

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, June 4, 2019

LHiNC Board Members Present: Adam Beck, Ed Bell, Steve Birch (Chair), Jane Elias, Leah Fish, Robert Haider, Elizabeth McDonald (Vice Chair), Laura Monn Ginsburg, and Jeff Stites

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Jana Griffin, Tom Harlan, Judy Hornbacher, Lauren Linderman, Wendy Ponte (Secretary), and Abdi Sahal

Executive Director: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The June agenda and May minutes were approved.

Board Recognition

Chair Steve Birch recognized the entire board for all the work put into the spring festival; Leah Fish and Ginny Halloran for helming the Environmental LHiNC Booth at the Farmers Market; and Jana Griffin for her work on the Southwest Parks CAC.

LHBA - Downtown Beautification Project

Sarah Kinkeade, LHBA Co-Chair Sarah Kinkeade presented the LHBA's streetview plan, which includes banners for the 43rd and Upton Business District. The banners say "All are Welcome Here", then on the reverse side say the same thing in a different language. A total of sixteen languages are represented. They wanted to expand to 44th and France, but that area does not have lampposts.

The LHBA Streetview proposal includes: 16 year-round, high quality banners at \$250 each plus tax; and one-time design fee of \$50. They have requested an additional bid to add hardware to the other side of the lamp posts (for seasonal or event banners). They have still not gotten a price for the installation; working SSD to find out who installs their holiday lights. Proposal to not exceed \$3000 from each party. Streetview ask for the year.

LHBA treasurer Jen Bellefleur spoke in favor of the banners and said the whole LHBA board is behind Sarah's request.

Ed Bell made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Library - New Exhibit and Programming

Linden Hill Librarian Teresa Mercier came to ask for LHiNC's support in getting the word out on new programming at the library, including an exhibit called "Displaced", which addresses racial covenants in deeds. There will be a June 10th exhibit opening and a July 11 screening in Linden

Hills Park multipurpose room of “Jim Crowe of the North” from TPT with a community discussion. Steve Birch suggested donating the ice cream and cones left over from the festival to be used at the screening. He also made a motion to donate \$100 for food for the exhibit opening. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Art Shanty Update

Rachelle Haroldson and Josh Tobiesson from the Art Shanty Project provided an update on the non-profit and this winter’s event. They are confirmed to be back on Lake Harriet in the winter of 2020. They are developing a more sustainable model that will include a stronger membership program. They asked LHiNC for support in the form of: access to email addresses, publicity, volunteer support, connections to corporate sponsors and higher level of donors. Steve Birch asked how their funding is for this year. They confirmed that they are fine for the next two years, thanks to the Minneapolis Foundation, NEA money and an anonymous donor. Steve Birch asked if there was a better way to drive business into the business district? Metro could alter busline?

Neighborhood 2020 Update - Linea Palmisano

City Council Member Linea Palmisano provided LHiNC with an update on Neighborhoods 2020. She reported: At the city council meeting, the full council picked up the issue, after a failed committee hearing. The current framework did pass. Amendments that made it in:

1. Establishing minimum neighborhood base funding of 25K. It is critical that organizations receive some level of funding to get more funding and have robust engagement, maintain communications; that was a hard fought battle;
2. Eliminating requirement that discretionary funding be one time or self-sustaining;
3. Requiring CBOs that receive funding to partner with a Neighborhood Organization; and
4. Make a neighborhood election day optional. That’s why I voted for these resolutions and framework.

Palmisano also voted to approve the resolution by Cunningham to contract a third party to oversee the implementation process, and worked with CM Bender on a staff direction that stipulates how we do community engagement. It’s important to me, with 2040 as example, when we ask for input, we are all clear on what feedback being asked for, how will or will not impact the decision, how will it be given back to you.

Jeff Stites asked how solid is the \$25K base funding ? Palmisano - It’s an act of council and could be changed by act of council, but I don’t think it would be.

The Bakken Museum Expansion Project

Michael Sanders, Executive Director for The Bakken Museum, came to present the museum's expansion project. He described it as a total re-envisioning of the museum. They plan to gut the inside, build all new exhibits, expand the lobby and create more flexible space. They are not adding square footage, instead they are re-orienting the museum towards the lake, expanding their classrooms and therefore their educational offerings. They plan to begin construction in January 2020; they will have to shutdown the lower level for 6-7 months.

Calhoun Road/Parkways - Renaming Process

MPRB Commissioners Meg Fornay, Brad Bourne, and Londel French, as well as the MPRB Assistant Superintendent for Planning Michael Schroeder, came to discuss the renaming process for Calhoun roads and parkways.

Ed Bell commented that he felt, as a homeowner on one of the roads affected, that he had no voice. There was no consideration for people against it.

Michael Schroeder spoke about the public comment process. At the close of the 45-day public comment, they will take 2-3 weeks to review all comments and assess themes. Then it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on August 7.

Ed Bell expressed concerns about the cost for individuals on the roads and asked about reimbursements. Michael - Staff has not been asked to address the cost to any individual.

Meg Fornay: These roadways are under MPRB jurisdiction. We are looking for your input. Three community organizations that have the name Calhoun are engaging their communities in a name change - CARAG changed to Uptown South; ECCO and West Calhoun are still deciding. This is an opportunity to raise awareness. Most of you know that the lake was named Bde Maka Ska; there was a community that was here.

Londel French: I am the Commissioner that introduced the legislation. John C. Calhoun is not someone we need to celebrate. Things change in our communities. Our society changes. There is a group offended by the name Calhoun.

Steve Birch asked what is the administrative burden for the people that have to change? What is the scope or scale? Is there some way park board, state could offer to help?

Brad Bourne - There are some things that will happen automatically. We do the communication with the UPS. Anecdotally, I don't foresee much Beyond changes of drivers licenses, when it's time to get renewed; critical documents like deeds to houses are not notated by addresses. We can ask staff to do more research on what those costs would be.

Jen Bellefleur - There might be older people who might need help with this; high school kids could volunteer and help people with the change.

Meg - Over 500 homeowners and renters will be directly impacted.

Elizabeth - Making a positive change with strong change management; way we LHINC could join with you, quite literally make a list of places, people and contacts to make it easy to make that change. I would love to make this change in a positive way.

Brad - We can work together in that 45 day comment period. My instincts are that it will pass. We had been petitioned by more than 6000 people. On my 12 years, never been petitioned by more people on any issue. We can take suggestions on what documents will be impacted and can send out to all the residents.

SW Area Master Plan - Updated Design Concepts

Jana Griffin had sent the board via email the most recent set of park designs from the SW Area Master Plan process. Jana serves on the Community Action Committee for this Master Plan. She compared and contrasted the last two sets of designs and used the board and neighborhood feedback from the last round of public comment to draft a response to the latest designs for: Linden Hills Park, Waveland Triangle, Linden Hills Boulevard, and Dell Park. Jana was not in attendance, so Elizabeth McDonald asked if anyone from the board had any further comments to add to the response. There were no further comments. A motion was made to approve the response as is. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Festival Wrap up

- Jane Elias suggested getting more set up on Saturday
- Steve Birch heard from some volunteers that they felt under-utilized. He asked for a survey to be done of the volunteers.

Next Meeting Date

Due to the July 4th holiday, a motion was made to move the meeting to July 9th. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and unanimously approved.