**UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 7:00-9:00pm**

Minutes taken by Allen Saunders, Board Secretary

Members Present: Allen Saunders, Leah Timberlake-Sullivan, Sarah Dvorak, Yvonne Hundshamer, April King, Lisa Nelson, Deanna Seppanen, Sara Swisher, Kathy Duffy, Scott Berger, Mark Morrow, Jerome Benner, Jane McClure, Dean Cummings, Abby Heil, Tim Rowell, Kent T, Kirsten Fryer, Rachel Callanan, Claire Warren, Reece Johnson

**7:00 pm Call to Order and Welcome** Sarah Dvorak

Meeting was called to order at 7:04

**7:05 pm Consent Agenda**

April moved to approve January minutes and meeting agenda and seconded by Lisa. Motion passedSarah Dvorak

**7:10 pm Open Forum**

Scott Berger-Holiday station on University closed. Leah spoke with owners; They suffered a hit financially with law on menthol cigarettes; theft and crime, spitting on staff, & lack of law enforcement were the reasons for closing. They are willing to talk with the committee but feel abandoned at this location. Scott-said that boarded up windows and another vacant property is just another problem for this area & not a good look.

UPDC possible responses may be to talk with law enforcement, and reach out to other area businesses to see if they have similar problems.

Sarah Dvorak

**7:20 pm Committee reports and updates**

* Land Use & Economic Development (CLUED) Dean Cummings
  + *Action Item*
    - Sound Ordinance Recommendation
      * CLUED voted with unanimous recommendation for residential properties to eliminate the use of the permit process

Mark Morrow said that there is a new permit process. If you have an event that is louder than the permit would allow, then one needed to apply for a permit, submit application, and then wait for approval. The same procedure is in place for residential, non-residential, and Parks & Rec. Last summer there was an event that was very loud so that complaints were voiced to Leah and to Ward 4. It was a student event and so they did their part but the noise exceeded what they had indicated.

-Mark requests that the permit process be removed for residential properties. The current process takes away any type of advance notice and any input prior to the event. Requesting that process for residential properties go back to the way it was in 2023.

-Dean made the motion that the permit process for sound ordinance be removed for residential properties and that the process returns to be the same as 2023 & before-seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

* + *Action Item*
    - 427 Herschel Lot Split
      * CLUED Letter of Support with unanimous approval from Committee

Dean Cummings brought up an action item for the property on 427 Herchel. Owner wants to tear down existing garage and build 4 one-bedroom units. He wants to build the units on Parcel B along Schields /ave.; Lisa thinks it is a great idea as well as others feel the same way. The owner has been very responsible. Dean made motion to agree to the Lot split and Reece seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

* Transportation Lisa Nelson
  + *Action Item*
    - Community letter to restore I-94 at-grade options

Lisa Nelson stated that we had a speaker to discuss the Pelham Boulevard reconstruction in January. The Transportation Committee drafted a letter urging that the “at-grade level” options be reinstated. MnDot should not eliminate the grade level options.

Lisa moved that we sign on to the letter as written-seconded by Scott. Motion passed with one nay.

* + Rondo Streets Improvement Study

Lisa states that Union Park is asked to join a group of Rondo residents to help design neighborhood streets in the Rondo area. Hopefully, we could have member represent the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. All agreed that this is a good idea and that UPDC should join in this effort.

Sarah Swisher has neighbors who want to know whether UPDC could weigh in on Cretin Avenue for when the street would be redesigned. She voiced concerns regarding 4 lanes and the excessive speed. April said that the number of lanes can’t be reduced, but that the city has reduced the speed limit to 25mph with more patrols. Sarah S. wants to know where to voice concerns. April said to come to a Transportation Committee Meeting.

* Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee (NSVC) Yvonne Hundshamer

NSVC did not have a December meeting but continued to focus on the work plan for the coming year at the January meeting. They plan to continue work on the plan at the February meeting. Work plans are due in March.

* WSNAC Jerome

Jerome-February will have a meeting this coming Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30. They will have quarterly meetings in the future.

* Snelling/University Task Force Kirsten Fryer

Kirsten-had a great meeting with the Hamline-Midway Coalition & Economic Development Solutions; moving towards a grant process in the near future.

**8:30 pm Staff Report** Leah Timberlake Sullivan

Leah-dropped a poster in the chat; a “Community Conversation on United Village’s Future Development meeting will be Feb. 20 at 6:00pm. She asked for us to attend.

Sarah Swisher-planning a get -together for sledding event at Merriam Park on March 1st. This will be an event with food and fun. A flyer was dropped in the chat. If no snow, then will try to have an event to bring neighbors together for a future event. Let Leah know if you can come/help with the event.

Abby Heil is now on staff for 10 hours per week for digital storytelling. These stories will be presented in the UPDC newsletter.

She is conducting a set of interviews for these stories. Stay tuned!

New Board orientation is being organized and will be announced in the near future.

**9:00 pm Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm. Kirsten moved to adjourn, and Sarah seconded the motion. All approved.**