. I also went on a tour of the empty reservoir on Dec 20th it was very fascinating.

Riverview Corridor Update –PAC recommended Street Car on West 7th, crossing at Hwy 5

Hwy 5 Realignment–has not formally closed, still waiting on Riverview technical study, traffic details, maybe

Albion School –J Wedam Foundation –meeting at Summit was well attended, proceeding with the Petition, the route may go back to Albion?

Ford Pkwy Work –we are still working with the County to move the lane merge on west bound Ford past Kenneth, and to remove the arrows by Walgreens and Chipotle, also may be a ped improvement if a Starbucks really is going in to the DQ building.

Shepard Development (Johnson Brothers) –no update.

JCC –Michael Waldman, ED of the JCC has invited the HDC to tour the new Center, please let me know if you are interested.

Tropicana Café –has applied for a wine and beer license, as well as a Class A license. There was a petition from some neighbors that are opposed which the HDC received anonymously about a month ago.

St Kate's Parking Lot Project –the Villager had a nice article, Fred Melo will have an article coming out soon. The HDC did do some outreach with both to ask them to write a story.

Highland Senior Apt –Parking lot project – the owners have been having parking problems in the neighborhood and have purchased two homes, they are proposing tearing them down and building a parking lot. Neighbors are concerned that they are the only single family homes, and surrounded by parking lots

Highland Disc Golf Proposed Expansion – Parks has proposed adding/upgrading the existing disc golf course, they have funds from CM Tolbert's office to do it. A few neighbors don't like the idea, too many disc's flying when you try to walk

Sidewalks for EXPO/ CDH/Holy Spirit –the funds for the sidewalk additions are going to be made available in 2018 (I believe), PW would like a community meeting with property owners to discuss/address any difficulties, or specific needs.

HDC Meetings

December 13th –Quarterly meeting of HDC President and ED with CM Tolbert at Highland Grill, 8:15 AM

January 4th – HDC Board meeting, HPCC 7:00 PM

January 9th – Transportation Meeting, HPCC 7:00 PM – EXPO Sidewalk funding

January 10th – Election Procedures and Grid Realignment Task Force meeting, Highland Café, 6:30 PM

January 16th – CDC meeting, HPCC 6:30 PM – Parking lot by Highlands on Norfolk, Frisbee Golf project, St Kate's parking lot expansion, Albion Development with EDI

January 24th – HBA Annual Meeting, Summit Brewing, 6-8 PM \$20/ person

January 26th - **Honor Roll Volunteer Recognition Event, Woulffe Hall, Anderson Center UST 5:30 -7:30 PM –The HDC will cover the cost of attendance for any Board member, Committee member and one guest.**