



# WEST SEVENTH STREET / FORT ROAD FEDERATION

882 7th St W Suite 6, St Paul, MN 55102 • 651.298.5599 • [fortroadfederation.org](http://fortroadfederation.org)

## **D9 Fort Road Federation Board of Directors Meeting June 12, 2023**

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

### **I. Call to order – 7:06 pm** by Maria Sarabia, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice 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. Maria Sarabia, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - 2. Bill McMahon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - 3. Ruthanne Atkinson, Secretary
  - 4. Andrew Greenlee, Treasurer
  - 5. Paul Hardt, Area 1 Coordinator
  - 6. DJ Devan, Area 1 Coordinator
  - 7. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator
  - 8. Annie Reiersen, Area 2 Coordinator
  - 9. Maggie Rock, Area 2 Coordinator
  - 10. Tanya Fabyanske Beck, Area 3 Coordinator
  - 11. Sara Fleetham, Area 3 Coordinator
- B. Community Members Present
  - 1. Representative Dave Pinto
  - 2. Alex
- C. Staff Members Present
  - 1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

### **III. Community**

- A. **Community Input** (open floor)
  - 1. None

### **IV. Board Business**

- A. **Dave Pinto State Representative Update**
  - 1. District lines changed so Rep. Pinto's district now includes Areas 2 and 3 in West 7<sup>th</sup>. Came to say hello and introduce himself. Discussed new laws passed in last legislative session.



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## **B. Development at 796 Stewart Avenue**

1. Board had questions about community conversation, bike storage, plantings & landscaping, materials, and affordability after the last meeting. Alex with GRO Development, came to address them.
  - a) Talked with a couple neighbors and invited them to the Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting to learn more; they did not attend.
  - b) There would be sheltered bike storage under the back awning
  - c) Plantings will be Indian Grass, a MN native grass
  - d) Wood siding sourced from Duluth. Lowered the pitch of the roof to fit in better with neighborhood.
  - e) Their definition of affordability meets the standards for federal, state, and local gov't.
2. GRO would really like to get community/Board support so they can get funding in the way of sustainability grants, etc.
3. If they get an affordable housing grant, there is a 15-year commitment to maintain affordability. Their proforma sets forth 1.9% increases for inflation.

Motion to renew the motion to write a letter of support for the 796 Development by Maggie Rock  
Seconded by Sara Fleetam  
*Motion passes.*

## **C. Resignation of Board Member Annie Reierson, Area 2 Coordinator**

1. Annie is resigning effective June 16 because she is moving out of the neighborhood. Board unanimously accepted the resignation. We'll miss you, Annie!

## **D. Treasurer's Report** by Andrew Greenlee

1. The Revenue amount has been corrected and now matches the budget. There was previously an error in how it was calculated. Previously health insurance premiums and benefits were rolled into salary – they are now separated so it doesn't look like we're overspending on salary. For May, we were on budget. YTD we are \$2k over budget and are operating at a loss.
2. Tony created a fundraising and development plan. Andrew will be evaluating it. Fort Road Federation will need much more aggressive fundraising efforts to meet individual donation projections in the budget. We should also think about asking area businesses for donations.
3. Board will discuss fundraising efforts at next meeting. Julia will get link to fundraising plan for Board to review and lookup what we made at our last fundraising event.

Motion to accept the May financials by Sara Fleetam  
Seconded by Paul Hardt  
*Motion passes..*

## **E. Secretary's Report** by Ruthanne Atkinson

1. No questions/comments.

Motion to accept the May Board meeting minutes by Paul Hardt



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Seconded by Maggie Rock  
*Motion passes.*

**F. Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Update** by Tanya Fabyankse Beck

1. Reached out to a couple business owners about doing the spotlight, but haven't heard back.
2. Working on coordinating a yoga in the park free fitness class. Likely July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Bay Triangle. Will be finalized at the next meeting.
3. Buy the shirts! Encourage others to buy the shirt!

**G. Transportation & Land Use Committee Update** by Paul Hardt

1. Jimmy Shoemaker presented the current bicycle plan.
2. Reviewed MNDOT milling and overlay proposals for West 7<sup>th</sup>. Milling would start in 2027 south of St. Clair; 2028 would be north of St. Clair to Kellogg Blvd.
  - a) Potential to change # of lanes in parts of West 7<sup>th</sup> and add bicycle lanes
3. Streetcar project is still being discussed but the groups have not met for over a year. There has been a tug of war between the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County on whether the route should go North or South around the Xcel Center. Decided that it would go South. Transport options still under consideration: light rail, modern streetcar, traditional streetcar..
4. The mill and overlay project won't be finalized until the streetcar project is finalized.

**H. Committee Chair/Co-Chair Nominations**

Motion to nominate Paul Hardt as Chair and Sara Fleetham for Co-Chair for the Transportation and Land Use Committee by Kelsey Peterson  
Seconded by Andrew Greenlee.  
*Motion passes.*

Motion to nominate Maggie Rock for the Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee by Tanya Beck  
Seconded by Annie Reiersen  
*Motion passes.*

**I. President's Report** by Maria Sarabia

1. Justus Ramsey House RFP was released. Engagement night scheduled for Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Brewhouse in Schmidt Artist Loft. Interested parties can meet to get a better understanding of the scope of the RFP. The MN Transportation Museum may be interested.

**J. Executive Director's Report** by Julia McColley

1. There are 2 vacant seats on the Board. We're hoping to appoint folks at the next Board meeting.
2. City contracts are being signed for 2023. After Fort Road Federation's contract is signed, we can start getting our funding. Still waiting on a check from December 2021 and then we will be completely current to 2023.
3. Canceled subscription with Kindful CRM and signed us up for Give Butter. You can click a link and donate via Venmo or Apple Pay without signing up for communications.



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4. Signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for group insurance policy. Working with Bremer to move part of our insurance over to the group insurance.
5. Intern starts next Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be doing project-based work this summer – yoga in the park, Nat'l Night Out, social media calendars, etc.
6. Garden Tour is going to return in June 2024, likely in the Irvine Park area.
7. Walnut Street Stairway Community Conversation is tomorrow (June 13). Fort Road Federation is co-hosting w/ Summit Hill Association. Ramsey Hill Association is interested in co-hosting as well. The stairway has been closed since 2020 and there is a campaign to get it repaired.

## **V. Adjourn – 8:36 pm**

Motion to adjourn by Bill McMahon

Seconded by Sara Fleetam

*Motion passes.*