

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, April 2, 2019

LHiNC Board Members Present: Adam Beck, Ed Bell, Jane Elias, Leah Fish, Jana Griffin, Robert Haider, Tom Harlan, Elizabeth McDonald, and Wendy Ponte (Secretary).

LHiNC Board Members Absent: Steve Birch (Chair), Lauren Linderman, Abdi Sahal and Jeff Stites

Coordinator: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. An amendment was made to the March Agenda to add Cynthia Stokes from the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. The amendment was seconded and passed unanimously. Then the revised April agenda and March minutes were approved.

Board Recognition (Elizabeth McDonald)

Becky Allen shared thank you notes from last year's recipients of our Erik Peterson Scholarships, as well as a thank you from the Streetcar Museum for funding their Trolley Gardens. Wendy Ponte shared a thank you to board member Laura Monn Ginsburg for all her work on graphic design.

Park Update (Scott Erazmus)

- The park's egg hunt will be held April 20.
- Regarding the First Aid tent for the festival, Scott is waiting to hear back from Red Cross about free staff people.
- Parks For All is a new agenda from the park board, created a new online survey for community members

City Assessments and Valuation Letters (Patrick Todd)

City Assessor Patrick Todd spoke to the council and community members at the meeting about assessments and valuation letters. He provided data and statistics citing how the tax burden is shared amongst residential, commercial, industrial, etc. He also showed how the city assesses properties in our community and others. Patrick encouraged anyone who thought their assessment was incorrect to contact the City Assessor's office to request an inspection.

Minneapolis Pops Orchestra (Cynthia Stokes)

Cynthia Stokes, the Executive Director of the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, requested to say a few words about the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, in light of their spring grant application. She highlighted a history of LHiNC support for the orchestra and explained their greater need this year, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary.

Spring Grant Review (Elizabeth McDonald)

Elizabeth first explained the history of the LHiNC Neighborhood Grants program. Five years ago, the board gave out more money in grants. At the time, the board was not financially solvent. Festival and Taste now provide the flexibility to do what we want to do. LHiNC decided \$10K per year: \$5K in fall, \$5K in spring. In spring, \$2K always goes to two Eric Peterson Scholarships for SWHS seniors who show dedication to community service – in honor of a former board member. That leaves LHiNC with \$3K to award this spring. Here were the Executive Committee's grant recommendations for Spring 2019:

- FRIENDS OF ROBERTS BIRD SANCTUARY – Recommend not awarding funding this cycle, because it does not touch as many people.
- KAIROS - \$500
We want to support diverse, under-represented populations; seniors are a population we haven't served through grants recently. We recommend limiting funding to \$500, because the grant did not specify exactly what funds would be used for. Can also provide support through publicity. If they apply next year, we recommend they provide that cost breakdown.
- MIDWEST FOOD CONNECTION – \$800
We have funded them in the past. We should not be a consistent source of revenue for any organization, but believe this is an important piece of education.
- MINNEAPOLIS POPS ORCHESTRA - \$500
Recommend funding because brings people in from all over the city. Did not recommend fully fund, because they did not specify how money would be spent, also have lots of other funding sources.
- THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR - \$600
Due to number of grant applications and limited funding, we recommend sponsoring 5 scholarships, instead of 8.
- SW COMMUNITY EDUCATION MUSICAL – Recommend not awarding funding this cycle, because serves a small group of people.
- STUDY BUDDIES - \$500
This program has a demonstrated history and they provided a very specific ask (food).

- THE WILDING –\$300

We recommend donating food for the two workshops. More apt to fund fully, if it were a free program.

During discussion, Laura Monn Ginsburg asked why, if we have plenty of money in our bank account, are we only awarding \$3K. Elizabeth highlighted the \$10K limit put in place when the council was not as financially sound, but asked Laura if she would consider looking into how we could change this policy. Laura agreed to do so. A motion was made to accept the Executive Committee’s recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NRP Approval/Modification - Lake Harriet Playground Update (Tom Harlan)

Back in August, a fire damaged playground equipment at Lake Harriet Community School’s Lower Campus. At the time, the board reached out to the school and asked how we could help. Insurance money was covering the damaged equipment, but the principal said they have outdated equipment they were hoping to replace. The school identified the equipment and its cost, as well as the cost of the installation.

Three weeks prior to the board meeting, the board was emailed a proposal to modify our NRP plan via a language change and a reallocation. Those modifications were as follows:

Plan Modification – language change: Expand the language of the Phase II Linden Hills Park Basketball Court strategy (Social Support and Development E.1.4.6) to include, “Funds may also be used to support additional recreational amenities at the park or other recreational areas throughout the neighborhood”.

FYI – the objective that this strategy falls under is “Objective #4: Improve youth access to neighborhood recreation facilities.

Plan Modification – reallocation: Reallocate \$2,400 from the Phase II Pool Umbrellas strategy (Environment, Transportation and Streetscape C.1.2.6) and \$536.02 from the Youth Grants strategy (Social Support and Development E.1.1.1) to the expanded strategy above.

Excerpt from LHiNC NRP Phase II

Objective #4: Improve youth access to neighborhood recreation facilities.

6. Park Basketball Court

Strategy: Update the basketball court at the Linden Hills Park.

Implementation Options:

- Update the design to allow for more games to be played simultaneously, allowing more kids to take advantage of the space.
- Inform the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board that we would like a priority put on updates to the LH Park basketball court.

Related City Goals: Strengthen City government management and enhance community engagement. Promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Partners:

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Linden Hills Park

Linden Hills Schools

LHiNC Education & Environment Committee

The board was presented with three funding Options:

1. Playground Equipment Only:

\$3835 = \$2,936 from NRP + \$899 from General Fund

2. Equipment and Freight:

\$4626 = \$2936 from NRP + \$1690 from General Fund

3. Equipment, Freight and Installation:

\$6308 = \$2936 from NRP + \$3,372 from General Fund

After discussion, the motion was made to fully fund the equipment, freight and installation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Tom Harlan)

Tom Harlan presented the monthly financial dashboard, highlighting that we are steady with a balance of \$90K in checking and savings. The balance does not include the last payment request to the city for 1018 and for payments made in 2019 from funds that are reimbursable under CPP. We are gearing up for more expenditures, as we move towards the May festival.

Festival (Elizabeth McDonald)

Festival is a month and a half away. Elizabeth asked each sub-committee to give a report and provide requests, where/when they need them.

- **Art Fair - Judy Hornbacher/Jane Elias**

Already have 40 booths reserved. Will be working on assigning booths this month.

- **Entertainment - no Report**

- **Food - LHiNC Booth (Ed Bell) and Vendors/Beer Garden (Tom Harlan)**

Ed Bell reported that the ice cream, cookies and coffee is all lined up for the LHiNC Booth. He asked that someone check the attic for Cotton Candy. It was agreed to ask Co-op for a sparkling water donation, but buy at Costco, if necessary. Vendors have their permits in hand, once they return them, we'll turn them into the city. Beer Garden is set.

- **Garage Sale - Adam Beck**

The Garage Sale will be putting together garage sale participant signs the weekend before the sale, if anyone can help.

- **Info Booth - Wendy Ponte & Jana Griffin**

In process of ordering new kids t-shirts. Will also offer water bottles and adult T-shirts. Will display our White Paper in poster form. Working with Adam Beck to create a feedback board, asking community how LHiNC should spend time and money.

- **Publicity - Wendy Ponte**

All coming together with graphic design help by Laura. Will need help next month hanging flyers.

- **Silent Auction - Leah Fish/Becky Allen**

Please may your asks. Becky re-sent the Silent Auction Prize form. Please complete one form per item, so we have all the information necessary to post items online and write up bid sheets.

- **Sponsors - Wendy Ponte**

Bremer is in at the \$1000 level. Linden Hills Dentistry and Partners in Pediatrics are \$500 level sponsors. Xcel Energy and Mint are \$250 level. Each sponsor gets a free booth. We have a Festival Sponsor Sheet that you can hand out to potential sponsors, please take some with you.

- **Ticket Sales - Laura Monn Ginsburg**

Laura is able to help man the booths at the beginning of Festival day but has to leave midway through. Tickets will need to be pre-ripped in groups of 10. After some

discussion, it was decided

- **Volunteers - No report**
- **Zero Waste - No report**

Renter Engagement Strategy (Wendy Ponte)

Wendy Ponte attended a panel on “How to Engage Renters” at the Community Connections Conference. Wendy presented her main takeaways from the presentation, focusing on how LHiNC could act on them:

- **The Zoning & Housing Committee and Renter’s Rights and Information:** When renters sign a lease there is no obligation on the part of the landlord to present them with information about their rights in this state. Could we consider compiling information for renters about this and resources on how to resolve disputes with landlords? Could we invite tenants to attend Housing meetings if they have problems to discuss as we do for homeowners? Or, alternately, we could create a Renter’s Committee to address those issues, but also get renters together. An information page in our website seems crucial.
- **Environmental Committee:** One of the attendees from Tangletown shared their neighborhood council’s involvement with Kelly Muelmann, who is the Sustainability Program Coordinator for the city. There is an initiative to reach out to apartment building owners to offer them free services that will make the building friendlier to the environment. If this is of interest, we can reach out for more info. It sounds like they are keen on partnering with neighborhood councils.
- **Communications Committee:** I found out that it is possible to receive a list of renters from the city and we could consider a direct mail campaign to reach out to those addresses. This solves the problem of having access to larger apartment buildings. We ought to consider an article in our newsletters that notes the fact that several of our board members are renters and that we welcome participation.

At the end of her report, Wendy shared that she is currently at full capacity as Chair of the Communications Committee, as well as in other leadership roles within LHiNC. She asked that someone else consider heading up a task force to further examine how LHiNC might pursue renter engagement. Jana Griffin expressed potential interest.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Communications & Outreach (Wendy Ponte)**

The committee has been working hard to get our new website ready for launch, expect to see it live within the month.

- **Environment & Sustainability (Leah Fish/Robert Haider)**

The Healthy Soil Demonstration is set for April 28 with Ginny Halloran and Kassie Brown. It will take place at 1pm on the Trolley Path. Linea Palmisano should be there. All board members are invited to participate

- **Zoning & Housing (Tom Harlan/Lauren Linderman)**

Following a presentation regarding the Homeowner Navigation Program Pilot Project, the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council Zoning Committee moved to bring the following proposal to the full Board for consideration. It will be voted on at the next board meeting.

That \$15,000 of the funds currently designated for housing-related projects be allocated to fund a portion of the Homeowner Navigation Program Pilot Project and that an additional \$10,000 of the funds currently designated for housing-related projects be allocated and set aside as available funds for the Homeowner Navigation Program to request in connection with emergency or non-emergency projects located in the Linden Hills neighborhood. Any amount of the \$10,000 set-aside funds that are not requested and used by the Homeowner Navigation Program by December 31, 2020, may be reallocated for other uses by the Board.

The funds, if redirected, would be administered through a program that has been developed by the City and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. It is program designed to avert forfeiture and condemnation of housing stock in Minneapolis. It also involves intervention by other services to support the homeowner in an effort to keep them in their homes. The funds would be used on an emergency basis or to close out other repairs needed on the home. Grants would be limited to \$3,000 per home. Of the amounts proposed, \$15,000 would be available across the City with an additional \$10,000 available for Linden Hills. The amount for Linden Hills has to be used or will be lost by December 2020.

The proposed funds would originate from the LHiNC NRP Phase II, Section 2, Affordable Housing Trust. The goal of this Section is to preserve and develop affordable housing in Linden Hills, increase diversity and ensure to the greatest extent possible that all people have a chance to live or remain in our neighborhood, create and preserve housing options for seniors and assist residents in maintaining and improving their housing through various home improvement loan options.

This currently is carried out as follows:

Strategy: funding to the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) through NRP's Fund 7, "Affordable Housing Investment Fund".

Implementation Options: Submit funds, as a one-time commitment, to the City of Minneapolis Affordable Housing Trust Fund; a NRP Housing Fund.

Related City Goals: Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable, meets current needs, and promotes further growth. Promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Partners: NRP Housing Fund Administrator, Development Finance Division (DFD), Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED), City of Minneapolis Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and LHiNC Housing Committee.

What is proposed is a modification of the three parts of this undertaking (Strategy, Implementation Options and Partners) to allow for the proposed re-allocation of funds.

The Strategy would be modified as follows (modifications in bold):

Strategy: funding to the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) through NRP's Fund 7, "Affordable Housing Investment Fund" **or through the Homeowner Navigation Program or similar City/private party operation created to carry out similar goals as set forth in this Section 2.**

The Implementation Options would be modified as follows (modifications in bold):

Implementation Options: Submit funds, as a one-time commitment, to the City of Minneapolis Affordable Housing Trust Fund; a NRP Housing Fund, **or submit funds, in the discretion of the Board, to Homeowner Navigation Program to be used as described in that grant.**

The Partners would be modified as follows (modifications in bold):

Partners: NRP Housing Fund Administrator, Development Finance Division (DFD), Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED), City of Minneapolis Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and LHiNC Housing Committee, **together with the City of Minneapolis Regulatory Services and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.**