

## **LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, October 8, 2019**

**LHiNC Board Members Present:** Adam Beck, Steve Birch (Chair), Jane Elias, Robert Haider, Tom Harlan, Judy Hornbacher, Lauren Linderman, Elizabeth McDonald (Vice Chair)

**LHiNC Board Members Absent:** Ed Bell, Leah Fish, Laura Monn Ginsburg, Wendy Ponte (Secretary) and Abdi Sahal, and Jeff Stites.

**Executive Director:** Becky Allen

*The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The October agenda was approved. September minutes were amended to include Jane Elias as a present board member and then approved.*

#### **Park Update - Scott Erazmus**

Park Director Scott Erazmus announced the park's Halloween Party on Saturday, October 26 from 3 - 5 p.m. This year, the party will also include a treasure hunt and a horse & wagon ride. The park building is updating its ADA compliant parking spots, therefore the ADA entrance will be closed for the next week. Winter sports registration starts on October 23

#### **LHiNC Grants - Steve Birch**

Steve Birch summarized all the grant requests and provided the executive committee's recommendations.

#### **CLAY COURTS – REQUEST \$1K - Recommendation: Wait until project is further along**

This grant would be used to ramp up marketing efforts to attract more volunteers, along with donations. Because of the need for volunteers to stay active after the courts are completed, it is critically important to engage the people of Linden Hills and the tennis community. Their fundraising goal is \$200,000; at least 95% of those funds will be used for the design and construction of the courts. The remaining funds will be used for attracting volunteers and donors, and for organizational filings (Minnesota Secretary of State, Attorney General, etc).

MCCC volunteers are providing architectural, legal, fundraising and event planning services. "We're making every effort to spend as little as possible on activities other than court design and construction. We have just begun our fundraising efforts and so far we have collected a little over \$3000 in donations. Nearly a third of that has gone or will go towards governmental filing fees (Secretary of State, IRS)."

#### **MINNEAPOLIS POPS ORCHESTRA – Request: \$1K - Recommendation: \$1K**

The Minneapolis Pops Orchestra respectfully requests grant support from the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council in the amount of \$1,000, to support our Summer Concert Season at Lake Harriet in 2020. LHiNC has been a strong supporter of the MPO since 1998. We believe the MPO remains an excellent fit with LHiNC's funding priorities for the Linden Hills neighborhood, providing access to the arts free of charge in a beautiful outdoor venue.

**SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL PRIME TIME – Request \$1K - Recommendation: \$1K**

This grant would support the continued development of Prime Time, an after-school program for Southwest High School, specifically for staffing. "In order to provide consistent guidance and familiarity to youth attending Prime Time, we will provide a stipend to individuals integral to the implementation of the program, and that may include ourselves or teachers. In order to successfully assist students in achieving their goals and our program goals, the reality of time and commitment must be supported for sustainability." The mission of Prime Time is to encourage diverse students to fully engage in the Southwest High School (SWHS) community by participating in the life of the school via after-school activities. Prime Time reduces barriers to participation such as distance from home, nutritional needs, or need for academic or personal support to maintain grades. In order

**The 3 Strings – Request \$2K - Recommendation: \$2K**

The goal is to take 17 special needs student musicians, support students, support staff, and family members to Orlando to perform at the National Association for Music Education Keynote address. "The 3 Strings" is the name of their band and are the featured ensemble at the Keynote Address on November 9, 2019. This ensemble is cutting edge music education featuring inclusion. Through adapted instruments and adapted music special needs students are able to play instruments successfully. They are requesting a \$2,000 grant to support their journey to Orlando, FL. Other funding streams, they are approaching include: Go Fund Me, parent contributions and larger corporations such as Health East, and Allina.

**JAEGAR STATUE - Request: Host Go Fund Me campaign; Recommendation - Get more details, and help run a Go Fund Me campaign**

This request was sent via email from a member of the community who had spoken to Mark Settergren about commissioning a statue of Jaegar. He fully supports the idea; she thought a Go Fund Me campaign would be appropriate but hoped to work with us to get it started. Total cost (not grant request total) would be approximately \$10,000 (Edina paid \$7600 to keep Spaulding, the dog outside Salut).

In trying to raise such a large amount for a piece of public art, she thought of making the sentiment more universal. "I envision it in a sitting area like the one in front of Mint

Orthodontics with a plaque that reads something like: To All the Pets We've Loved & Lost In Honor of Jager Settergren, the "Unofficial Mayor of Linden Hills" 2006 to 2019. Unveiling the piece at Woof Stock next summer was a thought I had as far as a deadline."

Discussion ensued around the Jaeger Statue and GoFundME campaign request.

Lauren Linderman asked what the council's role would be with the Go Fund Me campaign. Becky Allen explained that the resident heading up the project would like the council to host it, because she felt that donors would appreciate a vetted organization as the entity collecting the funds.

Adam Beck asked if there was a time limit. Becky Allen said there is no time limit at this point.

Robert Haider asked if people could deduct the donation and if money would be released to LHiNC at the end of the campaign. Becky Allen said she would research both questions.

Lauren Linderman asked if other groups would ask us to sponsor a GoFundMe in the future.

Tom Harlan said we act as fiduciaries in many different capacities.

Elizabeth McDonald made a motion to approve all grant recommendations, including finding a way to assist with the GoFundMe Campaign for the Jaegar Statue. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **Updated By-laws: Discussion and Vote - Tom Harlan**

Tom Harlan - on behalf of the six people who served on the By-laws Committee - asked to open up a discussion about proposed change as outlined at the last board meeting on September 4, 2019. The new addition since last meeting was formal recognition of Executive Committee in Section 9.

Elizabeth McDonald made a motion to approve all grant recommendations, including finding a way to assist with the GoFundMe Campaign for the Jaegar Statue. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **Taste Wrap - Becky Allen**

Becky Allen reported back on the Taste of Linden Hills Fundraiser held on October 1, 2019 at Rose Street Patisserie. The event sold out, which means 150 tickets were sold. The Wine Pull sold 30 bottles of wine at \$20/bottle. The Silent Auction prizes were all bid on and raised a total of \$1600. After expenses, LHiNC raised \$7100 from the Taste, which all go towards the grants program. Suggestions to improve next year's event included: more power for restaurants and better guest list for registration.

## **Annual Meeting/Fall Fest - Current slate, LH Treasures - Elizabeth McDonald**

Fall Fest, which includes LHiNC's Annual Election, will be held October 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Linden Hills Recreation Center. In addition to the election, we offer games and an inflatable for kids, as well as free hot cocoa, coffee and cookies. This year, the park is unable to provide volunteers to run the games or man the inflatable, so we will need to recruit our own volunteers. Scott Erasmus said the park would purchase a new fire pit, before the event. Linden Hills Treasures are also awarded at the event - 6 people have been nominated. Elizabeth asked everyone to read over the 6 nominations during the meeting, so they could vote at the end. By meeting's end, the board unanimously voted to award all 6 nominees with the Linden Hills Treasure award. Nominees included: Anne Feicht, Ed Foley, Bryce Hamilton, Jager (of Settergren's), Tanya Orstad and Jeff Stites.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Communications - Elizabeth McDonald**

- The committee has created a welcome letter for new neighbors that includes an events calendar and a key chain. We will start delivering them to new neighbors.
- At its next meeting, the committee will be discussing a possible transition to a community outreach/engagement focus.

### **Environment and Sustainability - Robert Haider**

- Saturday 9:30 a.m. Buckthorn pull in William Berry Woods
- Starting with its November meeting, the committee will screen a video series on healthy soil practices before each meeting.
- We discussed how to Increase use of compost in the neighborhood. If building has more than 4 units, they can't get organic recycling. Lowry neighborhood partnered with the Wedge Co-op and created drop off spots. The committee is exploring working with LH Co-op on a similar option.

### **Zoning & Housing - Tom Harlan and Lauren Linderman**

Lauren Linderman gave a brief overview of the variance and other requests brought to the committee at their last meeting. The committee also held a special meeting to discuss how it would make decisions regarding the uncontracted NRP Housing funds. The two options were to grant the money or invest it where there is a return. In the past, the board has historically invested  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the funds and granted  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the funds. They are planning to recommend that LHiNC continue that model. The granted funds would be given to projects that need it most, such as the \$25K the committee recently allocated to

the Homeowners Navigation Program. The other  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the funds would be invested throughout the city to help with affordable housing and then come back with slight interest to the board. When it comes back, it can then be spent on anything, including housing. The committee will formalize these recommendations and present them to the board at a future date.

*The motion was made to adjourn; it was seconded and passed unanimously.*