

## **D9 Fort Road Federation Board of Directors Meeting October 9, 2023**

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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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
    3. Ruthanne Atkinson, Secretary
    4. Andrew Greenlee, Treasurer
    5. DJ Devan, Area 1 Coordinator
    6. Hayden Kilkenny, Area 2 Coordinator
    7. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator (arrived late)
    8. Maggie Rock, Area 2 Coordinator
    9. Sara Fleetham, Area 3 Coordinator
  - B. Community Members Present
    1. Saura Jost, City Council candidate
    2. Korinne Gerhart, Area 1 Applicant
    3. Joshua Clamp, St. Paul Dept. of Human Rights
    4. Sierra Cumberland, St. Paul Dept of Human Rights
    5. Jim Thayer, Human Rights Commission
    6. Megan Toner
    7. Katie McEachern
    8. Sarah Billings
    9. Kate Dougan
    10. Laura Schwartz
    11. Melissa Ward
    12. Grace Taylor



# WEST SEVENTH STREET / FORT ROAD FEDERATION

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13. Abigail Freeman

14. Kevin Yang

15. Jane McClure

C. Staff Members Present

1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

## III. Community

### A. Public Comment/Open Floor

1. Need for hybrid meeting technology. Discussed getting an OWL and how to get the funds for it.

## IV. Board Business

### A. Saura Jost, City Council Candidate, Ward 3

1. Introduction to Board and community. With redistricting, Ward 3 now includes part of the West 7<sup>th</sup> neighborhood, Area 3 south of Otto.
2. Has worked on historic building preservation/adaptive re-use as a Civil Engineer.
3. Top issues: infrastructure, climate change, housing

### B. Saint Paul Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO)

1. St. Paul has their own human rights laws, one of strongest in the nation
2. Talked about labor standards rights (earned sick and safe time, minimum wage); accessibility; how to file a complaint against a police officer; St. Paul PCIARC;
3. There are 5 HREEO Boards and Commissions - anyone is invited to apply!
  - a) [stpaul.gov/HREEO](http://stpaul.gov/HREEO)

### C. Appoint Area 1 Coordinator

Motion to nominate Korinne Gerhart as Area 1 Coordinator by Maggie Rock

Seconded by Meg Duhr

*Motion passes.*

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

1. Won't be getting much more from the City this year in terms of reimbursements. Checking account balance has increased, but total assets down \$20k since March. 2023 Budget was originally a loss budget. Have \$82k in investment fund, down significantly from 2022. Board could consider investing in a lower risk fund. Most of our losses are coming from not achieving the donations we budgeted for.

Motion to accept the September financials by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Maria Sarabia

*Motion passes.*

Motion to allow Executive Director to purchase an OWL under \$1,200 by Maria Sarabia



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Seconded Kelsey Peterson

*Motion passes.*

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

1. No comments.

Motion to approve the September Board minutes by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Maggie Rock

*Motion passes.*

## F. **Committee Updates**

1. **Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Update** by Maggie Rock
  - a) Summer Social – 15 people signed up for prizes, all but 1 claimed.
  - b) We're just under 20 t-shirt sales. Will sell through end of year. Will try to have next year's shirt ready by annual meeting so we can sell there. Opportunity for businesses to have a sponsorship logo on shirts.
  - c) Neighborhood profiles – Will be reaching out to DeGidigo's. Looking for family business in our neighborhood. Will try to connect w/ Community Reporter to see if they can share the profiles. Can highlight new businesses as they're opening as well.
  - d) Fundraising – Letters to individuals and businesses. Need to be concrete about what they are giving to and have a specific ask.
  - e) Grants and awards – Was tabled until next meeting. Will research prior to next meeting.
  - f) Awareness and engagement ideas – showcase student art at an event, neighborhood clean-up, Trunk or Treat, hygiene drive
  - g) New resident physician from United Family Medicine, Rachel
2. **Transportation & Land Use Committee Update** by Sara Fleetham
  - a) Xcel Energy – requesting permit to upgrade plant. Pollutant limits attached to permit. Public comment period is open until Oct. 19.
  - b) Townhome development at 1164 W 7<sup>th</sup> St – local developer, on Highland district council, has other properties. TLU Committee is recommending that the Board oppose the development.
  - c) Recommendation will go to Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion to not accept the recommendation from the committee to oppose the site development but to provide feedback to the developer with our concerns by

Maggie Rock

Seconded by Maria Sarabia

*Motion fails.*

Motion to oppose the variance for setback by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Ruthanne Atkinson

*Motion fails.*



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Motion to reconsider the initial motion to not accept the recommendation from the committee to oppose the site development but to provide feedback to the developer with our concerns by Meg Duhr  
Seconded by Kelsey Peterson  
*Motion passes.*

## **G. President's Report** by Meg Duhr

1. Interim pedestrian improvement meeting – went well, 10 community members came, talked about specific improvements we'd like, draft of a letter to MNDOT, will share with Board to look at + committee members.
2. Give to the Max Day – Ask for Board to contribute, double check if your work will match your donation

## **H. Executive Director's Report** by Julia McColley

1. Board recruitment – 1 vacant seat on the Board, Area 3 Coordinator
2. Funding w/ city – FRF has been reimbursed through August
3. End of year appeals – Will be reviewing business list for donation letters
4. Justus Ramsey House RFP - Received 2 proposals; Committee will review and select. Project will be awarded week of Oct. 16.
5. District Plan Update - Tony Molaro will meet w/ us on Oct. 17 to discuss where the project is currently and how to move forward.
6. Garden Tour – Date is set for June 15, 2024. Will center around Little Bohemia. Looking for approximately 15 gardens to feature.
7. Community garden – Wrapping up for the season; survey will go out to gardeners and plot registration will open again to returning gardener in March 2024.
8. Stop for Me Event – October 11. These events bring awareness to pedestrian safety. The first location will be 7th St just west of Deaton by Mickey's Diner. The hours for that location will be 3:15 pm until 4:30 pm. The next location is at 7th and Douglas by Bad Weather and the hours for that location will be 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm.
9. FRF office space update – We will start looking for other options just to be on the safe side.
10. Annual Meeting – We will reach out to Summit again for next year.
11. 1324 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street Variance Application – The application for Jerry's on 7<sup>th</sup> was approved
12. The Lodge of Lazarus Crowe – Liquor license was awarded; will open before Halloween
13. Upcoming Dates
  - a) *1% Sales Tax Forum* \* - October 11, 5:30-7 p.m. Highland Park Community Center
  - b) Stop for Me Event - October 11, 3:15pm
  - c) Saint Paul Snow Summit – October 14, 9 am
  - d) District Plan Update – October 17, 6:30 pm



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- e) Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Meeting – October 19, 6:30 pm
- f) Trunk or Treat at Awaken Church – October 29
- g) Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting - November 1, 6:30pm
- h) Board Meeting - November 13, 7pm

## **V. Adjourn – 9:18 pm**

Motion to adjourn by Meg Duhr

Seconded by Maggie Rock

*Motion passes.*