

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, August 8, 2018

LHiNC Board Members Present: Ed Bell, Steve Birch (Chair), Leah Fish, Jana Griffin, Tom Harlan, Jim Miller, Lauren Linderman, Walt Pitt, Jeff Stites, Glenn Swenson

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Chad Christensen, Laura Ginsburg, Patricia Miller, Mark Nolan (Vice Chair), Wendy Ponte (Secretary)

Coordinator: Becky Allen

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

Southwest Foundation – Adam Barrett

Adam Barrett, Chair of the Southwest Foundation, thanked LHiNC for co-hosting the welcome event for Dr. Michael Favor, the new Southwest High School Principal. He said the foundation is interested in talking about collaborative efforts within the neighborhoods of Fulton and Linden Hills. They fundraise \$200K/year, which is allocated to grant requests from teachers and students. They've created a partnership with Rose Street Patisserie - a paid apprenticeship for a student. Working with other non-profits and private sector to find paths of opportunity for students.

LHBA Update

Streetview Committee (Barb Nei)

- Working to update and beautify Linden Hills business districts by branding and sprucing up the gardens
- Trees are too large; some gardens not well tended
- Plan to clean up and brand 30 gardens in the Linden Hills business area at 43rd and Upton/Sheridan
- Local ironworker Paul Kraft designed fences for around the gardens, which wouldn't interfere with parking but would include branding
- Contacted Sunnyside Gardens; allow gardeners to do their own work can continue, but others can be planted and maintained by Sunnyside
- Talking with the city about signage to connect both business districts
- LHBA is asking for financial help from LHiNC for this project and then see how far we can go
- Jeff Stites – We have NRP money coming up that could be allocated
- Steve Birch – If it's going to be more than \$25K, then has to go to the public.

- Ed Bell - Could these be used as bike racks? Is there risk of people tripping on it?; In response, Barb - They are all over the city in NYC; seem to be standard. But we made them open to the street.
- Jeff – Environmental Committee can meet and we can get through what we have and go from there

Art Fair - Jen Bellefleur, New Gild Jewelers

- Uptown Art Fair has grown too big; Wants to start an Upton Art Fair. There are 3 art galleries involved – Everett and Charlie, Jimmy Wilson Photography and New Gild Jewelers. It will be held on a Saturday in September, 10am to 5pm
- All businesses that want to participate can serve food/beverages, offer specials
- This is the kind of little event that makes me want to own a business and live here
- Asking LHiNC to include event in your publication, as well as funding for advertising
- Tom Harlan – Are you shutting down roads? Jen – No. We won't have food trucks or porta potties. It's a merchant-driven event.
- Steve Birch – I want to do this right now. Enews is no problem. Line will go out the day before/day of.
- Tom – We could do a grant request. CPP engagement efforts through funding.
- Glenn Swenson – I think we want to support something new coming into the community. \$1K for its first year. \$500 for jazz trio and \$500 at Jen's discretion.
- Jen – Take the neighborhood really seriously. I will distribute the \$ with great care.
- Tom – friendly amendment to raise to 1500 (half of the total)
- Lauren Linderman – where will the money come from? Don't think should come from grants
- Motion – \$1500; 500 for music, 1000 at discretion; seconded; all in favor

Beautification Plan for Businesses north of 43rd & Upton - Sarah Kinkeade, Bremer

- Met with Leah Fish about the council's plans for the pocket park. Discussed what LHiNC's Environmental Committee could fund/support and what else there is
- We love being here, and business owners really embody what Linden Hills is about and want to embrace community.
- The businesses north of 43rd and Upton have put together a proposal to help draw people's foot and bike traffic to businesses:
 - More bike racks – in front of New Gild, LH Dentistry, near free bikes
 - The bench in front of New Gild is dilapidated and no benches in front of MXE – make them similar to the pocket park benches (1500/each)
 - Like to have larger 3.5/4' tall flower pots (200/each; need 12); biz owners would be responsible for taking care of the plants on a seasonal

- Parking outside; 2 hour parking sign \$300 at first; \$100 every year after; asking LHinc to pay for \$200; Bremer will pay for 4 years then New Gild thereafter
- Phase 2 – if other businesses in our area would be interested – an additional 28 pots; additional 4 benches; tie it all together.
- Phase 1: \$5,700 (not including bike racks)
- Phase 2: \$11,600
- Steve Birch – Are the LHBA plan and this plan connected? Does this need to go to the Environmental Committee, as well?
- Leah Fish – Pocket Park Proposal is one thing; this sounds like another
- Steve – Let Environmental Committee sort it out
- Lauren Linderman – I am onboard for that, except the parking sign. I move to give them \$300 for the parking sign. Walt - I second. All in favor
- Jana Griffin – is there a way we could link the LHBA with this project?
- Sarah - We would like this in the next few months.
- Steve – Bike racks – tell me where and how many.

Communications Committee - Carol Clemens

- Bulk of time looking at the LHINC website; interviewing several people for a web re-design. Goals for the project include: easy to navigate; all necessary info; info up to date; archive the important things.
- Hiring photographer to help gather stock photos of neighborhood and LHINC events
- Working on the welcome packet
- Enews Update – There will be a new recurring article that's going to be in every E-newsletter featuring people in the community. First one in July, and it's gotten great feedback (2040 article – 75% of people clicked through); Sarah Kinkeade of Bremer is going to be the volunteer coordinator on these articles

Pocket Park Proposal - Leah Fish

- Pocket Park Committee has met and coming up with a proposal. In light of the two LHBA presentations tonight, we will get these guys together next Wednesday to discuss the projects.
- Lauren Linderman – Does it all have to be together? Could you move forward without the business district?

Ice Cream Social – Jana Griffin

- Ice Cream Social held at the park building before Movies in the Park to get feedback on how they'd like to improve our parks. Lots of people showed up; got lots of great input

- Want to reach out to people around Waveland and the Dell
- Want to reach out more to renters and complex next to France 44

Taste of Linden Hills – Becky Allen

- Date: Tuesday, Oct 2 from 7-9pm
- Location: Rose Street Patisserie
- Tickets: \$65
- Pre-event - \$125 featuring Tilia and Steven Brown; Location: Bremer; 5:45-6:45pm
- Restaurants: Clancey's, Coffee & Tea, Great Harvest, Harriet Brasserie, Martina, Naviya's Thai Brasserie, Old Southern BBQ, Rose Street Patisserie, Tilia, Wedge & Linden Hills Co-ops, Zumbro Cafe
- Sponsorships: \$3250
- Taste Committee Meeting on August 16 at 7pm at Bremer

Annual Meeting - Steve Birch

- Date of the Annual Meeting -
 - Next Meeting: Sept 4
 - Taste: Oct 2
 - Annual Meeting: Oct 9
- Leaving Board? Let us know. Need to advertise for elections.
- Walt Pitt – Please reach out to the young man at the park who is interested.
- Linden Hills Treasures – award that goes to people who have impacted the community; need nominations
- Becky Allen - Possibly send dedicated email for Annual meeting, Treasures and board
- Jeff – Also use Nextdoor

NRP Check in

- Steve Birch – I propose that we have Committee of the Whole meeting in late September.
- Walt Pitt – When will we know what the new money is available to committees?
- Tom Harlan – I think that money is available now. The problem is that a lot of the programs have gone away.
- Walt Pitt – What is the timeline for the reallocation requests? Stacy has said money that comes back from loans can be re-allocated but does not have to be. We have a zoning committee report later. Steve thinks it should be under purview of Committee of the Whole.
- Steve – When we left the meeting, we lined up dollars not under contract where it could go. \$125K that has to go to housing. \$46K in revolving loans is what is under discussion.

- Walt – Difference between allocated funds and funds under contract. \$40K was originally allocated for housing. Split the \$84K with communications. Looking at the Housing loan program, but that program has gone away. Housing committee has looked at those funds and how to allocate those. No other money for Housing Committee. We came up with a motion on how to divide the money and help the Farmers Market. (see Walt's handout) We can look at doing it now or later at Committee of the Whole.
- Steve – I think this is out of order or premature. This is Housing saying this is our money. We did not give you the task to do this. We don't know what the Farmers Market costs. We don't know if we have permission to do the Trolley Path.
- Walt – I think that it's the board's money.
- Jeff Stites – I love movement of this money that we've been sitting on for 20 years.
- Lauren Linderman – It's still vague.
- Jeff – The Trolley Path is already a thing.
- Tom – I make a motion to table this. Are these allocations in any way related to housing? Can this be properly re-allocated or must it go to housing? Point 2 – we are putting this towards the Trolley Path, but MPRB is putting money towards the Trolley Path. I think it's prudent that we have hard numbers and bids before we bring it to the committee. I would table it – let's get some answers and more definitive answers.
- Jeff – I'm happy that we have some movement on some of these languishing pots of cash. Is it homework time on this?
- Walt – Parks are going to require more pedestrian space. It does fit under the housing policies for the city. This is not a \$1500 bench. We have to make partnerships with city units. I don't have trouble with tabling it, but I think that spending that money on other things would put that project in jeopardy.
- Steve – Motion to table and come back in September to make the final decision. Seconded. All in favor

Environmental Committee - Jeff Stites

- The Environmental Committee has approved a lovely pollinator garden in the Trolley Path. It's a micro garden with native pollinators; it could be a dedication garden to a Linden Hills Treasure. Motion to approve allocation from NRP Trolley Path strategy of 1400 for this garden. Seconded. All in favor.

Insurance renewal – Becky Allen

- Need to renew General Liability Insurance. American Family offers best deal by more than \$100. Tom - motion to approve. Seconded. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor.