



# 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 May 8, 2023**

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

### **I. Call to order - 7:02 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. Bill McMahon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  3. Ruthanne Atkinson, Secretary
  4. Andrew Greenlee, Treasurer
  5. Paul Hardt, Area 1 Coordinator
  6. DJ Devan, Area 1 Coordinator
  7. Ryan Bresnahan, Area 1 Coordinator
  8. Kelsey Peterson, Area 2 Coordinator
  9. Maggie Rock, Area 2 Coordinator
  10. Sara Fleetham, Area 3 Coordinator
- B. Community Members Present
  1. Jarret Oulman
  2. Jane McClure
- C. Staff Members Present
  1. Julia McColley, Executive Director

### **III. Community**

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

### **IV. Board Business**

- A. **The White Squirrel**
  1. Request for letter of support from the Board to ask City to not impose an adverse action on their business license. Owner has a record of complying with DSI requests voluntarily and is willing to work with the City.



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- a) Owner received notice of adverse action against White Squirrel's business license from DSI. They want to put a condition on the license for police to sign off on camera and exterior lighting plan due to incidents of violence in the parking lot.

Motion to approve letter of support for the City to not impose adverse action on the White Squirrel's business license by Maggie Rock

Seconded by Paul Hardt

*Motion passes*

## **B. Development at 796 Stewart Avenue**

1. GRO Development is requesting a letter of support for their planned residential development at 796 Stewart.
  - a) Propose to build two buildings with community-style living concept. 6 private rooms w/ private bathrooms that connect to community living spaces, kitchens, etc. Buildings would be net zero, use solar energy, employ native plantings, storm water management, etc.
2. Julia will reach out with the Board's suggestions regarding bike storage, landscaping, building materials used, and marketing the rooms as affordable housing.

Motion to approve a letter of support for the development plan including suggestions from the Board on bike storage, landscaping, building materials used, and affordability marketing by Paul Hardt

Seconded by Sara Fleetham

*Motion fails*

## **C. Rathskeller**

1. Rathskeller building will go to public auction Thursday, May 11 @ 10 am. Craig, the owner, will have a 12 month redemption period. He is hoping to find a way to eliminate the debt and regain ownership of the building.
2. This situation is separate from Keg & Case's financial situation.
3. The W 7<sup>th</sup>/Fort Road Federation is on a 10-year donated lease for their space in the Rathskeller. Nothing will happen to that lease during redemption period.

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

1. The Fort Road Fed is operating at approximately a \$3k loss, which is just slightly over what we had budgeted for. Working on reducing some costs.

Motion to accept the March and April financials by Sara

Seconded by Maggie

*Motion passes*

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

1. No questions/comments.

Motion to accept the March Board meeting and Annual Meeting minutes by Paul Hardt

Seconded by Sara Fleetham



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*Motion passes*

**F. Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee Update** by Tanya Fabyankse Beck

1. Tanya will resign as soon as another committee chair is determined.
2. Committee is focused on neighborhood spotlight interviews and hoping to get a couple done this month.
3. Working on getting outdoor neighbor events scheduled (hopefully 3!).

**G. Transportation & Land Use Committee Update** by Meg Duhr

1. Informal coalition led by Historic St. Paul and the Fort Road Federation met to advance an RFP for reconstruction of the Justus Ramsey house. Also met w/ Rebecca Noecker last week to bring her up to speed on where we're at and talk about what sort of City funds might be available (and what restrictions there might be), which will inform the shaping of RFP. Rebecca connected us with Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff at the City.
2. Working with Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association on weed control and native plantings on Little Bohemia trail.
3. Will be getting regular updates from MNDOT on what's happening with West 7<sup>th</sup> construction. Dedicated bus rapid transit lane being discussed instead of streetcar.

**H. Committee Chair/Co-Chair Nominations**

1. Both Meg and Tanya are resigning as chairs of their respective committees. Looking for other Board members to step in.

**I. President's Report** by Meg Duhr

1. Public Safety meeting w/ Chief Axel Henry coming up in June.

**J. Executive Director's Report** by Julia McColley

1. Looking for candidates for the vacant Area 3 Coordinator seat – can be either renter or homeowner. Term would run until April 2024.
2. Annie Reiersen is resigning. Her last meeting will be June. An Area 2 Coordinator spot will therefore be opening up.
3. FRF is fully caught up with City funding for 2022. Still waiting on one payment from December 2021. Contracts for funding are being finalized for 2023. We can start filing for reimbursements as soon as those are finalized.
4. Bremer didn't want us to join with other District Councils for group general liability insurance because we already have our own policy w/ them. Working through this. We would still have our own DNO (Director and Officers) policy.
5. The Right Track Intern starts June 20. We're in the matching process right now.
6. Mayor's budget conversations are scheduled for multiple locations across different wards. Attendees are asked to bring a smart device to do simulations. Julia will send out the dates and locations.
7. 1324 West 7<sup>th</sup> St is being demolished and will be a restaurant/bar with a dog-friendly patio. Neighbors are concerned about noise. Developer is CalCon, who developed Keg & Case. Owner is the owner of Chips Club House, Hot Hands, and Himalaya. Chef lives in neighborhood. Menu concept TBD.



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8. Meeting with Shawn Kershaw regarding noise complaints on Shepherd. There is potential to allocate some tax levy dollars for noise reduction measures on Shepherd.
9. Blood drive June 6<sup>th</sup> 10-4 pm. 32 total appointments available.
10. Jimmy Shumaker will present on bicycle plan at next Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting.

## **V. Adjourn - 8:56 pm**

Motion to adjourn by Sara Fleetham  
Seconded by Maggie Rock  
*Motion passes*