

Environment and River Gorge Committee
Longfellow Community Council

Date: 2023, 01 March | 7:00–8:00 PM

Present: Ian Young (Chair), Wanja Kuria (LCC Staff), Carolyn Carr, Nathan Hemann, Marya McIntosh, Bob Payton, Matt, Dave Zumeta, Daniel Schultz, Reed, Mike Luke

(Note in parentheses if LCC Board Member, LCC Staff, or representing other Agency Staff)

Recorder: Nathan Hemann

Agenda Items

Notes/Comments

(Highlight key topics, agreements, disagreements, next steps, actions, etc; avoid recording clarification questions, questions in general, verbatim notes)

Volunteer hours entry | Wanja

5 MINUTES

- No questions or comments in the meeting.

7:20 – 7:25 pm Meeting process updates | Ian

5 MINUTES

-How to simplify meetings. Streamline meeting process with “consent agenda”. If one person objects, then the usual voting process is used.

-Votes on money require that you live or own a business in the neighborhood and must have attended a previous meeting.

- if someone wants to add an agenda item, would they have to object to the meeting agenda to get it added?

-new process to allow comments on previous months minutes ahead of current month meeting

-minutes are brief, if greater detail is wanted from a missed meeting, one has to find a member who attended the meeting.

-turn minutes around as fast as possible so they can be uploaded to the LCC website for others to read more promptly.

-keep committee feeling accessible to newcomers by providing context for discussion items (i.e. recurring programs)

7:25 – 7:35pm Meeting format & schedule | Ian

10 MINUTES

-work group style model rather than monthly meeting model (used by other committee’s)

-have monthly meetings in summer months when we are more busy and take breaks from each month in the winter

-we already don’t meet in December.

-grant request process changing, committee may not need to vote on fund allocation

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- Ideas on monthly meeting schedule: every other month meetings during school year. Off in July because of river gorge festival. Keep January and February to plan.
- are work groups taking away from people being more involved?
- meeting each month is consistent and is easier for newcomers and others to be engaged, they can count on it being the same time each month
- use online learning technology to help engage more people (Slack/social media)
- merge monthly meeting with work groups
- LCC is working to publicize work groups (i.e. newsletter)
- work group members do not have to come to monthly committee meetings
- lan to report to Rachel that we will continue to form workgroups and keep our ERG meeting monthly.

7:35 – 7:40pm River Gorge Festival planning subcommittee
5 MINUTES

- Carolyn, can help day off. Matt, Marya, Dave, Daniel (tentative lead for event) interested in volunteering to organize.
- hand out treats and have activities for kids. Canoe rides by wilderness inquiry. Rowing club has their rowing barge. Naturalist present. Guided hikes.
- need to obtain a permit from the park board and NPS(?)
- logistically planning who and when events get set up
- Possible date 1st or 2nd weekend of September. Used to be in July, but better attendance noted for September in the last two years
- advertised in Longfellow but not much outside of the neighborhood. Invite city council and park board members and local legislators
- Molly should have information from leading this two years ago. Wanja and/or Sophie should also have information on this.

7:40 – 7:45pm Proposed renaming of overlook
5 MINUTES MPRB is considering renaming the overlook at East 44th

- Street and West River Parkway to the “Horace S. W. Cleveland Overlook.” (designed a lot of the Minneapolis parks)*
- readdress next month after people have time to think about this and get more information from the city.
 - Dave Z has a book on the history of Minneapolis parks and Horace Cleveland

7:45 – 8:00pm Energy efficiency resources | Nathan

- <https://www.mncee.org/minneapolis-energy-efficiency-loan>
 - <https://www.mncee.org/home-energy-squad>
 - <https://www.energy.gov/policy/articles/making-our-homes>
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[-more-efficient-clean-energy-tax-credits-consumers](#)

- I did not take notes during this as I was speaking, but perhaps others did. The information I shared was from these three links, and the discussion was strong, so we will discuss it again next month.

Motion: Approve(Previous Month) Minutes Led by: Ian Young

Motioned by: Carolyn
Seconded by: Marya

(approved without objection)
3 abstained

Open Floor: Solace at the Palace (June? festival) - artists and musicians present <https://longfellow.org/solace-at-the-palace/>

Adjourn Passed by all

Summary of Meeting and Committee Work: *The Environment and River Gorge (ERG) committee works to create environmentally focused programs, projects and events that help advance the greening of Greater Longfellow. By promoting and protecting the Mississippi River Gorge, we ensure its longevity.)*