



February Board of Directors Meeting

February 15, 2022, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Via Zoom)

Board members present: Mike Berger, Lisa Boyd, Bev Conerton, Tina Hermsen, Ken Koense, Kath Lenk, Deb Reiersen, Patrick Santelli, Ian Young, Frank Alarcon

Excused absences: James Gleckner, Marina Balleria

Staff present: Rachel Boeke

Guests:

Minneapolis Parks

Siciid Ali, Park Planner

Adam Arvidson, Director of Planning Services

Becky Alper, Park Board representative

Elizabeth Lyden, Catholic Charities

Robin Wonsley Worlobah, City Council Member

Jason Chavez, City Council Member

Andrew Johnson, City Council Member

Meeting called to order at 6:03

Welcome and introductions by President Lisa Boyd

Approved agenda by consensus

Approved January 2022 board meeting minutes by consensus

Letter of Support for Hope Street Development. Board considered letter of support for Hope Street Development by Catholic Charities CUP (conditional use permit) Application; Rachel and Bev gave a summary of the community meeting; agreed by consensus to provide letter as written

Park Dedication Fees presented by Siciid Ali, Park Planner, and Adam Arvidson, Director of Planning Services

Park dedication fees are assessed on any development within Minneapolis and are designed to enhance the park system in the neighborhood they are collected in. MPRB collects fees when developers pay for building permits. Fees must be spent on park system expansions or enhancements in the neighborhood in which they are paid (land acquisition, new recreation facilities, or expanded amenities—not on rehabilitation or maintenance).

All decisions are made by the Board of Commissioners but they get input from neighborhood organizations if there are enough funds (>\$50K) and more than one park in the neighborhood.

Breakdown of allocations available to Greater Longfellow neighborhoods:

Longfellow: \$340,000; Cooper: \$3,135 (will wait until more funds available); Howe: \$173,000; Hiawatha: \$604,000; Total: \$964,135.

These allocations have to be put to use in specific geographic areas based on neighborhood boundaries:

Longfellow: west side of Brackett Park

Cooper: Brackett Park, regional park area along the river

Howe: Longfellow Park, Seven Oaks Oval, regional park areas

Hiawatha: Adams Triangle, Hiawatha school park, regional parks - River gorge and Minnehaha

There were some questions about the process which were clarified. They would like guidance on how to use these funds and they look to neighborhood organizations to get input from residents. They need information by September 2022.

Ward 9 Councilmember Jason Chavez: They are working on expanding the \$15 minimum wage regardless of ability/disability; also worked on getting a ban on no-knock warrants in place (despite that already being policy) and clarification of using ballistic shields when entering homes; a lot of police policies need to be reviewed.

Q: What is being done to get the City to follow through rather than just saying that they will be “getting back to us”?

A: Still trying to figure out roles of Mayor vs. Council with new power that Mayor has since the last election; Council has no power over police so he can just put pressure and try to demand answers; he has asked for a meeting with Mayor Frey but has not happened yet.

Shared and Collaborative Resources Fund application: Rachel stressed that this is work in progress and can be altered as time goes on. The main idea is to share resources with the Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG). This is an exploration as to how the collaboration can be put together, and Bev suggested adding this to the application (which Rachel did). The budget is to do the work to make the collaboration and also has a lot of flexibility. The “Joint Executive Committee” is a suggestion of some sort of leadership team across SNG and LCC. Board approved of application being submitted.

Committee Updates

- Ian, Environment and River Gorge Committee: Have tentative date for Share the Gorge event (September 11); will be discussing park dedication fees with committee
- Lisa and Bev, Equitable Housing and Development Committee: working on merger of two committees and brainstorming ideas of what the new committee will work on.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robin Wonsley Worlobah: very busy due to the murder of Amir Locke; they would like to see a Department of Public Safety that would be different than that was on the ballot in that it would incorporate current systems that are in place (including MPD) but will fill the needs that are not being met (e.g., mental health, domestic abuse); depending on DOJ investigation and other reviews, the work will be how to reimagine how public safety will be addressed. Other updates: there will be public hearings on restructuring the Hi-Lake intersection; Venture Academy is requesting funds to add facilities for middle school students; will be hosting a forum on rent control issues with various experts on Feb. 22; on Feb. 23, will be hosting a press conference on introducing resolutions to support front line workers (Starbucks and Educators).

Q: Have the redistricting borders been decided?

A: There will be a meeting on Feb. 24 to decide this

Q What can be done about the building across from the library that is in disrepair (broken windows, etc.)
A: Can call 311 to make a complaint; also can call the head of regulatory services and set up a meeting with them. Robin's office can help make the connection.

Executive Director Update. Rachel gave an overview of the new staff members who will start soon; they are very qualified and have great skills and experience.

Q: What are Group agreements?

A: (Lisa) As we look to diversify our board and engage more diverse residents in our work, there might be difficult conversations; the agreements can be set up to have a framework for how we interact and respect one another.

Seward Redesign has started pre-applications for leases in the Coliseum building but there is no information yet. LCC will be signing a one-year lease on new office space (1500 sq. ft.) in the building with Elite Cleaners on Minnehaha. It is under construction and; it is supposed to be ready on April 1. We will share space with SNG and LBA.

Q: Is the joint position proposed with LBA in addition to Justin's position or part of Justin's role?

A: It will be a position that could be filled by Justin; but we can discuss specifics when it becomes finalized

Finance Committee Update by Treasurer Mike Berger: committee meets once a month and new members always welcome; showed new format for finance reports; a few highlights are that we received grant income we were not expecting from a local church (\$43,333) and Minnesota Area Realtors (MAR) grants were closed out.

Q: How do we know what to focus on in the new reports because there is a lot of information?

A: Mike will work with Rachel on a one-page document

Ward 12 Councilmember Andrew Johnson: Fire Station 24 received historic designation; Dight Ave. will be named Cheetham Ave after the first black firefighter. Portico at the Falls has broken ground. If the ward redistricting map holds, Greater Longfellow will no longer be in Ward 2 but this is not final yet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01