

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, January 8, 2019

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

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Leah Fish and Patricia Miller

Coordinator: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The January agenda and December minutes were approved.

PARK UPDATE - Scott Erazmus, Park Director

- Linden Hills is finally getting ADA-compliant doors for both entrances. Those in wheelchairs can now access the building without needing assistance.
- Maintenance has been working extremely hard to get the ice ready for skaters, but as soon as they think it is ready we are hit with warmer weather. We have been open about 7 days so far, and tonight the general skating rink is open, but the hockey rink is closed.
- I will be gone the whole summer. am taking it off due to my wife and I expecting our second child. Once I know who my replacement is, I will let you know.

E LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT - Sophia Ginis, Metro Transit

Sophia Ginis shared Metro Transit's plans to create a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Route through Linden Hills. Ginis cited two main reasons why bus routes are slowed: 1) people getting on and off and 2) traffic lights. BRT routes aim to improve these issues by allowing riders to pay before hand and providing three doors on the bus, all equipped for boarding. The neighborhood BRT stations have amenities, such as heat, light and emergency phones, and Metro Transit invests money towards maintenance. The E-Line will be on Hennepin in Uptown and Downtown. They are asking for public input on the rest of the route.

- Should it go all the way to Southdale?
- Should it follow Xerxes or France?
- Should it extend to the University of Minnesota?

Metro Transit is taking the year to evaluate this route and consider the future of Route 6. Board member Jana Griffin asked if routes 6A, B, C and D will still exist. Sophia said all options are being considered. Regarding funding, Sophia said Metro Transit has some, not all, of the funding. LHiNC invited Metro Transit to have a booth at the May Festival to survey neighborhood residents.

SOIL REGENERATION PROJECT - Ginny Halloran and Kassie Brown

Linden Hills resident and LHiNC Environmental Committee member Ginny Halloran and Kassie Brown from Renaissance Soil proposed a project to train LHiNC Environment and Sustainability Committee members about soil regeneration and create a demonstration project on the trolley path and one neighbor's lawn for the neighborhood. The project would begin in the spring, when Halloran and Brown plan to convert a section of the trolley path into a demonstration site, showing residents how to create healthy carbon-rich soil lawns. This process called carbon sequestration helps to reverse climate change by pulling CO2 out of the atmosphere. It also helps the environment by making lawns less susceptible to drought and in need of watering, because during rainstorms, healthy soil can store more water deep in the soil. This also reduces fertilizer runoff into our lakes and rivers. Additionally, pollinators thrive on a healthy carbon rich lawn. The purpose of the project is to train those interested in the neighborhood on how to create such a lawn. They asked for \$3500 for the one-year project. Robert Haider, co-chair of the Environmental Committee, said the project could be funded out of the NRP Garden fund. Tom Harlan asked about signage in locations beyond the Trolley Path. Ginny said the budget allowed for signage on the Trolley Path; there would also be publicity for the workshop. Steve Birch suggested they do something at the May festival. Robert Haider made a motion to provide up to \$4000 to support the project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

LINDEN HILLS BOCCE CLUB UPDATE & PROPOSAL - Dale Mulfinger

Dale Mulfinger of the Linden Hills Bocce Club gave a recap of the club's inaugural year. Thirty-two players joined the league with a dozen or so more playing unofficially. He outlined three phases of the Linden Hills Park bocce court project: 1) build the bocce courts - COMPLETE, 2) add park benches - COMPLETE (thanks to Bremer), and 3) add a pavilion. The pavilion would include a storage shed for the bocce court maintenance equipment and 3 picnic benches. It would be between the bocce courts and the playground. The club has been working with park board staff to promote the idea internally. The club hopes to build with sweat equity, possibly coordinate it with the festival, similar to a barn raising. They are looking to the park board to provide the concrete slab. The park board also wants the pavilion to have electricity and a closer water source. The Bocce Club is requesting financial support from LHiNC, but aren't yet sure of the cost. Steve Birch said the council loves the idea and to come back with a plan and a definitive ask.

NEW LHiNC WEBSITE PREVIEW - Linda McConley

Chair of the Communications Committee Wendy Ponte introduced Linda McConley of Code & Content, who has been working with the Communications Committee to design a new LHiNC website. Linda walked the board through the site. Lauren Linderman asked who would update the site. Wendy said it would be Becky Allen, the neighborhood coordinator. Lauren also asked when the site would launch. Wendy said sometime in February.

MPRB CAC WORKSHOPS - Jana Griffin

After collecting ideas from the community, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has developed initial concepts for every Southwest Minneapolis park. There are at least 2 designs for each park. The next step is to hold public workshops to ask people to view and comment on initial park design concepts. Park Design Workshops will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, 6-8 pm, Lynnhurst Recreation Center, 1345 W Minnehaha Parkway
- Monday, Feb. 4, 2019, 6-8 pm, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S
- Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, 6-8 pm, Whittier Recreation Center, 425 W 26th St.
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, 6-8 pm, Jones-Harrison Residence, Centrum Room, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

If you cannot attend a meeting, all concepts will be posted to the [SW Parks Plan project page \(minneapolisparcs.org/sw\)](http://minneapolisparcs.org/sw) on Jan. 31, along with a link to an online survey to provide feedback on any design. Jana will send them out to the board, as soon as they are available. 8:00 p.m.

WARD 13 SUMMIT - Becky Allen

in February, Council Member Linea Palmisano would like to hold a Ward 13 Summit, inviting all the Ward 13 neighborhood councils and associations to meet with her and some people from the city to discuss upcoming issues, including: 1) “2040 - what’s next” and 2) Vision Zero (traffic/pedestrian safety improvement initiative). She wants our board to answer the following:

1. Would you like to do this type of “summit” meeting again this year?
2. Are there other topics you would like to include?
3. Are there specific preferences you might have for how we run it?

After minimal discussion, the board decided that they do support the summit. Regarding other topics, Tom Harlan requested adding Neighborhoods 2020. As for how to run it, the consensus was to keep it the same as last year.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE - Becky Allen

On Saturday, February 2, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department will hold its annual Community Connections Conference. The event is free and offers many session and workshops helpful to neighborhood organizations and other city non-profits. It was discussed that members of LHiNC should attend.

SPRING FESTIVAL OVERVIEW - Elizabeth McDonald

Elizabeth McDonald, Vice Chair and co-chair of the Events Committee, gave an overview of LHiNC's annual festival, so that new members could have a better idea of what to expect and everyone could know what roles need to be filled this year. The festival will be held on Sunday, May 19. The first Events Committee meeting for the festival will be on February 12. She gave an overview of each Festival Committee and its chair(s), if there was one. Every board member is expected to join one committee.

- Publicity - Communications Committee helps - Needs a Chair
- Food - LHiNC Booth: Ed Bell, Vendors: Tom Harlan
- Art Fair/Marketplace - Needs a Chair
- Zero Waste - Environmental Committee helps - Needs a Chair
- Silent Auction - Becky Allen/Leah Fish
- Volunteer Committee - Needs a Chair
- Tickets - Needs a Chair
- Entertainment
- Sponsors

KITE FESTIVAL - Becky Allen

The Kite Festival will be held on Saturday January 26 from 12-4pm. LHiNC is sponsoring the S'mores packets; they will have kosher marshmallows available. The packets will contain our logo. Elizabeth McDonald suggested including a sticker instead of a paper logo. The consensus on the board was to substitute the sticker for the paper. The Art Shanty will also be participating in the Kite Festival. They will also have a fundraiser in the heated tent immediately following the festival from 4-7pm. They wanted to know if LHiNC would be willing to fund

S'mores for their event, as well, at a cost of \$150, in exchange for event sponsorship. Elizabeth McDonald made a motion to fund the Art Shanty event S'mores at \$150. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Tom Harlan

Treasurer Tom Harlan presented the monthly budget. We are expecting \$32,405 from the city from NRP and CPP reimbursements. Overall, with pending payments and reimbursements from the city, the balance is \$84,139.22.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS - Wendy Ponte

Elizabeth McDonald has create a LHiNC Instagram account – Linden_Hills_Council or mylinden hills. Please use #mylinden hills for photos. The committee is in the process of updating a welcome packet for new neighbors. When complete, it will be available both digitally and physically.

ENVIRONMENT – Robert Haider

The committee spent most of its last meeting discussing the Regenerative Soil Project (see above for details). The committee is also working on its own communications/outreach. They have changed our meeting dates to third Tuesdays at Bremer.

EVENTS – Steve Birch/Elizabeth McDonald

The first Events Committee meeting of the year will be February 12.

ZONING & HOUSING

There was no Zoning & Housing meeting in December. The 2040 response letter went out in December. Based on Harriet and 44th recommendations, the city wants us to continue to provide input, even though in this case, they couldn't act on any of our recommendations. There will be a January 14 hearing for Sebastian Joe's lot. Steve Birch suggested providing more information on our website regarding specific hearings. At the next meeting, the Zoning Committee will discuss how they might like to utilize the new website towards that end. The next Zoning and Housing meeting will be Tuesday, January 22.

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

