

## **LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, December 4, 2018**

**LHiNC Board Members Present:** Adam Beck, Steve Birch (Chair), Jane Elias, Leah Fish, Laura Ginsburg, Jana Griffin, Robert Haider, Tom Harlan, Lauren Linderman, Elizabeth McDonald, Wendy Ponte (Secretary), Abdi Sahal, and Jeff Stites

**LHiNC Board Members Absent:** Ed Bell and Patricia Miller

**Coordinator:** Becky Allen

*The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.* The December agenda and November minutes were approved.

#### **PARK UPDATE** - Scott Erazmus, Park Director

- This year's Halloween Party was a big success. The park decided to move the party to Saturday, instead of holding it on Halloween night. 350-400 people attended vs. 150 in past years.
- MPRB's Southwest Area Master Plan CAC has some interesting proposals, which include moving green space for parking lot and making parking lot green space. These proposals are a rough draft. MPRB will come back to public in January and February for comment.
- Al Bangora was named the new MPRB Superintendent.
- The park hopes to have ice rink up by winter break.

#### **BOARD NOMINATION**

Chair Steve Birch explained the nomination of Judy Hornbacher to the LHiNC Board. Current board member Jana Griffin had unofficially announced her resignation, after which LHiNC board members asked Judy Hornbacher, who had run in the October elections, to apply for the open seat. After some thought, Jana decided to remain on the board. Steve Birch made a motion to change the by-laws and extend board membership by one person to allow for Judy's nomination to the board. Lauren Ginsburg seconded the motion. Elizabeth McDonald requested a modification that the change remain in place until we get back to 15. The motion was modified, seconded and passed by a vote of 12-1.

Judy Hornbacher then spoke on her behalf. A motion was made to add Judy to the board, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **2040 RESPONSE** - Tom Harlan

The Zoning & Housing Committee put together a letter in response to the second draft of 2040, based on comments provided by attendees of the 2040 neighborhood meeting in October. The Committee then sent the letter to board members for comment. Tom Harlan said the committee tried to keep it short, tie it back to LHiNC's original comments on 2040 and say that a lot of concerns we have have not been addressed.

Jeff Stites requested that Environmental Review be added to the #3 heading and at the end of the third to last paragraph. Steve Birch made a motion to approve the letter with requested edits. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **VARIANCE REVIEW** - Steve Birch/Tom Harlan

This was in regard to a land use application for a 36-unit apartment complex at 44th and Lake Harriet. To begin the conversation, Steve Birch wanted to address the problem with electronic votes. The board had taken an electronic vote in order to decide whether or not to support the project, as well as what issues to address with the city planner. There was consensus that the current method was not ideal. It was decided that next time, the board would utilize Google Forms. Lauren Linderman asked that a deadline be set to respond and that everyone be sent the results of the vote.

Tom Harlan reported on the land use application review that took place at the Zoning & Housing Committee meeting. He said the meeting went as it should, and the board submitted its response to the city based on the board's electronic votes.

#### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE** - Jana Griffin.

Jana Griffin is serving on the MPRB's Southwest Area Master Plan CAC. She said that the committee plans to present two proposed plans for the Linden Hills Neighborhood in January/February and to collect public feedback via workshops and online.

#### **POCKET PARK** - Leah Fish

Leah Fish reported on the Environmental Committee's project to improve the Pocket Park in downtown Linden Hills and make it more welcoming. They have added additional signage and seating. In spring, LHiNC will add more greenery and a dog waste station. The Committee has run into one small issue - the plan had called for a new bench outside of New Gild, but the owner does not like the style of the bench and has requested planters and greenery instead. The board decided to not fund the bench but wait until the second phase of the project to decide how to proceed.

#### **BIKE STATIONS** - Steve Birch

LHiNC has installed bike racks at:

- Linden Hills Park (including a bike station)
- Lake Harriet Bandshell (Including a bike station)
- Southwest High School

LHiNC is waiting on permission for a bike rack in front of New Gild. Wendy Ponte asked about a potential bike rack outside of Everett & Charlie, as per request by owner.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Tom Harlan

Treasurer Tom Harlan presented the monthly budget. Funds are down but will come back after NRP and CPP requests are processed. He predicted it would be quiet till March, when LHiNC begins to ramp up for the festival.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### COMMUNICATIONS - Wendy Ponte

The Committee is close to completing the new website. It's designed and is now being tweaked, then the committee will share with the board. Wendy requested photos from all the board members. The Committee is also working on new welcome packets for new Linden Hills residents. There will be a digital and home delivery component. The committee is also working on more social media, photos, and branding.

### ENVIRONMENT – Leah Fish/Robert Haider

The committee is trying to close out some of our older projects and start a few new ones. Removing milfoil in Lake Harriet, which Leah is heading. Soil project on the horizon on the Trolley Path. Climate Film series with Minneapolis Climate Action.

### EVENTS – Steve Birch/Elizabeth McDonald

The Events Committee will start planning the festival in January.

### ZONING & HOUSING

There is a teardown project at 4020 Washburn Ave S, seeking to reduce front setback requirements by 5 feet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Wendy Ponte asked to discuss a new liaison for the Linden Hills Business Association. LHiNC decided this year to have a board member attend LHBA meetings to represent LHiNC and report back. Wendy volunteered but is very busy with Executive Committee and chairing the Communications Committee. She asked for someone to volunteer in her place. The commitment is for once every other month for one hour. Judy Hornbacher and Jane Elias volunteered.