



Highland District Council  
1978 Ford Parkway Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116  
651-695-4005 Fax 651-695-4019  
Email: info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org

***Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood***

**Community Engagement Committee  
March 27th, 2018 6:45 PM  
Highland Park Community Center**

**Roll Call:**

-Committee Members:, Amanda Willis , Michael Lindsey, Emily Hansen, Sally Bauer, Laura Merriam ,Colleen Zuro-White, Bob Whitehead, Ashley Newby, Brandon Long

-Absent:

-Visitor: Kent Petersen, Chris Aherts

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Approved

**Neighborhood House**

-125-year anniversary in 2018

-8 locations

-Family center and food market between two apartments at Sibley Manor and Homecroft School

-Wellstone center is every day during the school year and Homecroft is 3 days a week

-6% from United Way, 30% comes from government funding, government grants for work with juvenile justice, 30% comes from corporate and independent foundations and the remainder is individuals

-Volunteers – 1,700, regular volunteers in Homecroft, volunteers in their food market, can't take too many since space isn't very large

-Always need help with fresh produce distribution in the summer

-10K pounds of fresh produce is delivered twice a week

-End of May to October

-No paperwork to get food – you just show up

-Loss of Coopers was on everyone's mind at the time, still is

-Starting to put pieces in place for a campaign (fundraising? Building?)

-Lost a decent amount of money from United Way recently

-Not sure if they want to own a building or keep renting

-Helping develop work goals, helping youth achieve their potential

Chair – Sally Bauer

Vice Chair – Michael Lindsay

Secretary – Brandon Long

Committee Members: Bob Whitehead, Colleen Zuro-White, Amanda Willis

Community Members: Emily Hansen, Laura Merriam, Ashley Newby



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### ***Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood***

- Could help introduce us to some folks – could help with some translations, maybe we could go help with food distribution at Sibley Manor as a committee, need about 30 people each time – on week days, can send schedule for this
  - Farwoine is the staff person for Sibley Manor, she can help translate
- Has a refugee resettlement programing – currently at risk with this current administration
- Songxiong runs the food program
- Residents are spending 70-80% on housing, food becomes discretionary

### **Innovation Fund**

- Joe Mandika, Community Engagement Coordinator – nonpolitical staff in the council research office
  - Consulting with city staff on public involvement
  - Liaison with the district councils in the city
- Fourth year (Innovation Fund)
  - Idea was to create fund for DC's could make decisions collaboratively involving multiple DC's
  - 2018 dividing those funds (\$6K) for each DC to make decisions on how they can improve equitable engagement
    - Targeting racial equity
      - Composition of staff and volunteers participating in organizing activities
      - Engagement activities that are targeted specifically towards marginalized communities
      - Making changes and pushing policies that help address issues in those communities
  - Any unused dollars would stay put and will be talking about roll over
  - DC's will submit a work plan, each DC would need to articulate what outcomes they are working for, what kind of activities they would hold – not totally an application
  - Saint Anthony Park (SAP) and Frogtown have taken this on more directly
    - SAP started an equity committee, food justice – starting to do more work in south SAP
    - Frogtown moving from Robert Rules of Order, letting communities guide agenda, low power FM radio station, helping to organize a new food shelf
  - Union Park DC may be good to connect with because they may have similar demographics and situations
  - No deadline yet
  - Three-year commitment as of now from the city

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-Joe is there to connect DC's to the appropriate resources

**Sub-committee report outs**

- National Night Out notes will be sent out
- Will meet in April to refocus our plans for engagement
- New Resident Welcome about 50 people, much more diverse, Patty Lammers with the police engagement task force, ticketing system worked well for drinks, \$450 covered the whole tab (\$500 was the budget), \$300 came in through sponsorships from Highland Eye Care and Moeller's Jewelry
- 25-30 emails captured

**Old/New Business**

- The CEC has added an April meeting (April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm) to refocus the committee before the HDC annual meeting elections

**Adjourn:** 8:15am

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