

**Highland Park Community Center**  
**1978 Ford Parkway**  
**St. Paul MN 55116**  
**HDC Board Meeting May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Call to Order - 7:00pm, Melanie McMahon, Acting President**

**Roll Call - Peter Armstrong, Acting Secretary**

Directors present: Miller, Gallatin, Jossi, Fischbach, McMahon, Kolar, Tinnes, Lindsay, Whitehead, Dobier, Armstrong, Bauer, Long

**Elected Alternates to HDC Board - Ken Jopp, Colleen Zuro-White**

Alternates Seated: Ken Jopp, Colleen Zuro-White

**Election of Officers, Joe Kolar Nominating Committee:** President: Melanie McMahon ; Vice- President: Frank Jossi ; Secretary: Peter Armstrong ; Treasurer: Bob Whitehead.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve April meeting minutes as presented, with corrections.

**Public Comment.** Bruce Hoppe spoke to the issue of Ford Site Development and density. He supports lower density and more green space. Neighbors for livable St. Paul. Tom Goldstein mayoral candidate spoke to the issue of TIF and city financing. Advocates the City buying the site. Kate Hunt reinforced Tom's opinion. /expressed concern over timing of the Ford Site Draft Zoning Plan. William Smart spoke to the Draft Plan.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Community Engagement — Ken Jopp, former Chair:** Reported on goats improving Great River Passage. Sally Bauer reported on HPCC play area.

**Transportation — Kevin Gallatin, Chair** reported on: a Stop for Me event on April 11 at Edgumbe & Munster, very successful. Significant neighbor participation; improvements to pedestrian crosswalk at Ford Pkwy and Woodlawn Ave. Resurfacing of and improvements to the pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of St. Paul Ave. and Cleveland Ave.

Resolution to Ask City to re-strip MRB (see attached)— passed.

**Community Development — Joe Kolar, vice Chair,** presented the Vango variance request Agenda (see Attached)— passed.

Snelling Avenue Zoning Study Resolution of support (see attached ) Gallatin moved to remove the word “Study”— passed. Resolution passed.

May meeting agenda to include presentation by St. Paul Regional Water on removal of a reservoir tank, opening up additional green space.

**City Council Report—Libby Kantner, City Council Member Tolbert's Aide.** Reported on small meetings of Ford Site. 18 community meetings were held.

**Ford Site Task Force Update, Peter Armstrong:** The Task Force met Monday May 1st at Gloria Dei. The TF is in the process of reviewing and commenting on the Draft Plan of March 7, 2017 with the intent to issue a memo to

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the Planning commission commenting on that Draft proposal. Discussion was held about a process, a minority opinion report may be written when necessary. Topics discussed were Transportation and Parks and Open Space. Majority of the TF supported the network layout as is. A minority recommended to add a street grid the the south-east recreational area.

Parks & Open Space: The majority of the TF uncomfortable designating a grid for Private Recreation wants the recreation fields on the southeast corner removed from the site map. Task Force would like to see additional 10+ acres of multi-use recreational space on the site. TF supports the idea of realigning the curve on MRB to gain additional park space.

**Executive Committee Report: Melanie McMahon, President:** requested that board members sign the Media/Internet Policy agreement. Board members complied.

Presented the following Resolutions out of the Executive Committee: (see attached)

JCC Variance Request Resolution— passed.

Ford Site Resolution— Soderberg moved, Zuro-White second, passed to fix top in first bullet point. Kolar moved to add date, March 7th date as reference. Fischbach moved Dobier second to add bullet point “that city not use TIF on the site.” McMahon abstains failed. Gallatin moved Armstrong second. Change to clarify traffic calling language.—passed. Gallatin moves Armstrong second to add human scale architectural features. —passed. Jossi moves Bauer second add “sustainable” and “national Standards. Friendly amendment, Miller moves including consideration of bird safety.—passed. Armstrong moves Fischbach seconds, table resolution to the May HDC board meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** presented by **Kathy Carruth.** (see attached)

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

**Business Representatives Reports**

**W7BA –Kathy Soderberg :** No new

**HBA - Anne Langford:**

**District 15 Comprehensive Plan Update, Steering Committee Co-Chair.** SC has met twice in sessions focusing on data gathering of data. A survey was created seeking input from instead parties. Survey is on the HDC website and various social media platforms. Committees: Transportation; Housing and Land Use; Parks & Recreation, Water Resources, Historic Preservation and Public Art. Next meeting June 21.

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Committee assignments, see attached.**

**New/Other Business**

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Peter Armstrong, HDC Secretary

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**Resolution in Support of the CUP and License for Vango**

WHEREAS, the Community Development Committee of the Highland District Council met on April 18, 2017 to discuss the Expansion of a Non-Conforming Use Permit, a setback variance, and License Application for Vango Automotive, LLC doing business as Vango Auto, at 2599 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Shepard Davern Plan amendment states that we should *attract more neighborhood serving businesses to the area, to better serve the needs of residents in the area,* and

WHEREAS, this business will be locally owned and operated, providing automotive repair services for the neighborhood and a unique Camper van business that has been very successful in other areas of the Country, and

WHEREAS, the neighbors have signed a petition to agree with the Non-Conforming Use Permit, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland District Council Board of Directors recommends support for the request by Vango Automotive, LLC, in their application for a Non-Conforming Use Permit, Setback Variance to the Zoning Code, and license application in order to operate their business at 2599 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Approved May 4, 2017  
By Highland District Council Board of Directors

Resolution 2017 –11D

The Highland District Council's mission is to foster opportunities for the people that live, learn, work, and play in Highland Park to engage and connect with neighbors, businesses and local government and to help build a more vibrant, welcoming, and safe neighborhood.

The HDC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit.

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**Resolution Supporting the South Snelling Avenue Re-Zone**

Whereas the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2009, designates Highland Park as a Neighborhood Center, an area with compact, mixed-use development that provide services and employment close to residences;

Whereas the District 15 Highland Park Neighborhood Plan, adopted in 2007, includes an action to *rezone Snelling Avenue to TN2 to support mixed-use development, appropriate building design and encourage pedestrian-friendly street elements, plentiful landscaping and first-floor retail development*; and

Whereas the Saint Paul Planning Commission initiated a zoning study of South Snelling Avenue from Ford Parkway to Interstate 94 to be conducted by Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development staff in July of 2015;

Whereas Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development staff met with the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee to inform and gather feedback on the draft zoning study in October and November of 2016;

Whereas Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development and the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee hosted public meetings with Highland Park property owners, business owners, and residents on the topic of rezoning South Snelling Avenue on October 4, and October 18, 2016.

Whereas the Saint Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft Snelling Ave Zoning Study on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017; therefore

Be it resolved that the Highland District Council supports the proposed rezoning as presented by the City of St Paul on April 18, 2017 from the Snelling/Randolph intersection to the Snelling/Ford intersection, to support mixed-use development, provide design standards that limit the visual impacts of parking, maintain attractive building facades and promote pedestrian-friendly streetscapes.

Approved May 04, 2017  
By the Highland District Council Board of Directors

Resolution 2017-08D

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**Resolution in Support of Jewish Community Center's Rear Setback Variance**

WHEREAS, the applicant is proposing to remove a rear portion of the Jewish Community Center building and construct a larger, new addition at the same rear setback as the portion removed, and

WHEREAS A rear yard setback of 25' is required; a setback of 8' is proposed for a variance of 17'; and

WHEREAS, the Highland District Council supports the Jewish Community Center's request for a STAR Grant from the City of St Paul that includes a portion of this project; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland District Council's Board believes this project will improve and beautify this portion of the Highland Park neighborhood while helping to keep the members of the JCC and neighbors in a safer environment and recommend approval of the rear yard setback variance of 17'.

Approved May 04, 2017  
By the Highland District Council Board of Directors

Resolution 2017-09E

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For June –chucks gift card, all vandalism on the Ford bridge both railings in flat black

**Administrative**

Meeting with Peter Myers -Ford Documentary –Fiscal Agency –St Paul foundation donation for \$20,000 in March, Thank you's have been sent, he has started his interviews. I have an email update, and he just sent a letter from TPT with intent to partner with Myer Communication and HDC on the Documentary.

2016 COPP Grant for Structural/ Engineering Review – We have \$7306.14 left over that is being transferred to the Public Art project at Ford and Cleveland. We had talked about running electric, but they needed \$10,000 to hook it up. The \$7300 would only get it pulled up to the building –which would not be in keeping what COPP should be used for.

Annual Meeting –recap –Tiff's didn't charge us for the food • it was donated so only spent about \$250 ish

Lease –it was approved by the Parks board, not sure about City Council, not sure when the new rate will start

City Contract – is in effect, we have received reimbursements through

D 15 Steering Committee Update – two meetings have been held, Survey for input has been put together and is on the website, Sub-committees will meet May –August, the committee meeting times and all other information is on the D15 planning page on our website.

Travelers Insurance Audit -was completed

2017 COPP Funds –will be asking for \$1500 -\$2000 for mailings for Ford and D15 Plan

990 2016 –was filed with the IRS in March

**HDC Programming**

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet is Active –the link was sent to the Board-I will include it in Board meeting reminder emails.

New Resident Welcome –was Friday April 7th –we had about 20+ people participate. Thank you to Bob, Nate and Peter for helping –they can update you

Newsletter –Print newsletter hit the 2nd week in March, hope you all received it

Home Improvement Fair –went so smooth • Thank you to all the volunteers it was very much appreciated. Attendance was down a little, the weather was really nice, the hours were better, the traffic pattern was better –vendors seemed very happy. We have a survey follow up out to all the vendors

Tour de Highland- we have 20+ restaurants, bags are ordered, own volunteer sheet, new signs, walking history tour with Jane McClure • , Posters and Tri-folds are almost ready 30 people have already signed up.

Please help promote –thank you to Bob for all his work hanging posters

Music at the Pool House (“Pool House Rock”)–we have the Noise variance waiver, ice cream truck, sound guy, bands, Parks will have lawn games –it is coming together nicely

Jazzed about Highland –we have an awesome New Orleans Jazz band locked in, McNasty -we are working with HBA again, should be a fun event

Parklet –the parklet is all set, Quixotic and Highland Grill are both on Board

**Other Projects**

Snelling Ave Median Update- will start project in August or September

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HPCC Play Area –Parks has assigned a Landscape architect for the HPCC Play area, have held two meetings –HDC recruited FHA, HBA, Hi-C, Horace Mann, Highland Elementary, HPCC staff and a couple of neighbors. The design is coming together, will have a Community input meeting in June (I believe)

Ford Update - the City has been proceeding with the small group meetings and they have been going really well, I think they will have completed close to 25 when they are done

Sibley Plaza –Bob W has been talking to tenants and Yarmo, the Nail Salon and someone else have all made major physical improvements to their spaces. Doesn't appear Paster is doing and remodeling soon.

Riverview Corridor Update –no decision until December of 2017 is the latest.

Hwy 5 Realignment– Melanie and I are meeting with Libby and Mark Finken, PW next Monday,

Albion School –the group will start meeting again on May 5th, we will be reviewing two proposals

Ford and Cleveland –we have an Artist, and I am setting up a meeting with the Stakeholder group and him, before we do any Public Engagement for the design. I am meeting with Aaron Dysart, Artist in Residence for St Paul to go over contracts.

St Paul Ave and Cleveland Intersection –County has redesigned the Ped crossings, triangle will get grass, ADA accessible

**Other News**

Bus Shelters at St Paul Ave and West 7th & Maynard and West 7th both received funding under the MT bus shelter improvement project. (this is the project we were going to apply to, but were told not to, because we didn't qualify)

Tiff's may be looking for an expansion of their liquor license

Flashing lights at Highland Pkwy and Cretin & Fairview and Bohland may be applied for by Libby with the SRTS program not until 2018 for 2021 funding?

Canoe Rental at Hidden Falls is moving forward. We received an ENS notice on the CUP that Parks needs. They will be attending Transportation on May 9th –the hearing is May 11th

HDC Meetings –All May Committee meetings will be appointing Community Members

May 9 Transportation Meeting -7:00 PM –HPCC –CUP for Hidden Falls Canoe Rental

May 16 CDC Meeting -6:30 PM – SPRWS Highland Reservoir, Ramsey Cty, and St Paul Parks, Luci Ancora for a waiver of the 45 day wait for beer and wine (maybe)

May 19 Planning Commission 8:30 AM –City Hall Rm 40–Snelling Ave Zoning Study Public Hearing

May 20 Tour de Highland –lots of fun!! Please register to ride, volunteer and spread the word

May 23 CEC Meeting 6:30 PM– Highland Fest, and ??

May 23 CP Spur Reimagine the Rail JCC 6:30 -8:00 PM

June 2 & 3 –Garage Fest –Highland Park Neighborhood Garage Sale