

**Northside Hester Park Steering Committee**  
**September 12, 2013, 6:30PM**  
**Cathedral High School Conference Room**

Members Present: Pam Haugen, Joan Rydberg, John Augustin, Elsa Leven, Ellen[Susie]Lies, David Mohs, Brandon Pauman, Seal Dwyer, Janet Reigstad, Steve Lanz, Guests: Tracy Hodel, Debbie Gruszka, Steve Foss, Scott Zlotnik, David Laliberte.

1] City and Park Representatives: Tracy Hodel, Steve Foss and Scott Zlotnik presented updates in the 5th Avenue lift station project and the Beaver Island Trail. The lift station project has a possible 2014 completion date with three stations involved. The Beaver Island Trail project will if possible coincide with the lift station project due to the replacement of 5th Avenue road which will need to be done with the lift station project. Planning is ongoing with the two projects and a 2015 completion date is set for the Beaver Island Trail. For further information on the plans anyone can check out the Urban Corridor Study at City Hall. Our input was asked for and we were also encouraged to forward any other suggestions or ideas we may have or receive from our neighbors. We want to thank the representatives for their updates and asking for our input on the projects.

2] Fence in the park: David Laliberte addressed his concerns over the fencing along 5th Avenue from the water treatment plant to the sledding hill. Tracy Hodel- water treatment plant representative said it was placed there because people had been driving over the area where the clear wells are and if it continued it would damage the clear wells. She also said that the fence was temporary until they could come up with something more pleasing. She asked for our suggestions and if there was someone who would be willing to volunteer to help on this with their planning committee. Seal Dwyer offered to do this. David Laliberte's concern was a visual access to the river across 5th Ave. There is an opening in the existing fence leading to the path between the PWA wall but needs to be more evident and inviting to the public. David also stated the access to the river at this point was also used for other endeavors such as a launching place for kayakers. David also brought up the fact that the 5th Avenue has several curves coming down from the north end of the road and makes it difficult for pedestrians, bikers and motorists to see each other. He also noted that there is not a side walk in that area, and asked if there was some way to put one there. He also asked if it was possible to put a marked walk way across 5th Avenue between the park and the river.

3] Debbie Gruszka from The Health And Inspections Department gave us information on what the housing inspector does. They do inspections of homes, apartments, and rentals, plus handle nuisance complaints that are called to them. Anyone can call with concerns or complaints- give the address of the problem and an inspector will check into it. Debbie left a list of the different agencies to call that handle specific complaints. Steve will make copies and give them to the committee members.

4] Coalition Report: Janet stated their last meeting consisted of looking over their policies and procedures of the committee. The committee is also waiting to hear from the Initiative Foundation on the new funding applications.

5] Treasurers Report: Pam said payments were out for the neighborhood proud awards for last month. NO other changes.

6] Park Report: Joan noted that there were two new benches by the tennis courts and a waste basket. It was also noted that there were two additional waste containers by the bike rack. She stated that the restoration on the bridges will continue. She also contacted Mike Williams about the removal of the dead bush at the top of the stairway leading to the north gardens.

7] Neighborhood Proud Program: Five of the nominations were chosen. 555 5th Ave N residence of Faye Haws, John will present the award. 814 4th St N residence of Baron and Julie Majette, David will deliver the award. 629 8th Ave N residence of Gerald and Ellen Geurkink, Elsa will give the award. 1317 8th Ave N residence of David and Connie Eull, Janet will deliver the award, and 1438 8th Ave N residence of Pat Bliss, Joan will present the award. It was decided that we would continue with the awards as long as we could get the signs in the ground.

8] Neighborhood Zoning: David gave an update on the zoning survey and the meeting with Matt Glaseman. Matt pointed out that we had several options to approaching the rezoning issue. One would be a neighborhood initiated application costing \$675. Another one would be, go back to the planning commission to come up with a proposal. Some reasons to give for rezoning on the petition and to the commission would be preservation and restoration of the integrity of the neighborhood. Preservation of our historic homes. Less traffic and parking issues. David offered to draft the petition. The survey that was done included 98 parcels of land.

9] Home Tour: To be addressed at the next meeting.

10] Newsletter: A deadline of October 1 has been set to submit articles to Janet to review before they are sent to Julie. Direct mailing will be tried again with the back up of hand delivery if mailing is not feasible. Janet will check with Brandon on the direct mailing. Articles to be included are on the fiber optic cables along 6th Avenue and on the lift station project by David, the 4th of July fundraiser and the Neighborhood Proud Program by Steve, HRA funding by Janet. There will also be articles on the zoning survey and a heads up for the annual Christmas decorating contest. We will also include the contact list of the committee members and a welcome to at anyone wishing to join the Hester Park Steering Committee.

11] We would like to thank the city representatives for their presence and the information given and for taking our concerns and suggestions on the continuing projects affecting our north side community.

Next meeting Thursday October 3, 2013 at Cathedral High School's Conference Room. Everyone is welcome.