

Date: November 9, 2023

Location: Kenwood Community Center

Time Meeting Called to Order after Quorum: 7:05PM by President Thomas Regnier.

Board Members Present: Thomas Regnier (President); Sue Westerman (Treasurer); William Goodnow (Secretary); David Bjork; Jackie Brown-Baylor; Fran Davis; John Lillehei, MD; Wil Stancil; Sarah Grundhoefer.

Other Attendees: Lisa Goodman, Barb Davis.

Minneapolis City Council Update

Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman provided an update. The last Lunch With Lisa is next Wednesday November 14. Cake and coffee will be provided and attendees will be able to “ask any questions you were never able to ask before.” Lisa’s retirement party will be held at The Armory. The theme is "Last Call With Lisa" and anyone interested may contact her office for an RSVP. Yard waste collection stops on 11/27 which was pushed back by one week this year to accommodate climate change. There is one more public hearing before the City budget is adopted which will be during our next meeting on 12/5. There will be a virtual meeting about rail safety in the SW LRT corridor on Wednesday 11/16 at 6:30 on teams. After burning down, the K-Mart building was demolished and they are working on reconnecting Nicollet and restoring the street grid in that area. Look online for the master plan for development surrounding the old K-Mart location (on the City website click into New Nicollet there for info about the public process). The City will "sell off the parcels via RFP." Court decision on the 2040 plan means nothing for the Hennepin Ave plan unfortunately. The piece of the 2040 plan that was struck down allowed conversion from single family to multi family in areas that did not already allow that type of redevelopment. The 2040 plan court decision will impact about 180 permits. Ongoing projects have not been halted but there are no new permits allowed. The city asked for a stay but the court ignored it.

Minneapolis Police Department Update

A representative of the Minneapolis Police Department was not in attendance.

Crime & Safety Update

Treasurer Sue Westerman provided an update. For 14 months we had no violent crime, aside from a couple of murders that were related to domestic incidents and not “street crime” per se. This last week we had three carjackings. 11/1 carjacking down at Parade Stadium at 7am. On 11/6, someone was pulling in their driveway and a carjacker came up behind them. She threw her wallet into the yard so she could create a distraction and get the kids in the house. On 11/6 there was another carjacking in which the victim was dragged from her vehicle but was unharmed and the car was not taken. There were two carjackings in Kenwood as well involving four male teenagers. There was a robbery on

Mt Curve in which \$200,000 in jewelry was stolen. There was a house on the south side of Calhoun that was robbed and over \$1 million in jewelry was stolen in under five minutes (the rumor is it was an inside job). Sue has been in discussion with Kenwood and East Isles about doing a joint neighborhood safety meeting. They may have Andy Luger, Chief O'Hara, perhaps the mayor, perhaps at the Kenwood Gym. The tentative date is 1/26 at 6pm. 7 of the 8 cameras we purchased are installed.

Motion to allocate \$500 for the joint Neighborhood Safety Meeting on January 26, 2024: proposed by Sue Westerman. Seconded by Fran Davis. No discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sue Westerman provided an update. No big expenses coming through except we paid for the plaques. The plaques came in at \$12,000 or \$14,000 when it was supposed to cost \$10,000. Budget runs calendar year because the City runs on calendar year. There was a discussion surrounding how much it will cost to hire an admin with a conclusion to table the issue.

Events Update

Events Chair Jackie Brown-Baylor provided an update. See the section on hiring an admin person below. Jackie suggested a postcard invite for the annual meeting, or other direct mailer, like we have done in the past and compare turnout to see whether it is an effective means of attracting attendees. Barb Davis said you can get stamps for 23 cents an envelope on some websites. Carrier route saturation is an option. We discussed having someone explore the difference in cost between envelopes, cards, etc.

Motion to contribute \$250 toward the cost of puppy dog tails at the Skate Party on January 28, 2024: moved by Jackie Brown-Baylor, seconded by Sue Westerman. Passed unanimously.

Communications Update

Communications Chair Sarah Grundhoefer provided an update. See discussion about hiring Cuyler (below) and figuring out a mailing program to boost attendance at the annual meeting under events.

Zoning

Zoning Chair Fran Davis provided an update. There is no zoning business pending.

Donation Committee Update

Donations Committee Chair Nate Morris was not in attendance.

Governance

Approval of the October 2023 Minutes: Fran Davis moved for approval, seconded by John Lillehei. No discussion. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Facade Improvement Grant Program & Business District Grant Program: Wil Stencil is working on applications for the Facade Improvement Grant Program and the Business District Grant Program through the City of Minneapolis. The grant programs are limited to the main corridors. Wil applied for the facade grant on behalf of LHNA to meet a deadline. The rationale stated in the applications addressed the number of vacant store fronts in Lowry Hill and a need for funding to make them more attractive to potential vendors. The Business District Grant Program is more open ended with a limit of \$50,000 available the deadline for which is 11/30. At this point we just need to write an application and submit it which Wil intends to do himself.

Neighborhood Engagement Plan Discussion: For Fall of 2023, we are on schedule because hiring a part-time staff member was on the schedule for Fall 2023 and we are actively interviewing a candidate. Outreach to renters and getting people involved in neighborhood events was central to the plan. We have not gotten much renter involvement in events but do have additional renter board members now.

Hill & Lake Press (HLP) Advertising Commitment: We have used #12 1/2 page ads this year. Sue is in support of renewing the advertisements commitment. HLP is considering expanding to the East and West Calhoun neighborhoods. A 1/2 page ad for a non-profit costs \$429/month which is a 29% discount over the regular rate for a 1/2 page ad. Christopher's at HLP are not included in the AD and his assistance costs \$125/hour which accounts for time to create the advertisement. We are charged for about 1/2 hour of time per advertisement and it is included in the invoice which deducts from our balance at HLP. HLP is trying to find good ways to manage getting a community calendar. Inserts are much more expensive than more pages and they can make the paper as many pages as they want without much of a difference in cost. Ad pricing will be revised in 2024.

Motion to Commit to #12 1/2 Page Advertisements in the Hill & Lake Press in 2024: Proposed by David Bjork, seconded by Fran Davis. No discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Hiring a Paid Administrator: Jackie pitched hiring an admin person for the board. Cuyler is the admin person for East Isles and East Calhoun. Jacking contacted Cuyler and asked whether he would be interested and what he does for East Isles. Apparently, Cuyler's duties differ by neighborhood but, typically, he does communications, books venues, grant writing, manages volunteers for events, meeting

setup, etc. Does he have time to do it? He said he would like to determine if it is a fit and whether he would be a good partner for the neighborhood. Fran suggested a smaller group meet with him as a "hiring committee." Jackie agreed to set up another meeting with Cuyler. She has always met with him virtually. By next month we will need a clear idea of how much to budget for Cuyler.

Motion to allocate \$400 for food at the MPLS Police Roll Call as our yearly thank you for their work in the community: proposed by Sue Westerman, seconded by Fran Davis. No discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion to allocate \$400 for Thanksgiving pies to be donated to the MPLS Police and local National Guard soldiers: motioned by Sue Westerman. Seconded by Fran Davis. No discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discontinuation of MPLS Police Buyback: to be covered in December. LHNA is not actually involved in the buyback. It is handled by an outside organization.

Vice-President Needed: the board remains in need of a Vice-President.

PERIS Hill Update

Carla Godwin was not in attendance. The PERIS Hill Open House on 11/2 had several board members in attendance. They asked whether we will consider them for their year end giving. The building is very nice. All 15 young adult spaces are filled. 13 of 15 original tenants are still living there. There are 3 affordable housing still available. The ground floor is a common area and they have a library that only has about 20 books in it. Any book donations would be welcome to build up a selection.

Definitions

LHNA: Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association

MPD: Minneapolis Police Department

HLP: Hill & Lake Press

NNF: Neighborhood Network Fund

EEF: Equitable Engagement Fund

As there was no further business,

Meeting adjourned by President Thomas Regnier at 9:00 PM by motion carried.

The next LHNA Board Meeting will be held at the Kenwood Community Center on December 5, 2023 at 7PM.

Minutes by William Goodnow
Secretary, LHNA Board