

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Special Legislative Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager  
Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services/Town Clerk  
Ryan Chelton, Director of Development Services  
Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services  
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services  
Nouman Haider, Special Projects Coordinator  
Brian Slattery, Police Department Lieutenant

**Absent**

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Special Legislative Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 27, 2023, Special Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

Resident Donna Holland requested that discussion regarding Parkdale High School and the impact students were having on the Madison Hill community be added as New Business.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Legislative Action Items**

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-04 regarding Election Judges

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-04 regarding Election Judges. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

### Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

### *Discussion:*

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the resolution.

2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-06 regarding Legacy Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee Nominations

CM Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-06 regarding Legacy Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee Nominations. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

### Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

### *Discussion:*

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the resolution.

3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-07 regarding Reappointment of Alternate Member of Ethics Commission

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-07 regarding Reappointment of Alternate Member of Ethics Commission. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

### Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Absent

*Discussion:*

Director Barnes provided an overview of the requested action.

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-08 regarding Board of Election Appeals

CM Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-08 regarding the Board of Election Appeals. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the resolution.

CM Lingua noted that a Ward 3 resident was interested in serving and would make staff aware of their ability to serve after confirming with their employer.

5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-09 regarding suspension of competitive bid requirements for 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lighting project

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-09 regarding suspension of competitive bid requirements for 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lighting project. The motion was seconded CM Smith. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Director Lewis provided an overview of Resolution 2023-R-09 and the reasons for the request.

CM Lingua asked if the project would be completed in time and Director Lewis replied that a contract needed to be in place by the end of March and if there were no supply issues, the project should be completed in time. CM Lingua stated that the Town should act on the best option available.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had heard that there were difficulties finding contractors for projects. Mr. Inyang asked if the situation was unique to the project or if it was an overall issue. Director Lewis stated that there had been difficulty finding contractors for the streetlight projects, but the Town had been successful in finding contractors for other projects.

## **New Business**

### Concerns related to Parkdale High School students

Donna Holland, resident of the Madison Hill community, discussed the ongoing issues related to students from Parkdale High School trespassing on private property. Ms. Holland outlined the concerns related to private property, liability, and personal safety. Ms. Holland noted that the principal of Parkdale High School had limited authority and there was very little that could be done to deter students from crossing onto private property. Ms. Holland asked if the Town could put a safeguard in place such as a fence.

Mayor Thompson discussed the challenges related to private property and the request for installation of a fence.

Lt. Slattery reported that the police department was aware of the issues and Chief Guixens had been working with the school administration. Lt. Slattery discussed the challenges related to the issue of students trespassing. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would also follow up Deputy Chief Turner to get more information.

CM Smith asked for more information about the police presence at dismissal time and Lt. Slattery provided additional details.

Michelle Fobbs, resident of Madison Hill, discussed her concerns related to Parkdale students hanging out at the community's tot lot. Ms. Fobbs noted that the students ignored the cameras that were installed. Ms. Holland discussed her concerns with routine trespassing.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had heard that the school system was not addressing truancy issues. CM Lingua discussed his concerns related to truancy.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the need to find balance as it related to the concerns of the residents and the police department's interactions with the students. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would include information on parking enforcement in his next report.

Ms. Holland reiterated her concerns related to the parents picking up their children and the influx of students trespassing.

CM Smith asked if the tot lot was maintained by M-NCPPC and Mayor Thompson replied in the affirmative.

CM Lingua reiterated the need to find balance and asked how many parking citations had been issued. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would compile the numbers and report back to the Council.

Mayor Thompson asked for more information about the options available to address trespassing. Lt. Slattery discussed the challenges with addressing trespassing with juveniles. CM Lingua asked if the parents were notified of the issue and Lt. Slattery stated that the school resource officer reported that the parents were notified.

Ms. Holland stated that the removal of the tot lot had been discussed at a recent HOA meeting. Mayor Thompson stated that the HOA would have to work with M-NCPPC.

Tanya Hedgepeth of M-NCPPC stated that it was highly unlikely that the tot lot would be removed but she was willing to work with the residents of Madison Hill to find a solution.

Town Manager Lestitian recommended inviting the school leadership to a future meeting for a more complete conversation.

Mayor Thompson stated that he would talk with the Town Manager about the issue during their weekly meeting.

Email from CM Faulx regarding a Letter of Support for Riverdale House Museum

CM Smith made a motion to send a letter of support based on the letter provided by CM Faulx. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

**Unfinished Business**

CM Lingua asked if issues related to Parkdale High School students could be added to next week's agenda under Unfinished Business. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would reach out to the principal and school resource officer.

**Adjournment**

CM Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Absent  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

