

**BUILDING, LAND USE & HOUSING
DRAFT--Minutes – June 15, 2017**

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. by Jerry Dustrud

Members Present: Elizabeth Beissel, Jerry Dustrud, Lu Gruchella, Sue Jagodzinski, Brian Nasi, Nancy Nasi, Bert Winkel.

Others Present: Dan Collison & Todd Bratulich-First Covenant Church; Benjamin Kelly, Good Arts Collective; Bill Walsh, HCMC-Upstream Health; David Jeffries & Gail Dorfman & Michael Huffman, St. Stephen;s Human Services; Lynn Regnier, Becca Thomas EPNI.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The May meeting minutes were approved as presented. M. Winkel/Beissel.

First Covenant “Healing Block” Partnerships and the Future of the Shelter Program

Pastor Dan Collison provided a brief overview of the church history that began in 1887 as the Swedish Tabernacle Church. When he was hired eight years ago the church had 50 parishioners and was facing bankruptcy in just three more years. The congregation has now grown to 600 people (300 families) with an average age of 40. It has also grown into a hub of eight nonprofits. He also provided an update on the East Town Apartments, a workforce housing development that he anticipates will close this fall with a construction start date in March 2018. The completion date is projected to be in late 2019.

Pastor Todd Bratulich noted that the winter shelter program began seven years ago as a partnership with the Salvation Army. Going forward they will partner with St. Stephens continuing their call as “a congregation to guard the dignity and humanity of people.” They believe that they can work with their partners to help drive people into permanent housing.

Gail Dorfman, Executive Director, St. Stephens Human Service noted that while a decision to segue to a year-around shelter has not been made they prefer that model. She noted that St. Stephens, which began in 1981, shares the values of 1st Covenant Church in providing a dignified place for people and a conduit to the services they need.

Dr. William Walsh, HCMC Upstream Health Innovations, believes that housing is essential. Homelessness decreases life expectancy by 50%. It is a goal to be able to provide stable housing for all chronically ill homeless people.

Todd noted that Metro Kids is an early childhood center in the church caring for children starting at six months of age. While it is a faith based curriculum it is open to all.

Benjamin Walsh runs the Good Arts Collective in the church building. It is a member driven collective and members pay a small monthly fee and share their time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Progress Report: Monday, June 26th 5-6:30 pm,
HCMC, Kraus-Anderson, Finnigans light snacks & program, Recreation Center

Finance & Executive Committees: Monday, June 27, 5:15 p.m. EPNI office

Livability Task Force: JULY 3rd CANCELLED!
(Next Meeting: Monday, August 7, 4-5 p.m. Jaur Café, 609 S. 10th Street)

EPNI Board meeting: Monday, July 10, 6-7:30 p.m. STLF Office

X-GAMES – July 14-16: US Bank Stadium/Plaza/Commons (July 13-MoA)

Loring Park Family Fun Night: Wednesday, July 19, 5-7:30 pm, Loring Park

BLUH Committee: Thursday, July 20, 6-7:30 p.m., Recreation Center

Minneapolis Pops Orchestra & Ice Cream Social: Tuesday, July 25, 6-8 pm in park

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Regnier: August 15, 2017.