

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting, December 3, 2019

LHiNC Board Members present: Adam Beck, Ed Bell, Steve Birch, Leah Fish, Robert Haider, Judy Hornbacher, Barbara Lunde, Elizabeth McDonald, Linda Picone, and Wendy Ponte

LHiNC Board Members absent: Tom Harlan, Lauren Linderman, Bjorn Olson and Abdi Sahal

Executive Director: Becky Allen

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

TREASURE AWARD - Jaegar

LHiNC Chair Steve Birch presented a LHiNC Treasure Award to Joe Young in honor of Jaegar, the dog that was a fixture at Settergren's Ace Hardware in Linden Hills, for his contribution to the community. Jaegar passed away in the fall.

ART SHANTY – Eric Hanson

The Art Shanties Project is returning to Lake Harriet this winter. LHiNC is a major sponsor of the event - \$5K per year for three years. Because LHiNC used NRP funds for the sponsorship, the city required LHiNC to build a shanty providing a history of Linden Hills. The shanty was designed by board member Ed Bell and built with the help of several talented community members, including Eric Hanson. Eric attended the meeting to provide the current board with an overview of the shanty and the work it will take to reconstruct on the ice this winter. Eric Hanson said paint on the shanty may need a touch up, and the vinyl posters may need to be re-grommited. Steve Birch and Eric agreed to visit the shanty in storage to check on its condition. Steve said the Events Committee would organize a meeting to gather volunteers and organize work day(s), when necessary.

The shanty has been stored in a warehouse belonging to a Linden Hills resident. LHiNC paid him approximately \$1/day for the first year; we are now moving into the third year. Therefore a motion was made to pay him \$1000 for what is owed, plus pre-payment for an additional year to store between 2020 and 2021 Art Shanties. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

HEALTHY SOIL PROJECT 2020 – Ginny Halloran

Environment Committee Co-chair Leah Fish introduced committee member Ginny Halloran, who has been heading up the committee's Healthy Soil Project for the past year. The Trolley Path is the site of their healthy soil plot. The Committee has held 2 community workshops,

tabled twice at the LH Farmers Market, gotten the Park Board involved, and developed handouts. The committee would like to continue the project through 2020.

Ginny Halloran presented Phase 2 of the project to the board with a budget request of \$5500, which includes purchase of compost and wood chips, expanding the healthy soil plot, the purchase of soil science tools for education purposes, and outreach about healthy soil to the community.

Environmental Co-chair Robert Haider suggested using funds from the NRP's Urban Forest and Improving Water Quality strategies.

A motion was made to support the budget request of \$5500 for a continuation of the Healthy Soil Project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MAPPING PREJUDICE WRAP-UP – Teresa Mercier, Linden Hills Library.

Linden Hills Library collaborated with a group from the University of Minnesota called Mapping Prejudice, which researches racial housing segregation, for an exhibit and programs that ran at the Linden Hills Library throughout the summer. LHiNC was a sponsor of the collaboration, providing funds for the exhibit's opening and ice cream for a screening and discussion later in the summer.

More than 40 people attended the exhibit opening. Teresa shared feedback from attendees and others that experienced the exhibit throughout the summer. As part of the exhibit, the library hosted a screening of the documentary *Jim Crow of the North* followed by a discussion with the director of the film and lead researcher of Mapping Prejudice. Almost 150 people attended. Exhibit ended in July.

Teen Librarian Libby Wambheim working with Southwest High School to continue sharing the information in the community.

2020 CENSUS AND ELECTION – David Rubedor and Casey Carl

David Rubedor of the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department presented to the board on the importance of the 2020 Census. The census will begin April 1, 2020 and last until late June. The count will determine how many federal house seats MN is granted, as well as much of the state's federal funding. For the last census, MN had 8 regional offices; this year, MN only has three. Also, this will be the first-ever census done online, which creates its own barriers. If outside efforts are not made to help with the count, they are estimating the state will be undercounted by 95,000. NCR is leading a grassroots effort to go out into our community and distribute info and build awareness

- NCR is building a toolbox; NCR would like neighborhoods to help get info out about the census
- Traditionally undercounted groups: renters, seniors, children, diverse communities, homeless
- NCR and city setting up technology centers around the city; info will be added to their website when becomes available
- Asking LHiNC to think about events where we can distribute information
- Putting together a newsletter article – can send out
- Grants of \$750 available for a census awareness event

Wendy Ponte asked if LHiNC could set up a computer at an event? David – You can assist them, and have an interpreter, but can't offer the census in other languages.

Linda Picone asked about the timeframe. David - It starts April 1 and goes until the end of June. They are worried about the trust factor when census enumerators come to the door; want to try to get to people before that happens.

Casey Carl from the City's Clerk's Office presented the board with a busy line-up of elections coming to Minneapolis starting with the 2020 Presidential Primary. Ballots can be submitted starting on Friday, January 17. #1 barrier is registration. He asked LHiNC to consider hosting voter registration events or hosting a registration table at an event.

NEIGHBORHOODS 2020 – Steve Birch

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of MN has been contracted by the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department to run a community engagement process over three sessions to help the city develop a new funding system for neighborhoods that will replace CPP. LHiNC's big concern is what the funding mechanism will be. There are also many issues around governance being debated in these sessions. LHiNC feels like it can and should meet the city's requirements there. First session on reflection was held November 21; Steve Birch attended and SW Minneapolis was well represented. Becky will attend December 12 meeting focused on visioning. There will also be a meeting on January 9 focused on creating a new model. Anyone who would like to attend is encouraged to do so.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Birch

CPP and NRP reimbursement requests have been made for 2019; payments will soon be on their way.

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

Board Member Jane Elias decided to resign her seat on the board. According to the by-laws, the board can appoint somebody or hold another election. Wendy Ponte nominated Peter Gilbert who ran in the last election and currently serves as co-chair of the LHiNC Community Engagement Committee. The board held a secret ballot to decide whether to:

- Appoint the person from the October Election who was not elected but had the next most votes
- Appoint Peter Gilbert
- Reach out to everyone who ran in October but did not win, ask if they'd like to be considered, then have board vote in February.

Board voted to appoint Peter Gilbert.

COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

Per LHiNC By-laws, the Chair appoints committee chairs. Steve Birch appointed the following committee chairs:

- Community Engagement – Peter Gilbert and Wendy Ponte
- Environment and Sustainability: Leah Fish and Robert Haider
- Events: Steve Birch and Elizabeth McDonald
- Zoning and Housing: Tom Harlan and Lauren Linderman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Engagement

- Wine and Stroll – LHBA asked us to be a sponsor. Committee recommends sponsoring at \$250, which will fund the carolers for the event. Motion is made to sponsor at \$250. Motion is seconded and passed unanimously
- Kite Festival – The committee recommends continuing our annual sponsorship of s'mores , but increasing from \$250 to \$350, so MPRB can provide s'mores packets biodegradable bags. Abdi Sahal added to the request that kosher marshmallows be made available, as well. Steve Birch made a motion to approve \$350 for Kite Festival Sponsorship. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Kite Festival Shuttle – The Committee is recommending an additional \$500 in sponsorship to help support a shuttle from the Kite Festival into downtown Linden Hills. This sponsorship would be contingent on MPRB agreeing to a downtown LH stop and additional funding being provided by LHBA, Bremer or both. A motion was made to support \$500 for a shuttle, if all other contingencies are met. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Environmental

- Committee is recommending that LHiNC support a partnership with MetroBlooms to help build rain gardens in Linden Hills. LHiNC covers 2/3 and homeowner covers 1/3 of the cost. MetroBlooms provides planning and volunteers. The committee recommends \$4000 in funding for this project, which will support rain gardens for 5 homes. The motion was made to support \$4000 in funding for this partnership project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Zoning – No report

Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.