

## **DEPOT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 10, 2023**

Location: Commissioner Conference Room in Duluth Courthouse

Present: Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Harala, Commissioner Grimm, Chris Pinkert, Mary Tennis, Jerry Hall, BreAnn Graber, Brian Fritsinger, Brooke Wetmore (support)

Convened: The meeting was convened at approximately 12:10PM

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### **RFP/Lease Update**

Draft leases are prepared for most organizations. LSRM negotiations are ongoing. Follow up information will be provided to LSRM Board members & Executive Director regarding the County's process. Mutual understanding on the expectations on tenants will be emphasized through the Tenant Handbook.

### **2024 SLCHS Funding**

SLCHS negotiations are on pause until budget decisions are made. Commissioners have requested that the Interim ED and the recently hired ED attend the November 14<sup>th</sup> Depot Operations Committee meeting.

Administration proposes continued funding with expectations that the organization should be finding additional funding support in future years, lessening St. Louis County's share of the organization's funding.

Commissioners have set the expectations that the organization should begin fundraising, follow through with storage needs, abide by the Depot's Vision and DEI goals, work proactively with Depot Director & Staff, and SLCHS staff (ED, curator) should spend more time with/support the affiliates. Another consideration could be a division and new board for Veterans Memorial Hall.

Harala will bring up the conversation at next week's Board Meeting regarding how St. Louis County engages in SLCHS in the future. Currently we have empty voting seats on the SLCHS Board and conversations are happening during Depot Operations Committee meeting. However, there are concerns of creating conflicts of interest and unintended North/South divides.

### **Legislative Visit Recap**

Ongoing dialogue will need to continue with legislators. BreAnn Graber has generated a report with details regarding why the bonding request has increased and outlines SLC's investments in the Depot. Commissioner Grimm requests a table summary of SLC's investments into the Depot and project work ups (with recognition that plans are currently flexible with NLX in mind). Commissioner Harala has agreed to connect with Senator Hauschild who was unable to attend the tour.

### **Tourism Tax Update**

The Depot received \$240,000 in Tourism Tax.

### **Roundtable**

- 6,500 people attended the Bienvenue Coffee Festival
- Mary Tennis will be a celebrity guest on this week's Minnesota Ballet Celebrity Dance Challenge

**Adjourned:** 1:00PM

*Minutes prepared by: Brooke Wetmore, Administrative Specialist*