



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 March 13, 2023

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

- I.** Call to order **7:04 pm** by Karen Voracek, Board President
- II. 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.
- III. Introductions** (name and neighborhood) - [Digital Sign-In](#) for guests
 - A. Board Members Present
 1. Karen Voracek, President
 2. Bill McMahon, 2nd Vice President
 3. Ruthanne Atkinson, Secretary
 4. Anthony Molaro, Treasurer
 5. Jessica Nelson, Area 1 Coordinator
 6. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator
 7. Annie Reiersen, Area 2 Coordinator
 8. Steven Tacheny, Area 2 Coordinator
 - B. Community Members Present
 1. Matt
 2. Ann LeDuke, Moms Demand Action
 - C. Staff Members Present
 1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

IV. Community

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

V. Board Business

- A. **Treasurer's Report - 2023 Budget**
 1. Going to run with a \$5k loss this year, but anticipate making that up because of saving some money on insurance and tech this year. Potential new revenue



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coming in as well. We also have 14 months of back revenue trickling in as Julia submits for reimbursement from the city (we get about \$63k/year from the city).

Motion to accept the 2023 budget by Steven Tacheny.

Seconded by Bill McMahon.

Motion passes.

B. Secretary's Report

1. No questions or comments regarding February minutes.

Motion to accept the February Board meeting minutes by Tony Molaro.

Seconded by Annie Reiersen.

Motion passes.

C. Old Business

1. District Plant Update
 - a) Have had 2nd steering committee meeting and 1 public forum. 2 public forums were canceled due to lack of registration. Survey got 130 responses w/ great feedback. Still waiting for some data from the city, but will have a draft open for public comment by the annual meeting. Then we can send the draft out for final public comment.
2. Transportation and Land Use Committee Report
 - a) No update.
3. Community Engagement and Outreach Committee Report
 - a) T-shirt contest is open until March 31st. One submission so far!
 - b) We've had a couple info sessions for Board recruiting and have had some interest; hoping to have a competitive ballot
4. Annual Meeting Update
 - a) The theme for this year is "Looking back, moving forward: 50 years of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation." Noel Nicks, Director of Community Initiatives for St. Paul, will be speaking.
 - b) Julia will send out powerpoint for anyone presenting at the meeting. Will be assigning meeting duties for Board members soon. We need everyone to help with flyering for the event!

D. President's Report

1. Have been working on updating the Federation bylaws. We've cleaned up language around terms, clarified "appointed" vs "elected", which was ambiguous. We are proposing to combine the Community Engagement and Fundraising Committees. Adding a Governance Committee to look at policies, bylaws, and assess risks that FRF takes on. We changed meetings from 10 to 9 meetings/year plus the annual meeting. We will send out the changes, allow for comments, and it will be voted on at the annual meeting.



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2. Karen will not be running for President next year and Tony will not be running for Treasurer. It is required by law to have a Treasurer and a President.

E. Moms Demand Action

1. Moms Demand Action - gun violence prevention organization. Police have been finding unsecured guns in cars and those are getting stolen. Police say when they trace guns used in crimes, 52% have been stolen. Moms Demand Action would like to put up billboards around St. Paul, including W 7th neighborhood, north end, parts of East side, that would encourage gun owners to lock up their guns. The Office of Neighborhood Safety for the City of St. Paul is offering grants for gun violence prevention. Moms Demand Action would like FRF to be the fiscal agent for the grant, which would be \$38k each year for 2 years. FRF would get 10% to handle administration.

F. Executive Director's Report

1. We are hoping to join a group insurance policy with the other District Councils, which would reduce our costs significantly. We currently pay \$1,500 and this would cost \$350. Would take effect May 1st.
2. MNDoT will be doing street improvements down W 7th in the near future. Zan Associates will be working with us to do some community engagement around that. March 30 5:30-7:30 at Palace.
3. The Fed is getting a Right Track intern this summer; Right Track will cover the cost. Up to 20 hrs/week. The intern will be doing communications and outreach.
4. Citywide Cleanup is April 22 from 8:30-10 am - Awaken Church will be the informal host site. They're doing a pancake breakfast and will have garbage bags, recycling bags, and gloves available.
5. Two new coffeeshops in the neighborhood! Stepwise on Randolph, for now open weekends only. Wildflyer opened this past weekend on W 7th on old Fresh Grounds.
6. Transportation and Land Use Committee - Michael John from St. Paul Parks Conservancy will come to the next meeting to talk about updates to Irvine Park. They want community feedback. They are working closely w/ Historic Irvine Park Association, but want greater community feedback as well.

VI. Adjourn - 7:53

Motion to adjourn by Tony Molaro.

Second Annie Reiersen.

Motion passes.