

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, January 9, 2020

LHiNC Board Members present: Adam Beck, Steve Birch, Leah Fish, Peter Gilbert, Robert Haider, Tom Harlan, Judy Hornbacher, Barbara Lunde, Elizabeth McDonald, Bjorn Olson, Linda Picone, Wendy Ponte and Abdi Sahal

LHiNC Board Members absent: Ed Bell and Lauren Linderman

Executive Director: Becky Allen

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

Trolley Path Historical Signage Project - Aaron Isaacs, Minnesota Streetcar Museum

Aaron Isaacs of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum reported on an ongoing LHiNC-funded project to place 12 signs along the Trolley Path through Linden Hills that recounts the path's history. In 2018, LHiNC approved \$1200 to fund the signs that run the length of the Trolley Path from west of Upton to Chowen. LHiNC partnered with Aaron and the Streetcar Museum, because LHiNC had funded a similar project for the museum a few years ago. 12 signs were made (aluminum on metal) at cost of \$900. They are ready to be posted, but the city will not allow the signs to be placed on lamp posts as planned, because it violates sign ordinances. Instead, the signs need to be secured to 3-foot high posts at a 45 degree angle. The estimate from Gopher signs for 12 posts is \$1800. Aaron said the Minnesota Streetcar volunteers could place the signs for LHiNC.

Walt Pitt, former board member, who is also working on the project, said we could cut the number of signs down to as few as 7, if necessary. Steve Birch offered to have LHiNC help Aaron secure the necessary city permits. Bjorn Olson recommended adding QR stickers as another way to engage audiences. Steve Birch made a motion to approve up to 2500 to complete the project, including the posts, materials and labor. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ward 13 Update - Linea Palmisano, City Council

Council Member Palmisano provided a brief update for Ward 13:

- The biggest change in budget was the increase in the number of police officers, which she supported. Palmisano is also supportive of mindfulness training for officers and adding resources to 911-call detail.
- Palmisano's proposal for a bi-annual budget did not pass the City Council. They welcome any ideas about how the city can improve the current budget process.

- Regarding 2040, many neighborhood organizations want updates, so they can share with residents what to expect, what's next, etc. The 2040 steering committee meeting plans to hold three public meetings across the city. Dates are TBA. A postcard will be sent to every resident with details.

Art Shanty Projects/LHiNC Shanty - Steve Birch

The LHiNC shanty is in excellent shape; we have all the posters that decorate the inside and outside of the shanty. Game plan to assemble the shanty on Lake Harriet: this Saturday morning - Steve will rent a truck, load it up and we'll assemble it out on the lake.

We need volunteers both at the warehouse in the morning and on the lake in the afternoon.

Kite Festival - Becky Allen

Kite Festival is Saturday, January 25 from 12-4pm. LHiNC is sponsoring the s'mores with compostable bags. The shuttle from downtown Linden Hills is a go. We are sponsoring half (\$500) and Bremer is sponsoring the other half.

Other January Events - Becky Allen

- **Neighborhoods 2020 update** - Becky attended the December session that was focused on setting guidelines for the new funding framework. The final session to lay out the funding model is being held on two nights: January 9 and 14 at the University of MN. All board members are encouraged to attend.
- **Community Connections Conference** - NCR is hosting this free conference on Saturday, February 1 at the Convention Center. It runs all day with a morning and an afternoon session. All board members are encouraged to attend if and for as long as they can. If you are going, please let Becky know what sessions you plan to attend.

NRP Committee of the Whole - Robert Haider/Abdi Sahal

An NRP sub-committee has created a new way for committees to understand and access available NRP funds. They plan to present the process to the Executive Committee in early January and then to the entire board on a date later in January. Board members were asked to indicate all dates that worked for them. January 28th was tentatively selected. **UPDATE: Since the January 4 board meeting, the NRP Committee of the Whole meeting has been moved to Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30pm at the Linden Hills Park Building.**

Spring Festival Overview and Roles - Steve Birch and Elizabeth McDonald

LHiNC is officially changing the festival date to Sunday, June 14. The new date might put us at risk of losing volunteers from SWHS sports teams (X country, football, soccer, etc).

Board Roles

- Volunteers - 2 people: individuals vs groups/teams - Abdi Sahal and Steve Birch
- Tickets - Peter Gilbert
- Garage Sale -
- Art Fair - 2 - Judy Hornbacher, Barbara Lunde
- LHiNC Booth - Wendy Ponte & Bjorn Olson
- LHiNC Food Booth - Ed Bell
- Vendors and Beer Tent - Tom Harlan
- Zero Waste - Robert Haider and Leah Fish
- Silent Auction - Becky Allen, Elizabeth McDonald and Linda Picone (tentative)
- Sponsors - Bjorn Olson & Wendy Ponte
- Children's Stage
- Set up and Tear Down
- Entertainment - House of Music

Treasurer's Report - Tom Harlan

- Received reimbursements (CPP and NRP) from the city totaling \$43,000+
- Currently have a 99K balance in our General fund (checking and savings)
- We should have approximately \$7K rolling over from last year's CPP allotment

Community Engagement - Wendy Ponte/Peter Gilbert

- The committee is in the early stages of planning an Immigration/Refugee event, headed up by Judy Hornbacher.
- The committee is in the final stages of completing a community survey that is required by our CPP funding guidelines.
- MTA is preparing to solicit input regarding stations for the new E-line bus routes.
- The committee has decided to send The Linden Hills Line newsletter through USPS. Despite a slightly higher cost, it will reach renters more directly. Wendy Ponte made a motion to approve the mailing of the Line to all routes that include part of Fulton (Option 2) at a cost of \$14K+. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Environment and Sustainability - Leah Fish/Robert Haider

- The committee has set its goals for 2020.
- One goal is to have a large presence at the festival, including tables for each committee project.

Zoning and Housing - Tom Harlan

- The committee is moving the meeting to second monday of the month
- Re: NRP housing money, the committee is planning to bring people in to discuss options.
- Homeowners Navigation Program - When might they need to access the funds we set aside? Becky will get an update for Zoning Committee

Election Sub-committee - Elizabeth McDonald

This sub-committee was tasked with finding solutions to low voter turnout for board elections.

The sub-committee's recommendations include:

- One additional box for ballots at the Library
- Seven day voter period
- All ballots look the same
- Ways to vote: 1. By paper at Fall Fest; 2. Absentee ballot; 3. Electronic vote - on survey monkey - make sure all ballots look the same; no hyperlinks; short URL for access to bios; 4. Mail ballot

Tom Harlan questioned the legality of an online vote. Linda Picone said she would investigate the legal side. Becky Allen said she would ask if other neighborhoods have done electronic voting at the next SW Coordinators meeting.

Events Committee - Steve Birch/Elizabeth McDonald

The committee will meet January 11 at 7pm at Bremer. The festival will not be discussed in detail at this meeting; the meeting will cover large format planning.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.