



ISSAQAH HIGHLANDS

**HIGHLANDS
COUNCIL**

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 5 p.m., Blakely Hall

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kashif Zahoor, President
Lisa Soboslai, Vice President
Ben Armlin, Secretary*
Phil Nored, Treasurer
Zach Hall

Alisa Taggart*
Anna Preyapongpisan, Emeritus*
**Attending virtually*

STAFF:

Michele McFarland, Controller
Lindsey Pinkston, Executive Director
Maddie Coats, Communications Manager

GUESTS:

Jeremy Fallt, HFN General Manager
Aroob Abdelhamed, Black Nugget Park Resident
Chelsea Musick, Central Park Resident
Brian Smith, West Highlands Park Resident
Lynda Tammone, Vista Park Resident

Call to Order – Kashif / Time: 5:07 p.m.

Introduce Guests - Lindsey

Public Comment

Maximum five minutes per person. Board members may ask clarifying questions but will not respond to comments during the meeting.

- Brian Smith –Shared that after the storm, Brian has been walking around Westridge community and picking up trash. People in South end of community are appreciative and want to see more opportunities to volunteer with cleaning up neighborhoods.

Consent Agenda – Kashif

- Minutes –12/3/2024
Motion: "to approve the consent agenda as presented."
Motion: Zach Hall
Second: Lisa Soboslai
Result: Passes unanimously

Committee Reports

- Communications Committee – Chelsea/Maddie – First magazine is out! Lots of positive praise from community. E-news open rate boosted with recommended change to subject line.
- Equity Committee – Alisa/Lindsey – Focusing on community survey and getting it out to wider range of people. Taking on initiatives such as engaging with YWCA.
- Safety Committee – Zach/Lindsey – Worked on Emergency Operations Plan for Blakely Hall and Highlands Council. Focused on emergency scenarios and specific needs in Issaquah Highlands. Getting ready to launch Resilience Hub Task Force.
- Finance Committee – Phil/Michele – Financial position is sound. We are slightly ahead of budget due to expenses coming in slightly lower than budgeted, to date.

No updates:

- *Program Committee – Ben/Lindsey*
- *Board Development Committee – Lisa*
- *ED Review/Compensation Committee - Lisa*

Stakeholder Updates

- Multi-family – Phil
- Multi-family – Anna – Happy to help Equity Committee connect with residents from YWCA.
- City Council – Zach – Council approving arts funding tonight. If approved, Highlands Council will get funding for GGG, Blakely Hall Gallery, Nowruz. Tonight is the first step in filling the vacant seat in city council. About 12 people applied - position will be appointed next week (2-3 Issaquah Highlands residents applied).
- Grand Ridge Plaza – Alisa – Good Lazy Donuts opening soon. Juneteenth/World Cup event on June 21 at 4 p.m.
- Residential/Other?

Partner Organization Updates

- HFN – Jeremy – Shared final figures for 2024. Expenses higher due to purchase of van, which is very helpful to team, who are able to bring more equipment and gear to residents. Capital spend projected to be high next few years. Plan breakdown and number of customers remains static. Completed a few site walks with Shelter Holdings ahead of construction.
- IHCA – Focused on snow this week. Residents are frustrated about air conditioning rules, which come from the state.

Management Report - Lindsey

- Grants – Covered arts funding earlier.
- Garden Update – Renewals every January. Assigning new plots now. Plan to lock all gardens this year.
- Other Key Updates – Great lineup of events coming up!
- Questions/Comments/Feedback

New Business - Lindsey

- Employee Handbook updates – Modernized handbook, changes to benefits for vacation time, etc.

Open Business - Lindsey

- Blakely Hall resiliency
 - Resilience Hub Task Force – First meeting next Wednesday, Feb. 12.
- Generator Update – Jeremy working to see if Highlands Council can utilize HFN's natural gas generator for emergency power. Working with electricians now.
- Potential board members to represent multi-family and commercial stakeholders – Still short stakeholders on BOT, Phil drops off soon.
- Blakely Hall rental noise update – Lindsey met with local residents, worked on plan going forward.
- *Branding MOU/Rebranding (No update – still working on trademarks)*

Adjourn to: Executive Session (w/Executive Director) – 5:55 p.m. Kashif

Return to Meeting & Adjourn – Kashif / Time: 6:08 p.m.