



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 November 13, 2023

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

I. Call to order – 7:05 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
6. Paul Hardt, Area 1 Coordinator
7. DJ Devan, Area 1 Coordinator
8. Korinne Gerhart, Area 1 Coordinator
9. Hayden Kilkenny, Area 2 Coordinator
10. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator
11. Maggie Rock, Area 2 Coordinator
12. Tanya Beck, Area 3 Coordinator
13. Sara Fleetham, Area 3 Coordinator

B. Community Members Present

1. James Farnsworth, Community Advisor - St. Paul City Council Audit Committee
2. Jane Prince, Co-Chair – St. Paul City Council Audit Committee
3. Jane McClure

C. Staff Members Present

1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

III. New Board Business



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A. Presentation from St. Paul City Council Audit Committee

1. Presentation covered what the audit committee does (evaluates program and financial performance of the City) as well as some recent audits:
 - a) How the City is doing with customer service. Report resulted in actionable improvements, including cross-departmental working groups.
 - b) Residential housing development – will be complete early 2024.
2. The Audit Committee is bringing in a consultant on retainer to support ad hoc audits
3. Residents can submit topic suggestions: www.stpaul.gov/department/city-council/audit-committee

B. Appoint Area 3 Coordinator

1. Seth Smiglewski applied for the Area 3 Coordinator position. Board reviewed the application.

Motion to appoint Seth Smiglewski as Area 3 Coordinator by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Maggie Rock

Motion passes.

C. Letter to Landlord Request

1. There are ongoing issues with the renters at 447 Banfil. Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association sent multiple letters to the property owners and received no response. They have contact DSI. They have also contacted a lawyer to prosecute the landlords for negligence. Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association is requesting that Fort Road Federation write a letter to the property owners as well to support the neighbors.
2. Discussed the pros, cons, legalities, and potential impacts of writing such a letter at length.
3. Little Bohemia Association will continue moving forward with the lawyer and keep Fort Road Federation updated for potential future collaboration.

Motion to have a letter drafted by Little Bohemia Association and reviewed by their lawyer before coming to Fort Road Federation (FRF) for review and editing by Paul Hardt

Seconded by DJ Devan.

Friendly amendment:

Motion for FRF to write a letter to the landlord asking them to take responsibility for their tenants by Meg Duhr

Amendment accepted by Paul Hardt

Friendly amendment:

Motion for FRF to write a letter that includes bringing together all affected parties by Sara Fleetham

Amendment not accepted.



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Friendly amendment:

Motion for FRF to put out a vision and values statement for the community for Little Bohemia to leverage by Maria Sarabia

Amendment not accepted.

Original motion withdrawn by Paul Hardt

D. Halloween Décor Vote

1. There were 2 entries. The Board voted and 995 Juno won!

E. Governance Committee

1. The Governance Committee will be responsible for reviewing the by-laws and evaluating current risk to the organization four (4) times per year. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee who is not the president and members will consist of Board members only. The Committee can consult with outside sources as needed.
2. Ruthanne has been elected to chair the committee and is looking for 2-3 people to join the GC. Will be scheduling first meeting to review bylaws in early December
3. Hayden volunteered to join!

F. Fiscal Sponsor Request

1. Joe Landsberger is writing a history book of W 7th and is looking for art for it. Would like FRF to be the fiscal sponsor. Wants proceeds to go to the Federation. More to come.

G. Treasurer's Report by Andrew Greenlee

1. Behind on revenue by about \$3k below budget. Spending close to budget, a little over due to Owl purchase. Investments down \$2k, but for the year still up \$300. YTD about \$8k in the hole, but still have \$164k in assets. Hoping to make up lagging donations on Give to the Max day.

Motion to accept the October financials by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Maggie Rock

Motion passes.

H. Secretary's Report by Ruthanne Atkinson

1. No comments.

Motion to approve the October Board meeting minutes by Sara Fleetham

Seconded by Kelsey

Motion passes.

IV. Old Board Business



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A. Committee Updates

1. **Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Update** by Maggie Rock
 - a) Hygiene Drive – Will be at Clutch and Bad Weather.
 - b) Trunk or Treat was a success thanks to the efforts of Tanya!
 - c) Project & Marketing Ideas – looking into events, grants, and other ways to grow community engagement

2. **Transportation & Land Use Committee Update** by Sara Fleetham
 - a) I-35 Bridge Replacement
 - (1) I-35 bridge going over Shepherd Road will be replaced. There will be multiple detour routes. Will make improvements to bike trail, etc. Will take a year to complete.
 - b) Riverview Corridor
 - (1) Mill and Overlay project pushed out a year until 2028 and 2029.
 - (2) Two principal alternatives: “Modern Streetcar” or “BRT”. There will be community input meetings in spring, 2024 where public can weigh in on their preferred alternative. Expected final decision by Policy Advisory Committee (about 15 government entities)--Summer-Fall, 2024
 - (3) “Modern Street Car”—
 - (a) 2024: Conclude Engineering and Pre- Environmental Phase.
 - (b) 2025-2026: Project Development Phase.
 - (c) 2027-2030: Final Engineering Phase.
 - (d) 2030-2033: Project Construction.
 - (e) 2034: Begin Revenue Operations.Station spacing has been changed from “every 2500 ft” to “every 1500 ft.”
 - (4) Meeting December 13 at Union Depot
 - (5) MNDOT and Ramsey County will be attending T&LU Committee regularly

B. President’s Report by Meg Duhr

1. Donations – Over \$1k in donations so far!
2. District Plan Update – All chapters have an owner, but if anyone wants to help, please speak up because there is still opportunity! Multiple Board members volunteered to help.
3. Annual Meeting – Julia sent out a save the date – please accept.
4. Temporary Improvements to W 7th – Letter regarding needs around temporary improvements has been drafted and will be sent to the Board for review.

C. Executive Director’s Report by Julia McColley

1. **DNS Service** - DNS service ending 12/31/23. If anyone has recommendations on a new provider, please let me know.



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2. **Group Insurance** - Group insurance policy is ending. We will be on our own again effective 5/1/24.
3. **Funding contract with City** - Reimbursement has been filed for September - October 2023.
4. **End of Year Appeals** - neighbor letters (previous donors) and business letters have been mailed out in October.
5. **Justus Ramsey House RFP** - The reconstruction project has been awarded to the Minnesota Transportation Museum!
6. **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! If you are interested in assisting with planning the garden tour, please let me know.
7. **1164 W 7th Street Variance Application** - The variance application the townhome project was approved (4-0)
8. **Upcoming Dates**
 - a) Walnut Street Stairway Neighborhood Meeting - Wednesday, November 15 at the University Club
 - b) Give to the Max Day - Thursday, November 16th
 - c) Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Meeting - November 16, 6:30pm
 - d) Thanksgiving and Day After - Office Closed, Thursday, November 23 - Friday, November 24
 - e) Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting - December 6, 6:30pm
 - f) Board Meeting - December 11, 7pm
 - g) Annual Hygiene Drive - December 13 - 17

V. Community

A. Public Comment/Open Floor

1. Clutch Brewing is closing at the end of the year.
2. Board will do an escape room at Lodge of Lazarus Crow!

VI. Adjourn – 9:22 pm

Motion to adjourn by Paul Hardt
Seconded by Kelsey Peterson
Motion passes.