



Highland District Council
1978 Ford Parkway Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116
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**Community Engagement Committee
January 22, 2019 6:45pm
Highland Park Community Center**

Meeting called to Order at 6:45 by Amanda Willis, chair

Roll Call - Tyler Teggatz, Secretary

Committee Members Present: Kristina Mattson, Nate Hurse, Amanda Willis, Tyler Teggatz, Catie Gardner, Bob Whitehead, Tim Morehead

Committee Members Absent: Jolene Sterner (alternate), Sally Bauer, Brandon Long

Others Present: Kathy Carruth, Kevin Gallatin, and community members Melissa Wenzel, Erin Pavlica, and Tara Scovill, representing Zero Waste Saint Paul

Approval Prior Meeting Minutes - Motion was made to approve November meeting minutes, seconded, and passed.

Resolution on Making HDC Meetings More Welcoming

-Committee and board should decide on a few measurable goals that are both attainable and effective for meeting the goals of the HDC welcoming ideals as outlined in the resolution.

-Work on feasibility of initiatives that would make it easier for people to attend, i.e. childcare, accessibility, and interpreter. Specific forms of assistance and action items could be listed in the resolution, as well as more general language regarding availability of these services to the public and the HDC's intention to make them available.

-Motion was made to pass the welcoming resolution with additions to accessibility options by Mattson, seconded by Teggatz. Passed on voice vote.

New Resident Welcome - Planning/ Decisions

-Goals of the event are to get neighbors together in a friendly, low pressure event to meet each other and also introduce the HDC.

-Committee explored changing the name of the event: One Highland, Our Highland, Your Highland, Our Highland Celebration or Highland Neighborhood Welcome, etc.

-Change in location was discussed, with agreement on the McDonald's on West 7th. Even in March, we can do an Ice Cream Social or Hot Chocolate mixer. Menchie's or Agelgil could be potential targets for partnering. Kathy will get in touch with McDonald's management.

(cont'd)

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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Zero Waste St Paul

- City wide advocacy organization raising awareness on lowering waste and passing a sustainable to-go container ordinance.
- ZWSP has engaged with DSI, Eureka, and other advocacy groups to discuss re-writing the ordinance that is already on the books in St Paul. Options are still being discussed for alternatives to styrofoam packaging and how to get businesses (both small and large) engaged with other choices. Grants and other resources are available at various levels for businesses who wish to change packaging.
- City Council voted to postpone the vote in late 2017 because of other major issues. Councilmembers have since cooled on support, and DSI had not done any outreach.
- City has a State mandate to compost 75% of its waste by 2030 (currently around 54%).
- Sustainable to go packaging plan has many points in common with the District 15 Plan.
- ZWSP would like to get a vote soon, so educational and engagement campaigns get going with plenty of time for implementation prior to 2030.
- Several other district councils have been engaged with ZWSP with unanimous support.
- There is national support for sustainable packaging, and MN State Rep Jay Xiong plans on authoring a state-wide bill.
- Ramsey and Washington Counties have allocated a large fund for grants to businesses along with direct support with staff to assist with alternative
- Language barriers between business owners and outreach staff are beginning to be addressed with translated documents and translators when available.
- Caterers are not exempted from ordinance, though some caterers are already using compostable packaging.
- Vote was taken to draft a resolution in support of sustainable to-go packaging and higher rates of recycling. Resolution to be passed before next board meeting.

New/ Old Business

- Kevin reminded the committee that due to past good governance regarding spending and finances in general, the HDC is in good position to spend money on good ideas for engagement and events.
- Kristina will be meeting with Homecroft ECFE community members about their potluck event in April and the opportunity for us to have a presence (for tabling and meeting people). Would be a great opportunity to meet neighbors and introduce the HDC. They seem interested in hosting the HDC. This group, especially the parent advisory council, could be a great source of potential future board members.

Next CEC Meeting - Next CEC meeting is Feb 26th @ 6:45

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07