

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, July 10, 2018

LHiNC Board Members Present: Steve Birch (Chair), Chad Christensen, Leah Fish, Tom Harlan, Jim Miller, Patricia Miller, Lauren Linderman, Walt Pitt, Wendy Ponte (Secretary), Jeff Stites, Glenn Swenson

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Ed Bell, , Laura Ginsburg, Jana Griffin, Mark Nolan (Vice Chair)

Coordinator: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The July Agenda and the June meeting minutes were approved.

Park Update

Scott Erazmus provided the park update.

- Movies in the Park will be held on August 1, after sunset . The movie is the original Ghostbusters (1984)
- The Corn Feed will be held on Thursday, August 9. Food trucks will be there - Fro Yo Soul and Brava. There will also be games, inflatables and live music provided by the Linden Hills House of Music. Scott requested \$300 from LHiNC to pay for the entertainment.
- Fall program and sports registration starts tomorrow at 12pm.
- MPRB Superintendent search has begun. People can share thoughts online about what they want from a new superintendent.
- Steve Birch made a motion to provide \$300 to support corn feed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

LHBA Update

Wendy Ponte attended the last meeting of the LHBA and provided the update.

- Wine and Stroll was a really successful event for the LHBA. All businesses did well. Next year, they'd like to have House of Music provide music.
- Streetviews Committee will present a proposal to LHiNC in August. They would like to request NRP funds to do fencing around gardens downtown and neighborhood- branded street signs.
- Wild Rumpus and New Gild are requesting bike racks.
- LHBA will like to have a little blurb in each newsletter.
- Walt Pitt asked whether LHBA could pay for the column. Wendy said that the policy has been not to have advertising in The Line.

CAC Listening Session – Becky Allen

- Jana Griffin is planning a listening session at Linden Hills Park on August 1 from 7-9 pm, just prior to the Movies in the Park. She wants to gather community input on what people would like for

neighborhood parks and then share with the SW Area Master Plan CAC. She plans to offer ice cream to people who participate.

- Steve Birch made a motion to spend \$150 on ice cream and flyers; the motion is seconded and unanimously approved.

Pocket Park Update – Leah Fish

- A committee has been formed to create and execute a plan for the pocket park in downtown Linden Hills. The committee consists of: Leah Fish (LHiNC), Robert Heider (volunteer, Environmental Committee), Tim Cadotte (condo resident) and Bryce Hamilton (LHBA).
- The committee's goal is to make space more inviting to the whole neighborhood
- The committee is putting together a proposal, which will first go to the Environmental Committee and then the full board for approval.
- Wendy Ponte commented that Jen Bellefleur from New Gild wants something outside her shop to draw people in; maybe could work this into the Pocket Park plan.
- Walt Pitt commented that there used to be a piano in the park; he also asked if anyone checked in with SSD. In response, Leah said she had asked Bryce and Tim about the SSD.
- The committee will present to LindenHills43 owner and LHBA soon.

Treasurers Report

Tom Harlan reviewed the financial dashboard. There is still some income coming in from festival. The significant expenditures this month were from spring grants and festival costs. Coordinator Becky Allen gave an update on insurance. LHiNC's general liability insurance is up for renewal with American Family; we are pricing other insurance agencies, but it appears American Family is the best deal at \$210. We will do more research and report back at the next meeting.

NRP Committee of the Whole

- Chair Steve Birch thanked Stacy Sorenson from NCR and all the board members who attended the committee of the whole meeting held at the end of June regarding NRP funds that are not yet contracted. Walt Pitt and Tom Harlan are still going through some details with the city.
- Regarding the potential project to help the Farmer's Market with some updates, Steve clarified that the project description sent to the board is just a starting point. Tom Harlan will be the point person on the project and will go back to the Farmers Market and work with them to develop a viable plan.
- Steve instructed those board members who were assigned NRP-funded projects to start moving on them.
- Walt Pitt said there might be a way to help the Farmers Market through the Trolley Path Park project. The group working on the Trolley Path Park is trying to get access from the path to the library. One option is to add a sidewalk alongside Settergren's parking lot; the two projects might have synchronicity. Jeff Stites said Mark at Settergren's seems open to it

LHBA Liaison

The Linden Hills Business Association has asked if LHiNC would nominate someone to be a liaison and attend LHBA meetings. Wendy Ponte, Laura Ginsburg and Jim Miller volunteered to be the liaison. Walt Pitt made a motion that the board will designate one main person and the other volunteers could be alternates. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Steve Birch appointed Wendy Ponte as the primary LHBA Liaison; Laura Ginsburg and Jim Miller will be alternates.

Committee Reports

Communications

The committee is going to hire a web designer in the next month to re-do the website; they will be asking for feedback about the website from several board members. The committee is also working on a Linden Hills Welcome Packet – updating the old booklet into a 2-page document that will be rolled up and placed inside Linden Hills water bottles. These welcome packets will be delivered to new homeowners by board members. In addition, the committee will be using allocated funds to hire a photographer to take photos of Linden Hills and LHiNC events. If board members took photos at the festival, they were asked to email them to Wendy. Walt recommended a neighborhood photographer named August, who LHiNC used for the festival.

Environment Committee

- The Pocket Park Committee is moving forward.
- Jeff Stites met with LHBA's Streetview Committee, which will present at the next board meeting.
- Jana Griffin is organizing the MPRB CAC Listening Session on August 1.
- LHiNC needs to hire someone to take care of the Trolley Path. The committee recommends using My Garden Goddess; this company has done path maintenance in the path, as well as supervised work with the Green Team and Nice Neighbors Day. The cost is \$600/month. Jeff Stites makes a motion for \$1800 (\$25/hour) for Trolley Path Maintenance. The motion is seconded and unanimously approved.
- High School seniors are doing a community garden on the Trolley Path; it will have a bench and be pollinator friendly. Landscape architect volunteer is working with them. The committee will use NRP funds – leveraging a local artist to make the bench. Waiting on proposal from artist and landscape architect; will bring details to next meeting.
- Nice Neighbors day will be Saturday, Oct 6, 9a-12p
- Update on expenditures
 - Supporting installation of bench at Robert Bird Sanctuary
 - Reallocating funds from bike racks to get bike racks at Penny's Coffee
 - Certain kind of insurance needed to build that;
 - Walt – The xmas tree lot is part of the Trolley Path Park; any cementing into, I hope would come before the board; area west of the lot is “no parking” – may be able to use that
 - Owner at Penny's talked about having a mobile bike rack; significant cost to move it

- Tom Harlan asked if there is ongoing liability with that?
- Walt Pitt asked for an update on the proposed bike maintenance bike maintenance stations; couldn't get permission from Poppy to put one downtown; we are able to install them at Linden Hills Park and Bandshell

Zoning

- Walt Pitt met with Colleen O'Dell – Park Planner and Landscape Architect, MPRB; Colleen is running the Southwest Area Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Colleen requested a letter explaining the investment (in money and work) that LHiNC and the Environmental Committee have put into the Trolley Path Park over time
 - Walt has drafted a letter, which he will share with the board via email for comment and submit for Steve Birch's signature, when it's complete
- Walt Pitt met with Stacy Sorenson – great meeting; so much info; still getting more information about expenditures made at 2010/2011

LHiNC Response to Minneapolis 2040 Plan

Chair Steve Birch thanked the Housing and Zoning Committee for compiling all the neighborhood comments and writing a response letter. The board and neighbors at the meeting, then a time to respond to the letter.

Edits proposed for the letter:

- Add a comment on allowing more time for people to comment on the plan, because not everyone has access to the city's website that outlined the plan.
- Make last sentence of the second to last paragraph its own paragraph, bolded and underlined for emphasis
- Highlight concern about the plans for Interior 3 blocks. Houses on all interior 3 blocks are in jeopardy. If bus lanes are added, there is concern that the Interior 3 designation might follow.
- LHiNC should not take a position, but could say we do support or do not support the 2040 plan in its current form
- Add to second to last paragraph: "In its current iteration, there are too many unanswered questions to give our support to this plan." Or "This is a start, but the board is not supportive of the plan in its current form.

Jim Miller said he would like the board to make a statement, whether the board supports it or does not support it. He said the board should be more specific and take an actual position.

Steve Birch said he did not favor saying a blanket no. We need to accurately reflect our neighborhood. Many of the 265 pages are good. We run into issues in the 7-8 topics that we outline in the letter. I believe that accurately reflects our neighborhood.

Walt Pitt made a friendly amendment to include the board's concern about the plans for Interior 3 blocks – how it relates to the bus lanes and concerns about it eliminating single family homes. Tom Harlan said he would draft a statement to summarize that position.

Steve Birch made a friendly amendment to change the language in the letter from mentioning 6-8 story buildings to 4 stories, because the Linden Hills neighborhood does not have any Corridor 6 zones.

Steve Birch made a motion to vote on the letter with the edits proposed for the closing paragraph with the friendly amendment to include concern about Internal 3. The motion was seconded and the board passed it unanimously.