

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, May 5, 2020

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

LHiNC Board Members absent: Ed Bell, Tom Harlan and Abdi Sahal

Executive Director: Becky Allen

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

Ward 13 Update - Council Member Linea Palmisano

1. Lake Harriet Parkway - CM Palmisano thanked LHiNC for the survey it conducted of 500+ neighbors regarding whether or not the MPRB should keep the Lake Harriet Parkway closed to traffic. On Wednesday, the park board will extend or not extend the parkway closures and discuss the cost of that. The closure costs will be \$128K, because they pay a vendor \$4K/day for "Road Closed" signs. She is advocating with park board staff for removable but sturdy signage.
2. Ueland Memorial - While the home of Brenda Ueland did not have a historic designation, the developer of the property did put aside \$70K for a public art commemoration. This is not a city art project; it's the developer's project, but it must meet city ordinances on public art, which include: it must be a physical art asset and must be permanent. The developer has engaged Jo Ellen Haugo and LHHSO, as well as Eric Utney - nephew of Brenda Ueland. Per LHiNC's Community Engagement Committee, Mary Altman (Public Art, City) and Becky Allen may work together on a neighborhood survey. The artist will also come to a LHiNC meeting to discuss his ideas and here from the public. The art can go anywhere in Linden Hills, including the site of her house, downtown Linden Hills or the lake.
3. City Budget - CM Palmisano supports adopting an alternative budget in June for the rest of the year, rather than the one passed in December. She believes it's important to have agreement between the mayor and council, and to hear from different departments. For example, the Elections Department will need more money, Public Works is going to be spending money in different ways and we will need more loans for housing than small businesses. Also, property taxes were delayed till July 15.

COVID-19 Neighborhood Fund - Becky Allen

NCR has created a fund for COVID-19 response to support efforts and expenses that address immediate local needs brought on by the coronavirus pandemic that are not covered by current City budgets but are eligible under the NRP Law. All requests will be submitted through the Health Department portal. NCR will review requests to determine if NRP funding is appropriate. Examples of such funding needs might include:

- capital items for food shelves (grocery carts, shelving) to increase physical distancing
- items related to the health needs of first responders, community groups or front-line contacts
- handwashing stations for people experiencing homelessness

Thus far West Calhoun has donated \$25K, and two other neighborhoods have donated between \$3-5K each. Judy Hornbacher expressed concern about the engineering of yet another program that we don't know how it will be implemented. Adam Beck liked the idea of using it for housing stability. He asked if some of LHiNC's grant money could be pushed over to that; maybe \$5K instead of \$20. Steve Birch added that LHiNC has lots of NRP money in housing, but this doesn't seem to fall under housing. Becky Allen said she'd check on both options: donating to this fund or creating our own.

Festival - Steve Birch, Elizabeth McDonald

LHiNC's Events Committee postponed the Festival and cancel this year's Taste of Linden Hills. If/when we are able to have a large, public event, the committee is recommending a different type of festival, much lighter, more of a street festival. We would look to host the event in the middle of downtown Linden Hills to support local businesses - similar to Woofstock. Our goal would not be revenue but to just break even. Discussion was had about being sure to follow all the guidelines and to work on an event plan, so that it could be put together in 2-3 weeks. A motion was made to re-scope the next festival. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The board then agreed to revisit the issue monthly re: timing.

Spring Grant Recommendations - Steve Birch

Steve summarized each grant request, as well as how their ask has changed since COVID-19.

Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra: \$1000

Mission: LHCO is committed to increasing the accessibility of exceptional music for all people in Minneapolis, regardless of age, income, race, or ability. Through free public concerts in local,

accessible spaces, this dynamic, non-audition orchestra enriches the lives of local musicians and concert-goers alike through access to high-quality orchestral performances.

Request: Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra (LHCO) respectfully requests \$1,000 to support half the stipend for a professional concertmaster during its spring and summer concert cycles in 2020, which include 13 rehearsals and 2 performances. Having a paid concertmaster significantly increases the accessibility of challenging music for more amateur players by having a teacher and expert on-site during rehearsals to complement the conductor with technical expertise. The LHCO concertmaster is paid a stipend of \$135 per rehearsal or performance, resulting in a total project cost of \$2,025.

Background: LHiNC last awarded LHCO with a grant in Spring 2017 - \$1,100 to support a website update (\$500), musician scholarships (\$240), and the purchase of music for the bandshell concert this summer (\$360). An LHCO Quartet has played for free at every Taste of Linden Hills since Fall 2016.

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Minneapolis Community Clay Courts: \$1,480

Mission: Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) is a volunteer-based organization founded in June of 2019. It is organized and shall be operated primarily to design, build and maintain public and freely accessible clay-surfaced tennis courts in Minneapolis for the recreation, enjoyment and healthfulness of the community.

Request: One of the things that makes clay court tennis so unique is that players prepare the court for the next players after they are finished playing. They do this by dragging a broom across the surface of the court to smooth out the surface and sweep the canvas lines so that the next players can see them clearly. Our request of the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council is for funds to cover the purchase of these tools:

Four 6' Drag Brush - Cost per Item: \$195 - Total Cost: \$780

Four Line Master Sweepers - Cost per Item: \$175 - Total Cost: \$700

Total Request: \$1,480

Background: Their fundraising goal is \$200,000. This amount will pay for design and construction of the court, fencing, nets, lines and maintenance tools. The Park Board has agreed to fund demolition as well as immediate and ongoing water costs, along with the cost of ongoing maintenance (fresh clay, lines, maintenance tools, etc.). They have raised \$87,000 and are only \$1,700 away from releasing a \$10,000 matching grant from the USTA Northern Section. The MPRB has slated this for Waveland Triangle as part of the CAC. However, there may be some interest in a last minute move to Beards Plaisance. They hope to break ground this summer.

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Prime Time: \$1000

Mission: 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, need for academic support to maintain grades or social support to forging relationships within the school. The program serves 30-60 students each week.

Request: Funding to support the continued development of Prime Time, an after-school program for Southwest High School. See budget for specific needs. LHiNC Grants have supported Prime Time as it pursued more collaboration within the school and neighborhood community to grow its programming. A LHiNC grant is a direct investment in integrating our neighborhood community, supporting the motivation of students of all backgrounds to pursue success in our community, and advancing our high quality of education with new populations of IB Learners.

Background: LHiNC has awarded grants to Prime Time in Fall 2019 (\$1000 for staffing) and in Fall 2018 (\$1000 for student meals). They provided a summary of the 2018-2019 year prior to their Fall 2019 request (included in the Google folder).

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The Wildling: \$1000

Mission: Speaking your truth at a young age cultivates identity, empowerment, and self love. We give young people the courage and confidence to share their personal stories, listen with open hearts, and face each other with no filters. The experience is nothing short of transformative.

Request: A \$1000 grant from the LHiNC will support two summer workshops for middle schoolers in Linden Hills this summer, and provide scholarships for a third of our participants. Specifically, the amount would cover eight scholarships and the supplies needed (notebooks, pens, worksheets, and other curriculum materials) for every kid.

Background: Last summer, 30 middle schoolers from all over the Twin Cities descended on Bremer Bank in Linden Hills to attend The Wildling's Summer Workshops. Each Wildling shared a true personal story up at the mic, with guided help from Wildling coaches and our unique storytelling curriculum. Our summer partner, the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club, joined us through our scholarship program, which the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council generously funded.

Discussion centered around LHiNC's changing financial situation, including lost money from the festival and the Taste and the change in city funding. Also, many of the groups' needs have changed, since COVID-19.

The board voted on each applicant separately. The following funding decisions were made:

- Funding will be given for two Eric Peterson Scholarships, annual scholarships given out to 2 Southwest High School students who show a commitment to community service.
- No funding will be given to LHCO.
- No funding will be given to the Minneapolis Clay Courts
- No funding will be given for Prime Time.
- No funding will be given to The Wildling.

Neighborhoods 2020 - Steve Birch

Based on discussions in March, Steve Birch drafted a letter of response to the city's 2020 plan. This letter will be sent to CM Palmisano and NCR. Steve shared the letter with the board via email. In summary, the letter stated that the base amount of funding being allocated to neighborhoods is not viable to maintain a neighborhood organization, and we therefore ask for base of \$25K. It also mentions that LHiNC believes City Council missed the scope of this new evaluation by not including NRP. A motion was made to approve the letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Community Engagement - Wendy Ponte and Peter Gilbert

The committee is gathering a collection of COVID-19 neighborhood stories for the E-news. Carol Clemens is doing an amazing job of putting out the e-news each week. They are discussing partnering with the library on some community projects. They are supporting the city's Census 2020 Volunteer Phone Banking by promoting via Facebook, newsletter and website. Barbara is continuing to work on the express bus stops.

Environment and Sustainability - Leah Fish and Robert Haider

The committee has two upcoming events: Regenerative Lawn Care via Zoom on May 14 at 6pm and Free Compost from Mississippi Mushrooms on Saturday, May 9. They are also moving forward with Rain Garden Initiative with Metro Bloom, but timeline pushed back. They are also going to try to meet virtually this month.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.