Summit Hill Association  
District 16 Planning Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Linwood Recreation Center  
July 11, 2019  

Minutes  

Present  
Hayden Howland, Peter Rhodes, Peggy Reichert, Abhi Andley, Denise Aldrich, David Kratz, Susan Schultz, Sonja Mason, Bridget Allan Ales, Rachel Spiegel  
Monica Haas Executive Director  
Guests: Jason Betchkal, Mary Gearen, Holly Geck, Steve Kozachok, Hilary Parsons  

Meeting was called to order by Hayden Howland, President at 7:04 pm  

1. Additions to the Agenda  
None  

2. Approval of Past Minutes  
Abhi Andley moved, Denise Aldrich seconded approval of minutes for May 9, 2019. Motion carried unanimously  

3. Public Comment  
None  

4. New Business  
   Action Items  
   • Board elections  

   Hayden Howland reported that Bruceanne Phillips has resigned due to broadened work responsibilities and a planned move out of St. Paul. That makes 9 vacancies to be filled on the Board  
   Hayden also reported that Nancy Myer has withdrawn her candidacy at this time.  

   Hayden asked those candidates present to please introduce themselves, describe their interest in serving on the SHA Board. Each candidate spoke for a few minutes
Jason Betchkal explained his interest in giving back to the community. He said he was interested in zoning.
Steve Kozachok said he had lived in several St Paul neighborhoods and he was interested in zoning.
Mary Gearin has served on several boards, cares deeply about the historic character of the area and is interested in development and communications.
Holly Geck has owned and managed an apartment on Grand for over 25 years, thinks Summit Hill is a wonderful neighborhood and is willing to serve in any capacity needed.
Hilary Parsons lives on St Albans and is interested in land use and zoning.

Sonja Mason explained the Board policy regarding serving and voting on the zoning committee.

David Kratz asked the candidates what motivated them to apply now. Several candidates explained how development proposals over the past year or two on Grand Avenue had sparked their interest in serving.

Hayden reported that she had spoken with each candidate, those present this evening and those who could not make the meeting, with the exception of Dr. Eric Ruhling.

Current Board Members were given ballots to elect 8 new members. After the vote, Hayden announced the results and then randomly selected the seat to be filled and associated term for each new elected member. These were:

- Seat #3: Holly Geck 10/19
- Seat #8: Steve Kozachok 10/20
- Seat #9: Mary Gearen 10/20
- Seat #10: Hilary Parsons 10/20
- Seat #12: Katie Bergstrom 10/20
- Seat #13: James Njus 10/20
- Seat #17: Ann O’Callaghan 10/21
- Seat #21: Jason Betchkal 10/20

Hayden explained that an orientation session for new members would be scheduled before the next Board meeting when new members would be seated and begin serving their terms. Those whose terms expire in 2019 will be eligible to run for a full 3-year term during elections conducted at the annual meeting in October. Those candidates (E. Ruhling) not elected at this time would be eligible to serve as alternates and be considered for election should any additional vacancies occur before the annual meeting.

5. Committee reports

- Development Committee- no report. House tour will be next year and our focus will turn to that in the second half of the year. The house tour chair is a volunteer position.
- Environment committee- Susan Schultz indicated there was no new report this month but repeated that the plant sale was successful. She also highlighted the collaboration.
with Linwood school. Will be encouraging recycling. Have a grant from the city to educate residents on recycling.

- **Pedestrian Safety/Traffic Calming** - Bridget Allan Ales reported that on August 14 the grant will be considered. Two traffic studies were done regarding speeding on Victoria and pedestrian crossing at Avon and Grand. Neither resulted in any city recommended changes. The City is now focusing on pedestrian safety education.

- **Communication and outreach** - written report provided. Mark Lindley explained the work of the committee and that his family issues were now resolved so he could resume his responsibilities. He thanked Denise Aldrich for her work while he has been away. Denise reported that Jeremy Dowd will manage the next printed newsletter and he has reached out to each committee chair to develop a written contribution on their activities. The Summit will be delivered by the end of August to provide notice for the annual meeting.

- **Zoning and Land Use** - Denise reported that they held no public meeting on a sound variance. The city has asked for a clearer explanation of the Board’s position on the Iron Ranger patio license and Denise has provided a revised letter. Abhi asked to have the letter circulated to all. Sonja added that there is work going on related to a possible text amendment affecting BC properties.

- **Neighborhood Comp Plan** - David Kratz read his report and explained that that the plan would be updated in phases, but they have determined that SHA cannot afford to hire a consultant to do all of the work related to Phase 1 for Grand Avenue. Other options are being considered such as having the city take the lead to study and involve the public on any proposed rezoning. Work is currently on hold and they will be looking at the outcome of the Future is Grand surveys and recommendations.

- **Future is Grand Task Force**. Abhi Andly reported that a major take-away is that Grand avenue gives more to the City than it gets back. Businesses do not feel the city is very business friendly. Concern with regulations, taxes, parking. Abhi explained what the task force is doing to identify areas for recommendations to the city. Monica encouraged people to take a survey for residents that is on Facebook page. There will be a Town Hall meeting on July 24. Not clear if the general public or SHA is invited.

- **Bylaws** - Rachael Spiegel reported on the work of the committee. Recommends that we start from scratch at a cost of $750 which will be far less than trying to amend what we have. Our attorney Jess Birken will then send a survey to start the process of drafting a new set of bylaws. Denise asked whether the bylaws have to be printed and distributed with the newsletter. Rachel will ask the attorney. Rachel recommended; Bridget Allan Ales seconded that we hire Jess Birken to draft the bylaws. Motion passed unanimously. This item was previously approved in the budget.

6. **Treasurers report.**

No written financial statement was provided/ Abhi Andley reported that he is working to get the organization compliant on payroll issues. Once this is submitted, we will learn whether there will be any fines.

Monica reported that our bookkeeper, Christ Trost is resigning. Bethany, our accountant is an alternative provider under consideration.
7. **Executive Directors report**
Monica Haas will send the 2019 work plan to the Board for review
Monica explained the *composting* program.
Monica explained that we want to amend our bylaws for a temporary change to move the annual meeting to a week after Yom Kippur. This will be voted on at the next Board meeting.
The meeting will be held at the Synagogue on Summit.
Monica explained the Innovation Fund- City has recommended that we consider 1) encouraging residents to remove restrictive covenants from their deeds and provide information to residents about this. 2) continue and expand the book club and add speakers and also schedule presentation 3). Community engagement to learn who lives here in Summit Hill and sponsor more events. 4) Linwood school public art piece. This is for October, 2019-2020.
Monica has put out the call for a House tour chair.

8. **Presidents report**
Hayden asked all Board members to contribute to the Annual Fund Appeal

Adjourned at 8:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Reichert
Secretary