

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, March 5, 2019

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

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Laura Ginsburg and Patricia Miller

Coordinator: Becky Allen

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

MPRB SW Area Master Plan Designs - Madeline Hudek, MPRB

SW Area Master Plan project started in March 2018 – the plan is a 20-30 year vision. There was public engagement over the summer, a design week, and now MPRB is in process of collecting input from neighborhood associations, stakeholders and people across Southwest.

They had workshops in February to start to collect feedback in person. People have until end of March an online survey. As a neighborhood association, LHiNC can submit a letter. All comments will be reviewed by a Community Advisory Committee, which will inform the final concepts; LHiNC Board Member Jana Griffin sits on this CAC.

There is an A and B concept for every park. A is more similar with some new proposed features. B is more far reaching. Linden Hills has proposals for: Linden Hills Park, Dell Waveland Triangle, Linden Hills Blvd and Trolley Path

MPRB is looking for what people like, what they don't like, what might be missing. We have a CAC. Jana is one of the Advisory Committee members

Question: Linden Hills Blvd – Why would MPRB divest it? Madeline: We have a parkway road along the lakes that serves as a connection. It may not be something the city needs as dedicated park space.

Question: What about the Trolley Park? It's not on the list of actual design proposals – how do we change that? Madeline: If that is of interest to your community, make sure that is noted in public comment. We could notate it as a future project, if we continue to hear positive feedback from people. In order for it to be something that Park Board would take on, it would have to connect two parks: Waveland Triangle to Lake Harriet. We have a list of all the coordination that would have to go into it. Since the park board does not currently own these

areas, if master plan gets approved with Trolley Path as a park space of interest, MPRB would have to work with the city, businesses and property owners.

Jana Griffin: LHiNC is going to hold a community meeting on March 21 at Bremer to gather feedback, then LHiNC will write a letter

Lauren Linderman: Has there been a robust community comment? What you've done to solicit feedback? Madeline: We've held 4 workshops, been delivering emails, attending neighborhood association meetings, distributing flyers, and posting lawn signs.

Steve Birch: Do we have sufficient capacity to deliver programming for kids? Madeline: The use of fields has come up quite a bit – how to balance baseball, soccer, lacrosse and other sports. MPRB is having a specific stakeholders meeting with field users. We have talked to some of the schools through PTAs and site councils. We are going to talk to the Athletic Directors. Steve – I think it's really important that the schools have a voice.

Tom – Is there a hierarchy to all the plans for LH? The second part is more logistics. End of March, then what? When is the final vote? Madeline: The way that parks come up is through our equity metric used since 2017 to rank all the parks in the entire system (community and asset based items). It's on the park board website, under "About Us", then "Budget or Capital Improvement Program". We will have the next CAC the week of April 22. Public is welcome to all CAC meetings; end of meetings is public comment. That series of CAC meetings would wrap up in June, final document brought to MPRB by July or August.

Walt Pitt - Vote of the CAC – are the new parks within that vote? Madeline – I think that would be a part of the vote, but I will confirm.

Minneapolis School Board – District 6 Update - Ira Jourdain, School Board

- The district is not adding on school days, due to weather. The district is still ahead of the state minimum threshold.
- Regarding questions as to why MPS does not do late starts: transportation coordination is a nightmare.
- School Calendar – This coming school year, we are back to starting after Labor Day
- There is no budget deficit, thanks to the referendum dollars. 18M dollars – adding back positions in our schools; last year we had to cut 33M; use to up salaries- increase minimum wage up to \$15/hours; defuse rise in healthcare costs; also restore our fund balance (rainy day account), so don't have to resort to drastic cuts; also 12M for technology – immediate upgrades in our classrooms
- School bus times – MPS is working on an app for parents only; app designed for your child's school; track your child's bus; modeled after Metro Transit. Tested in Armatage –

96% accurate; keeps kids from sitting out in cold/rain; roll that out for all schools in August.

- Comprehensive district design – make district more efficient – in terms of transportation, start times, community enrollment;
 - Phase 1 – predictable staffing, what do they have to have to open the doors; only 41/70 have librarians; health service aides or school nurses – not all schools have them; not all schools have a secretary
 - Phase 2 – Attendance boundaries, we are looking at changing transportation boundaries – streamline a better transportation system; spend millions on busses and a gluttony of bad routes; proposal - cut city into 4 quadrants, if you live outside the quadrant, no bus service.
 - Voting on District design in June
 - Some schools are more integrated – forced integration has been discussed; how do we keep our schools fully funded; looking at ways to invest in our gifted and talented program

Jeff – is the district design available online? Ira – We will be discussing in April and May at board meetings.

Steve – 2040 plan and school board plan– my worry is capital investment. Are we going to build more? Are we going to put AC in schools? Ira - What’s been put on hold Lake Harriet Lower – a potential third floor. Where the city is planning for families with children 3 and under

Abdi – What level of transparency is School Board giving the public into the spending of this 18M? Budget meeting – presentation on the website from MPS CFO.

Recycling in Downtown Linden Hills - Michael Howe, Linden Hills Resident

There are no recycling bins in downtown business district – like Uptown. It’s up to the LHBA and Special Services District. According to Linea Palmisano’s office, Linden Hills cannot apply for grants for this; have to pay ourselves.

Jeff Stites – The Environmental Committee has been thinking about this. We do have some NRP money that could be designated for recycling and organics bins in the downtown. If you come to our committee meeting, we could talk more about it. 7pm at Bremer.

Annual Report Review – Steve Birch

Each year, LHiNC submits and an Annual Report to NCR (Neighborhood and Community Relations Department) for its CPP funding. Hopefully everyone had time to read over prior to the meeting.

Tom – We should add a short paragraph to question #16 about our struggle to access renters.

Wendy – Please include a reference to some plans we are making to address that struggle, per my suggestions from the NCR conference about Renter Engagement.

Steve – Motion to pass the Annual Report with the addition of Renter Engagement language. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Neighborhood 2020 proposals – Steve Birch

- We are unique as neighborhood; with restaurants, business district
- Push back on more resources from the city
- Big piece is funding; how the money will be distributed

Becky Allen will create a shared Google Document, where board members can share their thoughts about 2020. Steve Birch and Lauren Linderman agreed to write a response to Neighborhoods 2020, email to the board for comment, then the board can approve via Electronic vote.

Steve Birch made a motion to approve an electronic vote. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

LHBA Update – Becky Allen

The Linden Hills Business Association has new leadership – Co-chairs Sarah Kinkeade of Bremer and Geoff Sudit of Mint Orthodontics. They have asked to produce an insert for The Linden Hills Line that provides an opportunity for service-based businesses to engage the community, as well as advertise LHBA events. They plan to pay for insert and contribute towards delivery. Also, LHBA has paired down its vision for a downtown beautification project to include banners and hanging flower baskets. They will present to LHiNC soon. They plan to pay for some of this project.

- Wendy Ponte – Per insert, we want to be careful not to recommend any business in particular; can't show preference or advertise.
- Jeff Meyer, LHBA – There's been turn over on LHBA; dynamic group. There will always be someone at LHiNC meetings. If there are things you want to meet about, we can present. We are expanding communication with businesses down 44th – be more inclusive

Festival – Steve Birch

- Bigger tent for beer garden – means have to pay them to put it up

- Ahead of where we need to be with vendors
- LHiNC Food Booth – Ed Bell
- LHiNC Info Booth – Jana Griffin
- LHiNC Volunteer Chair – Abdi Sahal
- LHiNC Ticketing – Still unfilled

Michael Howe offered to organize a food drive at the festival to benefit the Joyce Food Shelf. Jane Elias volunteered to coordinate food drive with Michael.

Treasurer’s Report – Tom Harlan

Budget reflects few expenditures over the past month and money coming in from the city from reimbursements (NRP and CPP).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment & Sustainability – Leah Fish

- Great meeting with Kassie Brown from Renaissance Soil on soil regeneration study
- Soil workshop April 28 at 1pm on Linden Hills Trolley Path

Communications – Wendy Ponte

- New website up by end of month
- Renter Outreach effort underway

Zoning & Housing – Lauren Linderman

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund – large changes – we will share our thoughts

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