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## Board Minutes December 18, 2024

### 3:05 pm Call to Order by Howard Avildsen

#### **Directors Present:**

Howard Avildsen, board chair

Chad Clark, treasurer

Carol Higgins

#### **Directors Absent**

Todd Hironimus, vice chair

Dan Blasius

#### **Staff Present**

Shaun Grace

**Introduction:** Christina Yunker, county commissioner 5<sup>th</sup> District

#### **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Higgins motioned to add one item to agenda

#### **Public Comment**

**Approval of November 2024 Board Minutes.**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Approval of September Financials to be placed on file.

#### **Correspondence Reports**

- **Administrator:** written
- **MAEAP:** written
- **CISMA:** spoken
- **CTAI:** written
- **Conservation Specialist:** written
- **MDARD:** written
- **Board:** Higgins discussed seeking grants for a community garden in Mendon. Grace will investigate Sturgis foundation and other possibilities. Local food dinner was discussed to revive, Grace will check with the Farrand Hall to see if this might be a possibility. Higgins also motioned to purchase the shed. Clark will move \$3,500 from savings to checking and the rest will be paid with general funds. Clark second, motion passed.
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### Old Business

- **Conflict of interest**
- **Audit** completed November 29, 2024, and report was give to the board members present. No action taken. Grace will meet with Sinclair later in December to complete the report to be given back to the auditors.
- **MiClass** tabled until further notice

### New Business

- **Vehicle Donation:** Howard Avildsen Donated his 2010 Ford Escape to the District. We gave him a taxable donation letter stating the price of the Kelly Blue book \$4,330.00 Grace will make an appointment for the transfer of title and to get new Govt license plate.
- **Vacation:** Board discussed Grace's vacation in February. If she is absent a staff member will run the meeting and take the notes and provide the notes for the following month
- **River Clean Up Grant:** Grace explained that the 2025 MiCorps grants will not be available to write, however, will return in 2026. Higgins asked Grace to check into the Sturgis foundation for a grant or other avenues.
- **District Ops money to be allocated for staff:** The board will allow Grace to move District Ops money to cover staff for Tree sale, grant writing and other duties as assigned by Grace. The amended budget will be done in January. Tree sale will be May 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at the fairgrounds.
- **Annual Meeting and Election:** Grace secured the ISD on Shimmel Rd on Wednesday March 19, 2025. The guest speaker will be Dr. Douglas McLaughlin and river views. This will be an election of 1 board member as Howard is stepping down. Grace has a couple of potential replacements.
- **MACD Dues:** Higgins made a motion to continue our support of the MACD at the top level of \$1,300.00 Clark second. Motion Carried. Grace will mail the check soon. Higgins would also like to support the Stewardship week early along with our 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Grace will reach out to schools to participate in color contest along with the stewardship week.

**PA116: Premium Poultry**  
**Jon and Michelle Watkinhood**

**Adjournment: Clark motioned to adjourn at 4:32pm Higgins second motion**  
**Passed.**

**Next board meeting February 19, 2025 at the District offices at 3:00 pm**

Board Chair

Howard Avildsen Jan. 15, 2025