

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, June 2, 2020

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

Executive Director: Becky Allen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The June agenda was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Tom Harlan)

LHiNC had no expenditures in the month of May, has \$7K in payments pending, and has requested reimbursements from the city totaling \$42K. That will leave LHiNC with \$112K in its general fund; currently at \$70K, awaiting city reimbursements.

Audit Recommendations made by city accountant:

- Give Executive Director power to write checks up to \$500; Will be reflected in RFPs, in a special tab
- Switch from Debit to Credit Card, for better security
- Put in a protocol requiring 1-3 bids on any project costing \$1K or more

LHiNC Treasurer Tom Harlan supports the recommendations. Bjorn Olson asked about the amount; can/should it be more? Tom said its best practices; also we don't see many expenses beyond this.

Motion was made to pass all recommendations; it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Zoning & Housing - NRP Proposal

As has been discussed in past meetings, Zoning and Housing Committee is dividing its NRP money into two buckets, one for grants and one for investment. Tonight's motion deals with the investment portion.

The committee is proposing investing \$130K in the PROPEL and its affordable housing working capital program to provide loans to nonprofit housing developers to develop affordable housing in the city. PROPEL will return the investment to us in 2-3 years with modest interest (2%). When the money is returned with interest, it does not need to be used for housing; it can be invested in anything.

Board Discussion:

- Steve Birch - Program for housing loans went under. PROPEL is a highly regarded partner.
- Bjorn Olson - Several other neighborhood organizations have built similar partnerships with PROPEL, including Fulton.
- Ed Bell - Beautiful way to leverage this in the future

A motion was made for 130K of NRP housing funds to be contracted to PROPEL. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Farmers Market Fund Re-allocation

LHiNC had voted to allocate \$25K for improvements to the Linden Hills Farmers Market. The Farmers Market has decided not to use the money. Tom Harlan recommended reallocating the \$25K to the Environmental Committee. D

A motion was made to pull back the 25K allocated earlier to the Farmers Market, but to hold off on re-allocating for now. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Environment and Sustainability - Leah Fish and Robert Haider (10 min)

- Last month, the committee held an online Regenerative Lawn Care presentation with Russ Henry, almost 20 participants
- The committee is starting to design a committee webpage.
- Next Committee Meeting will be in-person, in the pocket park, next Wednesday.
- HS student starting own healthy soil plot on Trolley Path
- Metro Blooms - Robert putting together some information on how to apply for the rain garden program; it will be featured in the next e-news
- Goal for another virtual presentation in next month or so - waste management on what goes in what bin; shooting for July

Community Engagement - Peter Gilbert

- Utility Box project - art wraps
- Continuing Census promotion via e-news
- Metro Transit on hold
- Refugee/Immigration event - virtual speaker series
- Posted Business Information on our website, nextdoor, FB; E-news COVID updates; emailed block captains; e-news weekly for six weeks, neighbor stories, partnered with library - storytime
- Next meeting - June 29, outside

Community Support Discussion - COVID-19 and Response to George Floyd and the Aftermath

The board discussed ways in which it could help support the city in the response to George Floyd's murder and the riots that came after. The board decided to write a statement. The statement will be written in the next week and shared. The board will reconvene for a special meeting in one week to discuss and approve a statement that will then be shared with the community online.

The board also decided to find out how we could support the community financially. Becky will research neighborhoods and organizations that the board could support with donations.

Motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.