

Hamline University Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Monday, July 16, 2018
Hamline University -- East 106 (same room as previous couple of meetings)
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Minutes (Draft)

Attendees: Steve Samuelson (Hamline Midway Coalition - HMC); Roy Neal (Historic Hamline Village - HMV); Christine Weeks (Hamline University - HU); Jessica Kopp (Hamline Elementary - HE); Al Ickler (Hamline United Methodist Church - HUMC); Dan Loritz (HU); Michael Jon Olson (HMC); Karen Chaput (HUNAC Neighborhood Rep.); Mike Reynolds (HU)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:40
2. Introductions
3. [June 2018 minutes approved](#)
4. Announcements:
 - a. Maryan Hersi, Hamline University student representative, will likely not attend meetings until September
 - b. Dan Loritz will no longer be attending the meetings. Communication with Hamline's Office of the President will be maintained by Mike R. and Christine.
 - c. Group would like clear communication between community and Hamline, especially around the strategic plan. What is the status of that plan?
5. Debrief on Historic Survey
 - a. 1549 Minnehaha is still an outstanding issue that needs to be reconciled.
 - b. Neighbors would like guidance on Hamline University's policy for engaging with properties off campus.
 - c. Windshield scan is a first step to start conversation around "Historic Hamline Midway" but, it lacks details
 - d. Group discussed approaches to next steps
 - i. Deep dive on areas vs. deep dive on themes, such as transportation or religion
 - ii. Is it worth exploring gentrification vs. preservation vs. density?
 - iii. What does the neighborhood need?
 1. Clarification around what historic designation means for homeowners?
 2. Compendium of resources for homeowners?
 3. Events to bring people together (like Frogtown dinners?)
 - e. What can Hamline University do to help HUNAC?
 - i. Research around history
 - ii. Help with grants
 - iii. Build and maintain neighborhood archives
 - f. **Action Item:** Suggestion that everyone return to the next meeting with HUNAC goals for discussion.

- i. Short term goals - likes/dislikes
- ii. Long term goals
- iii. Suggestions for an event

6. Membership update

- a. Who is missing? Maybe business community, but they're pressed for time.
- b. Membership application seems overly formal.
- c. Rich Trout is interested in becoming a member.
- d. **Action Item:** Mike R. will look at the charter and see what can be done to improve access to membership.

7. General Updates

- a. House at Pascal and Minnehaha may be coming up for sale as the owner is frustrated by the city inspectors.
- b. Local Economic Alliance (Facebook page; Meeting with Ward 4 Council candidates August 7;)
- c. HMC new Executive Director is Kate Mudge, Michael Jon will stay on through October to help with transition
- d. There was a meeting about the crossing at Englewood and Snelling. It's tricky because it is a state highway. Current City Councilperson, Samantha Henningson, wants to address it before she leaves office. Next steps will be a traffic survey, using cameras by the city. Then taking that and a previously completed (but not fully implemented) street proposal to MN DOT. Group discussed other traffic calming options, such as plantings, and signage indicating a different corridor.
- e. Reviewed outcome from North Snelling economic development meeting. HMC will be focusing on 5 vacant properties to identify barriers to redevelopment. (Full notes below)

8. Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Mid-June HMC meeting to discuss a common, core objective for the neighborhood: how to spark meaningful development in the North Snelling corridor. The conversation was led by the Development Committee (Renee Spillum and Amy Schroeder Ireland representing); members of the Board (Amy again; Dan Loritz; Mike Reynolds), our intrepid ED (Michael Jon), and Council member Samantha Henningson and legislative aide Libby Kantner also attended.

The meeting had many functions and a couple of key outcomes. We came in with tools for exploring the status of various properties along Snelling Avenue, and with some preliminary exploration by respective attendees (who had gathered information about some properties). We discussed some possible approaches/foci for the Coalition, in collaboration with our Council representatives. We decided to attempt to zero in on some specific vacancies, and develop a deeper understanding of the status of the buildings, of owner plans (or lack thereof), of opportunities and challenges for business ownership at the site.

We were also interested in building a toolkit for outreach — consistent messaging that we could use across the Coalition and with other partners as we try to recruit and sustain businesses; specific resources (and some training to use such tools) for community action about economic development.

The group discussed—and then dug into public information about—various sites, and emerged with homework assignments to keep exploring 5 specific properties as they offer the most potential for community action. The group will come back together in another meeting, probably in early September — meanwhile action will continue around the homework as well as in Development Committee and in other forums.