

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, July 9, 2019

LHiNC Board Members Present: Adam Beck, Jane Elias, Laura Monn Ginsburg, Jana Griffin, Robert Haider, Tom Harlan, Judy Hornbacher, Lauren Linderman, Elizabeth McDonald (Vice Chair), Wendy Ponte (Secretary), and Abdi Sahal

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Ed Bell, Steve Birch (Chair), Leah Fish, and Jeff Stites

Executive Director: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The July agenda and June minutes were approved.

Board Recognition

Vice Chair Elizabeth McDonald recognized the Environmental Committee for its work on the Pocket Park, including the seating and new umbrellas. Becky Allen shared thank you letters from one of the Eric Peterson Scholarship recipients and grant winner Kairos Alive.

NCEC Elections: Candidates and Elector

Elizabeth McDonald informed the board of the process of selecting an NCEC candidate and then nominating an elector and an alternate to take part in next week's NCEC Elections. First the board heard from both candidates: Barbara Lunde from Linden Hills and Paul Junek from Windom. The board conducted a secret ballot vote. Paul Junek won and will receive support from LHiNC's elector at the NCEC elections. Tom Harlan will serve as the elector, and Wendy Ponte will serve as the alternate.

LHBA Health & Wellness Event

Dr. Jade Rafferty, a child psychologist, Linden Hills business owner and LHBA member, presented to the board about a new LHBA event planned for June 20, 2020. The purpose of the Health and Wellness Event is to bring attention to Linden Hills as a health and wellness mecca and provide positive experiences of health, exercise, and well-being to attendees. They plan to hold the event on the western node of Linden Hills Park with a pop-up dome. At least a dozen businesses are already onboard. They are seeking funding for branding, logo, sponsor packets, etc. They will appear at the Communications meeting on August 12th to discuss the funding request further.

MPS School Board

School Board Representative Ira Jourdain spoke first about the district's Comprehensive Design Process. Currently, they are in the community-wide engagement stage. School board representatives and the Superintendent will be attending events on National Night Out, as well as during open streets. By November, the school board will get its first reading as to whether the district design will be kept the same, become a 2-zone system or become a 4-zone system. The vote will be in December. Then in January 2020, the Finance Committee will begin laying out

what the plan will cost. Jourdain has been asking the school board to do it the other way around (i.e. look at funding, then choose a design).

Most feedback, he's gotten is in support of the 2-zone system. A 4-zone system really limits our students. Ninety percent of district 6 students attend their neighborhood school. Under 2-zones, school pathways in district 6 will remain mostly the same. However, it does call for moving some students from a majority Somali/Latino neighborhood from Justice Page to Anderson to balance the populations. Jourdain said he opposes the move, because it ends up segregating the students. Anyone in opposition to this change should email the at-large school board members: Kim Kaprini, Kim Ellison, and Josh Pauly. The plan also calls for making Southwest High School an IB Magnet school, which Jourdain said has led to decreased diversity in the past.

The timeline:

- January - May 2020: School Board will examine how much it will cost for predictable staffing
- Next spring - School Board will examine how students get placed, what are the boundaries of our community schools; Lake Harriet Lower - six kindergarten classes - nobody has more than 4 across the city. Options include making Lower K-2 and Upper 3-8, or expanding to Lower campus to 3 floors potentially within 10 years.

Jana Griffin - Where can I send the feedback? Ira - I can send the link. Emailing them directly would be quicker

Abdi Sahal - Why the shift to Anderson? Are there plans to improve Anderson?

Ira - Anderson is currently K-8; this plan would change it to a middle school. The move would take a low income population out of their school (Justice Page), right after it got a STEAM program. It's just about balancing numbers; it's not strategic

Robert Haider : Who is advocating for the changes at Justice Page and Southwest? Ira Jourdain - Some board members. As for the general public, the majority want to keep Green Central students at Justice Page; they want to make sure we don't make Southwest an IB Magnet program; and no one wants 6 kindergarten classes.

Becky Allen will send Ira information about tabling at the Corn Feed in Linden Hills Park on August 8.

Jourdain then spoke about the state budget funding increase. Some school board members want to return money to the rainy day fund. Jourdain supports updating the district's math curriculum, which hasn't been updated since 2007.

Money from the Referendum has been used to update schools over the summer and update technology. The school district has long-term leases for iPads and computers (6 years); replacements are free.

Transportation - Bus App is live; parents will be able to track their students.

Farmers Market and Heartfelt Funding Request

A representative from the Linden Hills Farmers Market or Heartfelt was not able to attend the meeting. Becky Allen read an email from Libby Wyrum. They are requesting \$5600 to support the kids craft station run by Heartfelt at the Linden Hills Farmers Market.

Discussion:

Laura Monn Ginsburg - Does this need to be moved to a committee first? We don't know where the money would come from.

Tom Harlan - I agree. We don't know where the money would come from. The request doesn't describe who else they're asking for money. Can they get donations?

Judy Hornbacher - Where do they get the number of children used to estimate the cost?

Laura - Why would be doing this out of the grant cycle?

Adam Beck - I would like to hear from Heartfelt about how much a driver it is advertising for them.

Jane - I have done events like this before. It can cost a fortune. Could people pay \$1 to participate?

The board decided to table the request, send the questions to the Farmers Market and Heartfelt, and encourage them to participate in our grant cycle.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Harlan said n updated report could not be generated for the meeting, but will be soon and distributed to the board via email. Numbers are very similar to last month.

NRP Next Steps

Becky Allen spoke about a new project to be headed up by Robert Haider, involving LHiNC's NRP funding. The goal of the project is to:

1. Organize the NRP information (into an easy-to-use/-understand/-update spreadsheet)

2. Create processes to: request and grant funds, contract funds, modify old NRP strategies and coordinate with our accountant
3. Educate board about the funds and processes

Robert plans to meet with Stacy Sorenson in coming weeks. Abdi Sahal volunteered to help on the project. Elizabeth McDonald recommended that the NRP Project gets added to monthly Committee Updates on the agenda.

Committee Updates

COMMUNICATIONS - Wendy Ponte

- Farmers Market Tabling Program - Asking each committee to take one Sunday to table at the Farmers Market; the committee will sell T-shirts and lawn signs and have general LHiNC information available; they can also promote any other program/event that make sense for their committee. Wendy and Becky will put together a Farmers Market Kit. Assigned dates are as follows:
 - July 14 - Communications
 - July 28 - Environmental
 - Aug 11 - Housing
 - Aug 25 - Events (Taste)
- Promoting Healthy Soil - Discussed how LHiNC can promote the sheet & event
 - Line, e-news, FB, tag Elizabeth and she will put on Instagram
- Facebook Policy
 - Don't allow advertising - must join as person not business; non-profit events only
- LHBA has asked us to be a sponsor of Woofstock
 - Proposing \$500 sponsorship - with hybrid benefits
 - Motion to support at \$500 level, seconded, unanimously approved.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY - Robert Haider

- Next Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting will be 7/16 at 6pm at William Berry Woods; Connie Pepin will give a tour and talk about possible responsibilities LHiNC can help with
- Constance Pepin and Anne Thielen are starting weeding project on the Trolley Path with Southwest Green Team
- Farmers Market Table on July 28 - will be advertising Healthy Soil Project on August 11
- Aug 11 Health Soil event - Organizer Ginny Halloran shared details. In the morning, they will be planting a lot of natives and shrubs, sowing fescue seeds that will end up making Trolley Path no-mow. Please come out and help, if you

can. Then at 1pm Kassie Brown of Renaissance Soil will run an educational event on how to interpret soil tests and what are good perennials for carbon sequestration. Also, if you have old newspapers, please pass them along for use in the garden.

EVENTS - Elizabeth McDonald

- Thinking about the Linden Hills Festival on June 27, 2020, because of weather concerns. We don't want to be in conflict with other major events. Jade Rafferty of LHBA said that they would be happy to share the dome from the Health and Wellness event on June 20, 2020
- Save the Date for the Taste of Linden Hills - October 1, 2019. This year, LHiNC hopes to delegate more event responsibilities, similar to the Festival. Please try to attend the next Events Meeting on Tuesday, July 16 at 7pm at Bremer

ZONING & HOUSING - Lauren Linderman and Tom Harlan

- Last month's committee meeting was well attended. Many residents came to hear the presentation re: the new apartment complex at 44th and Beard. LHiNC promoted the meeting. Developers were not asking for variances. Majority of comments not positive. It was good LHiNC provided this forum for neighbors to voice their opinions; appreciated the developers coming.
- Historic house at 44th and Lake Harriet - Developers are moving the house to a new property on Thomas Avenue; they came to ask for variances for the new property.
- Jen Bellefleur presented on behalf of LHBA regarding the impact of increasing break-ins in the business district. Asked LHiNC to consider Housing & Zoning funds to for Security Reimbursement Program
- The committee has NRP money that it has been taking steps to re-allocate. The committee realizes it's getting to be first-come, first-serve, but they want to be more strategic, prioritize the funding. We want to spend time at the next meeting setting goals to inform our decisions moving forward and invite all of you to join us.

New Meeting Date for August

The current date - August 6 - is National Night Out. The board rescheduled the meeting to August 7 from 7-9 p.m. at the LH park building.

New Business

Lauren Linderman made a request for minutes to be provided a few days after the meeting

Elizabeth McDonald - Based on a neighbor comment, Elizabeth contacted SWJ about shrink wrapped, decorated news stands. They love the idea. Robert Haider has been thinking about

holding a grant contest for Pocket Park for artists to come up for designs. He suggested we could transfer idea to SWJ newsstands. Adam Beck knows an installer.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and passed unanimously.