

Environment & River Gorge Committee
August 3, 2022
Draft Minutes

1. Introductions

Present:

Carolyn Carr

Christine Marlo- Triemstra

Nicole Bridgland

Dan Schultz

Reed

Mike Luke

Anna Peschel

David Zumeta

Wanja Kuria

Recorder: Andrea Tritschler, LCC staff - chair fill-in

2. Approve June & July Minutes

Motion: Agendas are approved

3. Trash Clean up Scope of Service Presentation - Anna Peschel

SUMMARY: Proposal for organizing a Trash Pickup on Hiawatha and 46th St. by the Walgreens in October before the scheduled River Cleanup with the objective to create environmental efforts aimed at that corner, which would hopefully translate into business stewardship and environmental intervention.

Walgreens has shown support for this and would allow the organization to table at in their parking lot and would donate gloves and plastic bags. Organizers would work on getting support from Cub Food and Holiday Gas Station as well.

For participant safety, the clean up would be limited to the eastside of Hiawatha. Organizers would encourage volunteers to wear safety vests and would provide them to anyone participating.

SCOPE FUNDING REQUESTS/NEEDS & LCC SUPPORT:

- Safety vests
- Trash pickers
- Outreach help
- This would be a branded and hosted LCC event
- Staff time would be established and most staff time would come from helping with outreach and using LCC's network of volunteers

There has interest in Greater Longfellow to see people reacting to the trash problem

and participating in cleaning up the neighborhood.

COMMENTS:

Mike - I like the idea but are we enabling businesses' bad behavior if we clean up the trash for them?

Anna - The District Manager (of Walgreens) is aware of the problem. There has been a lot of turnover with store management, but the store manager is required to do a weekly parking lot sweep. Recently they have been making some efforts. I think if we got people out there and visible it would show that people care. It could be a start to have volunteers there and it might get people/ businesses to take better care too.

Dan - What I like about this is it shows we are addressing it. It's mayhem there. It would be nice to see something nice there, and the stores need support. I hope we can get some of the neighbors in the apartment buildings involved.

Mike - I live a couple blocks from there and it's mayhem. For NNO it was the first time i've seen a lot of those streets clear.

Anna - I would like to see action come from the stores itself, but we can get them involved and right now it doesn't seem like a neighborhood. It doesn't look cared for.

Reed - If it's really bad now, it's not going to make it worse. I think getting the apartments involved would be a great idea. But I do want to address some discrepancies in the budget breakdown.

It says \$250 in one place and \$335 in the other, so what is the cost of this going to be?

Anna - well it depends on supplies, trash pickers are our greatest need.

Andrea - LCC has probably 20 to 30 trash pickers already, what would the amount needed be?

Christine - LCC has some high-industrial ones but those orange ones are basically useless. I think that is right, that LCC has around 20 of those industrial pickers.

Andrea - I'll check inventory and get back to you, Anna, so you can make any budgetary adjustments

Carolyn - I support this, it needs to be revised a little but I agree with what Dan said and the materials can be used for other events.

Other discussion:

- \$2 vests at ReStore (let's keep shopping local if possible)
- Potential to involve Roosevelt and South High School

- Clarification around staff involvement: no staff will be required to be at the event, staff is needed mostly for outreach
- Hiawatha Storage Manager involvement and outreach
- LCC Staff needs with regard to outreach and volunteer outreach will have to come from the committee and organizers as well why LCC builds up it's volunteer base.

Motion: Reed makes a motion to pass scope with amendments and approve up to \$335 to get approximately 30 pickers and safety vests.

David seconds

Passes unanimously. Will be presented to Executive Committee on August 10

4. Lock and Dam Tour Update - Carolyn/ David

Those who attended said it was a great event. I went and had a great time and I'm glad FMR is invested in the area and are trying to create engagement around that project. One drawback was there was no tour of the dam as you can only tour during working hours (5pm)

5. Longfellow River Gorge Festival Update - David

It's September 11th Wilderness Inquiry will be doing canoe rides. And it's in good shape (David said)

Here's an update Sophie emailed to Ian but was not included in the meeting: "On the longfellow river gorge celebration front -- we are in good shape. This week I re-confirmed that the dates/times would work for our key partner groups (Wilderness inquiry, the rowing club, national parks service, Friends of the Mississippi) -- all have gotten back to me in the affirmative except the rowing club. The rowing club said yes in the spring but I am still anxious to get their leadership to reaffirm the date/time commitment. I have not heard back yet from Jim at dairy queen about the dilly bar donations, but should he not be willing to donate this year, we have funding to cover purchasing dilly bars and popsicles from the donations we got last year. Andrea has made us a new flyer, which we will start distributing mid-August. LCC is taking care of getting the event info into the Messenger edition for Sept. I reached out to the park board reps and Andrew Johnson and have gotten at least 1 commitment from Becky Alper to attend the event. Finally, I will be reaching out to volunteers in our network to help out with storing frozen treats and staffing the event soon -- the LCC staff and board will hopefully be able to help."

6. Parks Dedication Fee Survey update - Dan

We have reached a lot of people, so that's been great. People have been very receptive to it. Struggling to connect with people we don't normally reach, classically marginalized voices, and people of low income. We are trying our best to expand the reach, but if anyone has any ideas, that's great. There are flyers made that I've been passing out to people. The flyer has a QR code and was largely created by Ian and his wife and Bennett.

Christine - I thought about doing a type of flyer, but the way Dan has been going about it is great and simple. I was thinking of going to the parks and handing out the sheet at all of the parks in the neighborhood.

Nicole - My apartment building often has flyers hanging up, so you could contact the property manager and try to get some flyers hung up in the building and get it directly to residents.

7. Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan - Reed

They are pumping way more water out of the golf course than they should be. The new Master Plan is not yet approved. It addresses some of the environmental issues because the golf course is a swamp. The 9-hole golf course is a compromise between the historical and the environmental needs. The letter shows our support for the compromise.

1. This plan would preserve an aging golf course which is historically significant to the black community and black golfing.
2. It would be 9 -holes vs. a full 18, which would allow the park to be able to address some of the environmental issues created by the golf course.

Carolyn - We can't ignore the social history and the ecological impact so I agree with this compromise.

Mike - This is a middle ground for sure. It's a wetland and we have to find a way to manage that water. And we have to remember it's not fully public land, you do have to pay to golf, even if the fees are typically lower.

Dan - I agree because the MPB went through an extensive process to get public feedback and discuss the future of this course. I want to respect the people who put in the time and effort there.

David - It's unsustainable to have a golf course and maintain and manage the water, we need to do it properly. It seems like a reasonable compromise.

OBJECTIONS:

Christine - I do play golf, not often, but me and my daughter go there once a year. I have concerns about the master plan because it's an affordable 18-hole golf course and it is more inclusive and represents more community than most golf courses. I need to do some research on it before I vote. I will say I was there last week and saw more diverse people than so many other places in the cities.

PUBLIC HEARING IS POTENTIALLY AUGUST 11TH

Motion: Reed puts forth a motion to approve and submit the letter drafted by Ian Mike seconds.

(Andrea will bring approved letter to the EC for approval/ further discussion if needed)

Nicole, David, Dan, Carolyn approve the motion

Christine abstains.

Adjourned.