



WEST SEVENTH STREET / FORT ROAD FEDERATION

882 7th St W Suite 6, St Paul, MN 55102 • 651.298.5599 • fortroadfederation.org

D9 Fort Road Federation Board of Directors Meeting December 11, 2023

This meeting will be held at the West 7th/Fort Road Federation Office.

- I. Call to order – 7:03 pm** by Meg Duhr, Board President
 - A. Land acknowledgement** We respectfully acknowledge the sacred land upon which the Fort Road neighborhood resides. This is the traditional homeland of the Dakhóta Oyáte (Dakota People), unfairly ceded in the Treaties of 1837 & 1851, who stewarded it for millennia. The Ojibwe and other Indigenous nations have cared for this land as well. We invite all in attendance of this meeting to learn more about the true history of this land, and to search out the wisdom and stories of the Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Native people still here.

- II. Introductions** (name and neighborhood) - [Digital Sign-In](#) for guests
 - A. Board Members Present**
 1. Meg Duhr, President
 2. Maria Sarabia, 1st Vice President
 3. Bill McMahon, 2nd Vice President
 4. Ruthanne Atkinson, Secretary
 5. Andrew Greenlee, Treasurer (arrived late)
 6. Paul Hardt, Area 1 Coordinator
 7. Korinne Gerhart, Area 1 Coordinator
 8. Hayden Kilkenny, Area 2 Coordinator
 9. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator
 10. Sara Fleetham, Area 3 Coordinator
 11. Seth Smiglewski, Area 3 Coordinator
 - B. Community Members Present**
 - 1.
 - C. Staff Members Present**
 1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

- III. Old Board Business**
 - A. Committee Updates**
 1. **Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Update** by Maggie Rock
 - a) No one showed to last meeting



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- b) Hygiene drive starts Wednesday and runs through Sunday. All donations benefit Joseph's Coat. Esp. looking for full sized shampoo, body lotion, and body wash. Drop of locations are Bad Weather and Clutch Brewing. Both are doing drink specials.
 - c) Holiday décor competition opened today. People can nominate themselves or a neighbor through January 5.
 - d) Looking at planning a January neighborhood social. Details TBD.
- 2. Transportation & Land Use Committee Update** by Paul Hardt
- a) Update from MNDOT – Started a dialogue between us and reps from MNDOT. Will have a regular set of updates on mill and overlay project. There will be other projects, like replacement of I-35E bridge. MNDOT is coordinating w/ Ramsey Cty on Riverview Corridor project.
 - b) Committee provided feedback on transportation and land use sections of District Plan. Land use is in good shape. Transportation needs some work. Housing section needs most work. Paul researching avg income and subsidized housing in the neighborhood.
 - c) Riverview Corridor – Paul attended community advisory committee meeting. Things are moving along. Paul will share slides from mtg in Transportation and Land Use Committee folder. Option w/ dedicated lanes for streetcar on each side of the street does not have on street parking. Looking at reconstructing the W 7th/Hwy 5 bridge going to airport. Considering a double decker bridge w/ pedestrians on top and traffic on bottom. There will be a lot of opportunity for public input – next community advisory committee meeting is in January.
- 3. Governance Committee Update** by Ruthanne Atkinson
- a) First governance committee meeting was in December. Other than various minor typos and misspellings, the Committee identified phrases or paragraphs that need updating in 5 sections. We will be meeting in January to finalize our proposed wording for those updates and will present to the full Board for approval at the February Board meeting.

IV. New Board Business

A. Treasurer's Report by Andrew Greenlee

1. We received \$2,285 in individual donations for November – we hit 100% Board participation! This helped us catch up a lot. Very close to budget on total expenses for the year. If we can stay on track for December, we can basically meet our budget, which was a losing budget.

Motion to accept the November financials by Ruthanne Atkinson

Seconded by Meg Duhr

Motion passes.

B. Secretary's Report by Ruthanne Atkinson

1. No comments.



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Motion to approve the November Board meeting minutes by Paul Hardt

Seconded by Hayden Kilkenny

Motion passes.

C. President's Report by Meg Duhr

1. Garden Tour – We'll be stationed at W 7th Community Center. Will do a plant sale, have some vendors to provide education.
2. MNDOT Meeting – Sent letter with requested interim safety improvements prior to meeting. Earliest we'll see any potential improvements is spring. Julia will follow up with State Rep. Dave Pinto to help push things forward. Maria Isa has been included on communications but has not yet responded. Paul will reach out to see if we can connect her w/ the Board.
3. District Plan - Likely won't get a complete draft by the end of the year. Would like folks writing sections to read the St. Paul 2040 plan and the City's guidelines for writing district plans – these will be helpful to inform our writing. Would love full Board comments and feedback on the section – please use comments feature in document.

D. Executive Director's Report by Julia McColley

1. Rathskeller – Met w/ Ed Johnson (old ED of FRF) and Dave Bretimis. They think our lease is in a good place. Investment firm in TX did purchase the Rathskeller. We're still in the redemption period; ends in March. Phil the Director of Operations said they are still showing the building to people to purchase the building + debt. Julia will draft a letter to the investment firm to introduce ourselves and explain the importance of this space to us and to the community.
2. Keg & Case – No updates. Bank owns it now. Paul will ask Councilmember Noecker about public funding that Keg & Case received and if the City is monitoring this situation.
3. Funding contract with City - The last of our reimbursement requests have been filed for 2023.
4. Garden Tour - The Garden Tour (date set for June 15, 2024 10am-3pm) location has been selected and will center around Little Bohemia. We are looking for approximately 15 gardens to register. Details were sent in our newsletter and are being advertised. Personal asks are needed! We need a few folks to step up and assist with planning.
5. Annual Meeting - We will need to secure a speaker for the event. We also need to form an Annual Meeting Committee to assist with planning.
6. Jerry's on 7th - Site plan has been approved. The general contractor needs to apply for permits and then they will be moving forward.
7. Upcoming Dates
 - a) Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting - January 3, 6:30pm
 - b) Board Meeting - January 8, 7pm

V. Community



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A. Public Comment/Open Floor

1. There's been concern about the lot on Jefferson with eyesore structures. That property is actually Ramsey Cty property. Commissioner Ortega's office, looped in Housing Stability Office. They are aware and will apply resources to it as well, but their attorney doesn't want them to forcefully vacate someone due to legal issues.
2. There are neighbors behind Keg & Case looking for guidance on implementing a permit parking situation. Having issues w/ not enough parking. Traffic engineer needs to evaluate. They would need to do a parking study and the neighbors would need to petition.
3. Listening House moving into old Savoy Pizza location. Old Freedom House will become a fire/public safety training facility.

VI. Adjourn – 9:29 pm

Motion to adjourn by Meg Duhr

Seconded by Andrew Greenlee

Motion passes.