



HIGHLAND

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

June 4, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-Person at Highland Park Library Community Room

1. **Call to Order** – 7:02 by *Adam Hertell, Vice President*
2. **Roll Call** – *Lindsay Shimizu, Secretary*
Present: Vice-President: Adam Hertell, Secretary: Lindsay Shimizu, Treasurer: Casey Ulrich, Board Members: Jack Rossmann, Wolfie Browender, Tim Morehead, Brad Ballinger, Blanca Monter, Kathleen Schubert, Mikael Asp, Mindy Johnson, Youa Thao, Frank Jossi, Elisabeth Seburg, Shayne Stone
Absent: *John Kennedy (President), Patti Brady, Cheryl Calloway, Jordan Frank Shannon, Kathy Bell*
3. **Approval of Agenda** – *Adam Hertell, Vice-President*; Approved unanimously
4. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – *Adam Hertell, Vice-President*; Approved unanimously
5. **Neighborhood House Update** – *Janet Gracia, Neighborhood House (NH)*
 - Link or PDF of PPT presentation:
 - Started in 1890's as Women of Mount Zion Temple start school for Jewish children > became non-sectarian and added new services in 1903.
 - Achieved most recent campaign which allowed them to move to their new building on Montreal and expand services.
 - Pre-school, parent & early childhood education, food support & family centers, and adult education (English language learning, GED prep, Citizenship Prep, digital learning, with supplementary driver's ed) from both locations. Teachers are both paid and volunteer roles.
 - Neighbors qualify for food support 2x per month + one additional emergency shop, as needed.
 - Periodic fresh produce distribution (think free farmers market) at both locations, SNAP application assistance, senior boxes.
 - Also just completed capital improvements at the Wellstone Center.
 - Long-term lease of a government-owned building—just renewing their 20-year lease.
 - Support housing stability (crisis financial assistance with help from Ramsey County/gov aid, case management in specific housing complexes, housing search guidance at Montreal location, etc.) youth programs, youth literacy, and Latino Leadership Program (taken over from Wilder ~10 years ago, facilitated in Spanish) at this location.
 - With Operation Metro Surge (OMS), they transitioned preschool staff to Rapid Response and along with volunteers supported 734 households, completing 4,500 deliveries (every other week) including ~224,800lbs of food. 77% of those households were new to Neighborhood House services. Final deliveries slated for July 2nd, but are delivering translated packets about info on ongoing services and a \$200 grocery store gift card to help with the transition.
 - Upcoming celebration for the community at Wellstone building on 6/25, 4:30-7:30pm. "House Party" to celebrate the March Food Drive, capital improvements at Wellstone location, and rapid response.

- Will be coming to all the HDC events, will have translated info on voting registration.
- Questions:
 - Mindy asked if there are classes to learn non-English. There are not, but could volunteer and learn some of the native speakers' languages as you help with the classes.
 - Jack: What are the kinds of needs that NH cannot meet? Housing is the hardest one since not everyone qualifies for the government programs that they help administer. They don't currently offer transportation services (though they give out bus tokens). They always try to meet needs, even when unique, but there are some that they're not able to meet. At minimum, they'll try to refer to other resources that might be able to help.
 - Kathy Schubert: Stop by with extra garden produce.
 - Casey: Thanked them for all their help throughout the OMS—really incredible. Suggested looking into new learning model that eastside has found helpful RE: English-learning. Suggested they could also help us spread the word about our events with our neighbors who aren't always able to participate in our events, board, etc.
 - Mindy: Can you both use the services and volunteer? Of course!
 - Blanca: What does Neighborhood House see as long-term needs for the changing community? Kicking off a new round of strategic planning this year, but likely will see shifts to helping with workforce development, in addition to our programs helping with basic needs and advocating for affordable housing.

6. 7:42 – Public Comment (None)

7. Treasurer's Report – Casey Ulrich, Treasurer

- Verified cash on-hand (slightly more than 3 months operating), have received ~\$40,000 of the ~\$115,000 we'll receive this year, seem to be on track. Explained some of the documents from the Treasurers report including the balance sheet, bank statement, and budget vs. actual.
- The company who hosts our website is closing so we need to transition to a new service.
 - We need to migrate our HDC websites to a new platform by June 25 (but they also need to be able to host our older code, which limits our vendor choices.)
 - We should probably plan to upgrade our code or re-design in a new type of code.
 - We've contacted ArcStone and Fixrunner, but Youa can ask around for any other vendors. Example of one vendor's contract is \$45/month hosting + \$1850 for 10 hours of technical support for the year.
 - Lindsay made a motion to approve re-allocating up to \$3,000 toward the migration and technical upgrades needed, with Executive Team approval on the specific vendor and contract as recommending. Casey seconded.
 - Frank: Website is important—it's how we reach the public—so agree this is an important need.
 - Blanca asked what needs approval. Any unbudgeted expenditure over \$500 needs to be approved by the board.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
 - Tim moves to approve the Treasurers report as presented, seconded by Youa. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Grid & Student Liaison Reports – HDC Grid Reps

- Kathy Carruth: Grid 3 & 7 (Rome/Saunders) – There’s a terrorist/bad-actor group that has been speeding cars through the neighborhood and yelling slurs. It’s been reported to the police and likely the FBI is involved.
- Casey: The St. Luke’s Farmers Market starts 6/13! If anyone wants to help, they’re still looking for volunteers. Casey can email Wendy’s contact info.
- Adam: Changes to Shepard have caused some different lane shifts—just be careful and pay close attention.
- Youa: Catalytic converter on her dad’s car was stolen right in front of her house on Pinehurst on 5/5.
- Frank: Odd story: Neighbor had a package theft, but thief leaves his wallet on purpose? Comes back a few hours later and traded them back.

9. **Business Representatives Report** – *Mikael Asp & Jordan Frank Shannon*

- HBA partnering with some of the Chamber resources, like shared Website hosting, which is exciting.
- Working on improving “Highland Highlights,” which is a semi-regular email that calls out businesses and events around the neighborhood. Can sign up for the email from the HBA website. Working on balancing the frequency and content. Feedback appreciated.
- Youa: Maybe a way to introduce new residents, like posting something at Quixotic?
- Kathy S.: Surprised that Altera has closed—always seemed busy. Mikael thinks the missing patio-space depressed the business somewhat. The sales weren’t quite strong enough to maintain the restaurant at that location.

10. **City Council Report** – *Tom Basgen, CM Jost’s Aide*

- Early voting for all Primaries begins Friday, June 26.
- Two “special” questions potentially on the ballot: Garbage cart-sharing (already being worked on by City Council) and right to repair. Signature collection must be completed by next Friday, June 12.
- Cool mural at Van-Go, thank you to Jordan!
- Still working on extending the hours on the driving range—starting to move through the planning commission since City Council can’t do it alone. Will likely ask HDC to weigh in over the next few months but will give us a detailed timeline soon.
- Leaning toward supporting a hardship resolution for the Lexington properties, which is the same way the committee voted.
- Blanca: Any info on the issue with slur/speeding issue above? Police are aware and working on it.

11. **8:10 - Executive Committee Report** – *Lindsay Shimizu, Secretary*

- Finalized check signers, talked about the Attorney General Filing deadline. Also learned about transitioning our old DSL internet to Verizon, which has been working well.
- Wolfie sent us hundreds of photos that we’ll be able to use for our print and online media—thank you!
- July meeting will be on 7/16 instead of our usual first Thursday.
- Lindsay moved to approve the appointment of Community Reps for each committee. Transportation: John Krenick, Matt G; CDC: Andrew Jensen, Tyler Strunk, John Brandt, Lorna Schmidt; CEC: TJ Pierret, Steve Nelson, Richard Schuster, Lisa Giles. Second, by Tim Morehead. Approved unanimously.

12. **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Transportation** – *Brad Ballinger*
 - J line still moving forward. Will have upcoming community meetings to plan updated stops—likely further apart since it’s express, but will ask for feedback.

- Discussed potential changes to the yearly bike-ride event (possibly do a walking tour?) but did not finalize anything.

- **Community Development** – *Tim Morehead, Chair*

- Committee [resolved to support a hardship exemption](#) for 777 & 779 Lexington Ave Townhome Project to vacate some of the abutting property based on some conditions. Developer/property owner were asking for a hardship exemption to proceed with clearing out some of the hillside to give the new development more green space. Three neighbors did not want to vacate due to concerns with some of the renderings, but the final site plan will have to go through a different process.
- M/I Builders Row Homes at Highland Bridge: New developers who have taken over the Pulte sites to finish up the development of additional homes.
- Tom Distad presented plans for 1420 Mississippi River Boulevard Town Homes, but neighbor/city/Distad group is working on any concerns. No requests for variances.
- Some additional discussion about the St. Kate's driveway request on Cleveland. Ramsey County hasn't made a final decision yet but were generally in favor. HDC did reach out to re-advocate for neighborhood recommendation to only allow right-turns to and from the driveway.

- **Community Engagement** – *Elisabeth Seburg, Chair*

- 1-pager in process for the CDC handout, which should be ready for their outreach work (SMART goal)
- Past events (First Tee, Cleanup) successful. Please sign up for volunteer shifts for our many upcoming events!
- HDC Survey: Committees will be asked to contribute questions if they have anything they want to learn from the community.
- Music at the Bridge next Thursday (6/11): Zumba at 4:30pm and concert happens after. Food and concert start at 5:30pm.

13. [Executive Director's Report](#) – *Kathy Carruth, ED*

- Commercial Corridors: Fun to see everything happening, like hanging baskets on W 7th, Van-Go mural, fixing bricks/adding edging/landscaping in progress on Ford. Talked about approving Paster's application for butterfly garden and mural since there are still some funds left for W 7th for this year vs. waiting until next period begins.
- Environmental contract: We'll be co-hosting a Re-use event in the fall. Will be asking for volunteers.
- Talking about co-hosting a candidate forum with League of Women Voters for County Commissioner at the renovated Keg and Case this fall.
- Garage Sale Weekend: 43 homes signed up in HP, Mac Grove has ~50.
- HDC is closed July 2nd through 10th. Can reach out to Exec Committee if something urgent comes up.
- Agelgil will be applying for license changes to stay open until 3am. Request might be coming through CDC at a future meeting.

14. **New/Other Business**

- Jack mentioned a great article on Saura Jost in the Alumni news.
- Blanca: Idea to incorporate World Cup or other soccer event, plan for additional translation next time to help draw more diverse neighbors?

15. **8:40 Adjourn** – *Vice-President, Adam Hertell*