

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting – April 3, 2018

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

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Ed Bell, Mark Nolan (Vice Chair)

Coordinator: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made to amend the agenda, adding Aaron Isaacs from Minnesota Streetcar Museum to discuss the museum's grant application. The amendment was approved. Then the April Agenda and the March meeting minutes were approved.

Aaron Isaacs – MN Streetcar Museum – Grant request

Aaron Isaacs spoke on behalf of the MN Streetcar Museum, regarding the museum's grant request for \$1000 to improve its garden on Queen St from 42nd street to the pedestrian underpass. The museum currently has a volunteer who is a master gardener to lead the project. The project is budgeted to cost \$3000.

Ward 13 Update – Linea Palmisano

Councilmember Palmisano said she would focus most of her time on the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the 40-year planning document that gets updated every 20 years. The city would like to get the council and neighborhood's feedback. Her discussion included the following points:

- The concept of the four-plex has gotten the most attention.
- She is looking at how much of Linden Hills small area plan is in the 2040 plan; it's supposed to take guidance from it.
- Corridors are another issue. For example, the upzoning of 44th street – zoned for 4-story residential buildings. Community corridors are going away; Walt Pitt asked if they will change to Commercial Corridors.
- The plan is about aggressive growth.
- She has been surprised at how little feedback they have received and that it has been balanced
- Heather Worthington – scheduled to be in our ward May 23 for a forum/input session – how can we best construct that event?
- Steve Birch asked if the city could set up a booth at Festival for people to provide input?

CM Palmisano has received feedback from people concerned about property tax valuation, which came out last week. The average increase for a single family was 9.8%. The average change last year was 9.8-10% in LH. The average change last year in ward 13 was 10.3-10.7%. Property taxes don't mean your taxes increase by this percentage. Overall, we are 1.1% higher than other areas across the city; for example, last year, my total property value raised 5-6%, my change was \$12. It means property value is

up, that's a good thing. Scarcity is driving that. As chair of the city's budget, without any changes without anything new from the mayor, we are looking at another 5.5% levy increase. She doesn't expect it to come in under that; doesn't mean the property taxes are going up with it – seems to be shared across the city

She then spoke about the 13th Ward Summit scheduled for April 18.

LHBA Update – Bonnie Bolton

- Trolley Path – wondering if there is an update about that?
 - Walt – LHBA's main concern is hammerhead to the east, where businesses are. Nothing is going to happen there primarily because it's become so complex – the division between businesses and people who own buildings. The other side, west from the hammerhead alleyway, will be part of the new CAC that is coming up (SW Area Master Plan from MPRB)
- Art Shanty – LHBA wants to be part of the working group
- LHBA Booth at the festival

Marlaine Cox – Art Shanty Projects

- Managing Director, Board Chair, former Shanty Artist
- Great to be in the city after trying to get in for a decade; worked extensively with the Park Board; LHiNC part of those conversations; learned a lot about how the project will run in and around the lake.
- Excited to do another year, where won't be learning everything new
- 40,000 people – tricky to count with 360-degree access (about 5000/day)
- Visitors good about waiting in line; artists professional; ran smoothly
- Survey – artist-designed survey; interactive engagement
 - How far did you travel: 23% within 2 miles; 53% from TC metro
 - Traffic - how did you get to the lake? 70% driving
 - Mission to figure out how to lessen that carbon footprint and lessen impact on the neighborhood
 - First weekend, had free rides from Metro transit; couldn't do other weekends b/c of super bowl; ridership was high and Metro transit interested in extending to other weekends; would be great to get the bus to drop off right at the lake
- It's been great working with LH neighborhood – very welcoming; LHBA been great; businesses have become sponsors; trying to increase individual and sponsors so not so reliant on grants; much more support than other communities
- One thing with park board – we were not able to get a ramp onto the lake; we have an access plan – services available for people with mobility issues (sled and wheelchair); part of our mission to be accessible to everybody; 10 days before, Park said would only give stairs.

Neighborhoods 2020 – Stacy Sorenson from NCR

Stacy from the Neighborhood and Community Relations presented on Neighborhoods 2020. She planned to cover the timeline, values and possible future structure of neighborhoods. The generation of this plan was a year-long process. Comment period ends April 30. Another public comment period will come in the fall. CPP runs out of funds in 2020. This plan looks at what neighborhood planning will look like in 2020.

This summer, NCR will put together some work groups around:

- Neighborhood funding
- NCR – what services do we provide; how can we better serve the neighborhoods and cultural orgs
- Advisory boards – what’s the role of the NCEC and the NRP policy board
- City’s engagement system – some departments are good at this; some are not. Try to see how city as a whole can be more consistent about how it works with neighborhoods.

What do we value:

- We value neighborhood groups – 1.9 million dollars; recognizing the value that citizens bring
- Diversity – opportunity to make sure everyone has equal access to seats at the table
- Stability for groups like yours – we want you to be able to plan into the future;

Options:

- Keep it the way things are – CPP model
- Impact Assessment model – If you want to be a big, activist neighborhood great; if you want to be a small neighborhood group, that’s great too.
- Pooled Services Model – LH continues to be independent but farm out administrative services model – bookkeeping, website, etc.

Becky attended the listening session and added that NCR wanted feedback right away about page 3 and 4 to help with their recommendation to the city council and working groups. She also said that the NCR has defined diversity as making sure the board is representative of your neighborhood.

Next public comment period – looking at where the \$ will come from; looking at the city’s general fund; early fall.

Walt – NCR – what is that part of? CPED? Report to the city coordinator; asking for a flow chart; maybe CPED could be a funding source.

2040 PLAN – Steve birch

City has published its 2040 plan online. Public comment period goes until July 22. He proposed that: everybody read the plan, the city should come to the neighborhood festival to gather input, and LHiNC promotes the May 23 public listening event with Linea. He also proposed that Zoning and Housing vote on recommendations at its July meeting and then we can submit it.

Lauren Linderman suggested getting neighborhood response, soliciting neighborhood feedback, possibly door-to-door.

Tom Harlan suggested LHiNC invite public in and let them speak their piece, host our own listening session. Have big tag boards with all the zoning stuff – have it in the park building.

Lauren suggested taking suggestions from Housing and Zoning and presenting to public then.

Laura Ginsburg suggested online surveys/Nextdoor/Facebook instead of another meeting; communicate through e-news and The Line.

Steve suggested that either city comes up with or we come up with big boards explaining 2040 for the festival. He also suggested emailing people before festival with information – within 10 days before the festival. He tasked the Communications Committee to prepare that email.

Walt Pitt suggested everyone read it and come up with one thing. Maps are really important; plan says high density around bus lines – look where bus lines are. In past, we used survey monkey – 300 responses... gave people idea of categories they might be facing

1. Gather info from ourselves
2. Gather info from community
3. Then vote on it.

Tom Harlan suggested tasking Communications Committee with narrative, timeline to present early May

Next Communications committee meeting is Monday, April 10.

Zoning committee responsible for information.

CAC Nomination – Steve Birch, Steve Goltry

The Minneapolis Park Board has asked our neighborhood to nominate a candidate to sit on a Community Advisory Council (CAC) for the SW Area Master Plan for MPRB. We will share a CAC representative with CIDNA and West Calhoun. LHiNC nominated Jana Griffin. CIDNA nominated Steve Goltry. Steve Goltry was in attendance and shared his background: serves on CIDNA Board and served on the CAC for the Theodore Wirth Master Plan.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Harlan reported that the city has reimbursed LHiNC for the CPP and NRP expenditures for 2017.

Regarding NRP, the Executive Committee met with Stacy Sorenson of NCR two weeks ago. He suggested having a special all-board meeting with Stacy to address legacy funds of about 260K, so everyone can understand what money is tied to which project. Steve Birch added the need to educate everyone on NRP, so LHiNC can execute a plan and then farm out the different parts of the plan

Spring grants decisions have been tabled till May

Festival Update – Steve Birch

- Tuesday 24th next meeting
- Linea will award grants at the festival

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.