



January Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 18, 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

Excused absences: Frank Alarcon, James Gleckner

Staff present: Rachel Boeke

Guests:

- Michele Braley, Chivon Lashley (Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice)
- Trica Trowbridge (Du Nord Foundation)
- Elizabeth Lyden, Wendy Underwood, Keith Kozerski, Molly McInerney (Catholic Charities)
- Rachel Wonsley Worlobah, Jason Chavez (City councilmembers)
- Angela Conley (Hennepin County Commissioner)
- Sarah Larsson (Somali Museum)

Residents: Roberta Cullen, David Wroblewski, Brooke (did not get last name)

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by President Lisa Boyd who led welcome to all and introductions of all board members

Agenda approved by consensus
November board meeting minutes approved by consensus

Michele Braley (Executive Director) and Chivon Lashley (Referral Coordinator) introduced themselves and provided an update on **Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice (SLRJ)**. The program was created in 2004 by Longfellow and Seward residents to work with youth who have broken the law and give them an opportunity to go through a restorative process (how to right the harms as determined by neighborhood residents). SLRJ are now their own non-profit and have liaisons from the two neighborhoods. Deb Reiersen is the liaison from LCC. In the last year, referrals have been near zero due to many reasons such as schools no longer having school officers. They are getting more referrals from the general community and are looking to hire a strategic consultant to decide about possible new directions for the organization. Input from neighborhood residents will be sought on that process

Trica Trowbridge, Community Market Director with **Du Nord Foundation** provided an update on their food pantry that is barrier free with no geographic boundaries; neighbors can order as many times as they'd like (online); focus on healthy fresh organic food. Have had visitors from 37 zip codes; LCC was one of their first funders.

Hope Street Development by Catholic Charities presented by Elizabeth Lyden (Community Engagement & Partnerships Manager), Wendy Underwood (VP Social Justice Advocacy & Engagement); Keith Kozerski (Senior Director of Child and Family Services)

They would like to relocate their youth emergency shelter to 4140 Dight Ave in Summer 2020 (Hiawatha Suites); the shelter would house 30 youth ages 18-24; the population they serve is primarily from BIPOC and LGBTQ communities. Currently located at St. Joseph's Home for Children but the building has become unsuitable for their needs. Have looked at many potential properties. The proposed building is ideal for many reasons such as being near public transportation and employment opportunities. It would allow for private rooms which is ideal for youth who have often experienced trauma. It would be open 24-7 (i.e., no lines outside) with security cameras and little or no car traffic. Purchase agreement is contingent on Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Angela Conley (Hennepin County Commissioner) expressed her support for Hope Street.

C: Resident (David Wroblewski) who is a mental health nurse and lives near the location expressed his support.

C/Q: Resident (Roberta Cullen) asked if this is currently a senior living facility; also commented that she would welcome adding art projects or installations to the building.

R: Yes, it is a senior living facility.

Q: How much outreach to the public has LCC done; and what has City done?

R: Catholic Charities door knocked on several blocks and encouraged people to come to this meeting; spoke to a few people during this process. Justin (LCC program manager) put up fliers in Hiawatha Flats (a nearby building) where he is a resident.

C: Rachel met with Elizabeth and because the timeline for community meeting was rather tight, Hope Street would like this meeting to serve as the required community meeting.

Q: How many current residents will be displaced?

R: They do not know exactly but the current owners are selling the building because of low occupancy. Many of the current residents are there temporarily while another building is being renovated.

Lisa asked for input from board members and there was a lot of support but most would prefer to do a community meeting before writing a letter of support because feel cannot speak for the community at this time.

Elected Officials

Ward 2 Robin Wonsley Worlobah: A few of the issues that her office is working on are developing a rent control policy and the Hiawatha Lake development. They will be doing neighborhood tours to get input from residents. Will also be doing town halls (including one with small businesses regarding Covid new regulations, and with students)

Ward 9 Jason Chavez (he/him): Ward district boundaries are being redrawn so may be representing more of Longfellow neighborhood (not finalized). Some issues their office is working on are rent control, opioid crisis, and gun violence prevention by addressing root

causes. Hope to do a community meeting in person but will do virtual meeting in meantime. Will be on business committee among others.

County Commissioner Angela Conley: Her district serves many of the wards in Minneapolis; expressed more support for Hope Street. Other issues she is working on are supporting efforts on improving and maintaining Lake Street corridor, promoting movement to zero waste and urban gardening.

Sarah Larsson from the **Somali Museum Development Project**. Would like to move the museum to a long term location (currently in a small basement area, 1800 sq. ft.). Looking for support to locate museum to 2600 Minnehaha Avenue (current vacant lot). The City is issuing a RFP for that site and they will be proposing the museum which will also be a community center with spaces for meetings, eating, etc.

Q: Have you received support from Seward Neighborhood Group?

A: yes, have been in contact with Seward organizations

The board reached consensus to submit a letter of support for this project (to be drafted by Rachel).

C: Would be good to clarify in the letter that we are an adjacent neighborhood (and museum would be located in Seward neighborhood)

Committee Updates

Ian Young, Environment and River Gorge (ERG) Committee: gave a recap of what has been going on with ERG in last year; warm season activities were more successfully because could be done more safely; Share the River Gorge was on a weekend and worked well; Wildlife Habitat program has reached milestone of officially certifying Longfellow as a wildlife habitat! Looking to 2022, will continue Habitat program, will be doing trash clean-ups along river with a partner organization, and work on use of park dedication fees through the City.

Equitable Housing and Development Committee: They are merging with the Development and Transportation committee and working on goals moving forward as a merged group.

Executive Director Update, Rachel Boeke: provided highlights including working to diversify the board to be more representative of the neighborhood, working on real equitable engagement, and collaborating with other neighborhood organizations. She reported that there are a lot of good applications for community organizer position.

Finance Committee Update by Treasurer Mike Berger: Worked on revisions of contract for bookkeeper; Rachel will now run monthly reports; looking at portfolio statements and developing a new fiscal policy

Q: PayPal account seems to have a line missing

A: Rachel will ask bookkeeper

Q: Why did we close one account?

A: Closed savings account to streamline processes and save on fees

Q: Is account protected by FDIC?

A: Not fully so will be moving money to protected account

Other Business and Announcements

Ken expressed concern about a community meeting regarding Hope Street due to potential controversial topic and challenges with virtual meetings; he suggested that we need a very skilled facilitator; Rachel and Lisa are willing to facilitate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm