

MINUTES

Equitable Development Committee Meeting March 6, 2024 6:00-7:00 PM

Zoom meeting info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87459315081

Attendees

MIchael Jon Olson (co-chair), Sarah Robinson (co-Chair), Ben Howery (LCC staff,) Steve Albertson, Erica Bell, Beverly Conerton, Joseph Dobos, Andy Hestness (ReDesign), Katie Simon, DeMarcus Akeem Suggs, Bobbie Erichsen, Will Linscott, Galen Ryan

Preliminaries

Michael Jon called meeting to order at 6:01pm Agenda and Minutes approved; no objections

3606 East 34th Street

Tom Miller, a neighbor who brought this issue to LCC's attention, was unable to attend; Ben and MJ presented in his stead

3606 E 34th Street is under new ownership, and unethical housing practices may be occurring. Renovations are being performed, possibly without permits. Trash continues to pile up, overflowing the dumpsters and spilling into the public right-of-way. It is unclear if a city inspector has been contacted. (Andy notes that a permit was issued for \$5000 worth of work and has likely been exceeded.)

Residents allegedly reported to Tom Miller that rent has significantly increased, and that residents in three of the six units have been evicted. Tom claimed to Ben that the remaining residents are hesitant to come forward in fear of eviction. Tom asked what LCC could do to help.

Beverly is unsure that a letter from the LCC would make a difference. Andy suggests that 311 calls are a good way to alert the city that a visit from an inspector is necessary.

Next Steps: MJ and Ben will follow up. Update: When MJ went by the building recently, all the trash had been cleaned up.

Disability Advocacy Subcommittee

Ben Howery presented on behalf of Jim Lovold.

Jim Lovold reached out to LCC to see what actions we've taken on behalf of disability. He is concerned with three primary areas of advocacy: (1) Sidewalk Accessibility (2) Housing (3) Healthcare.

Would it be possible to create a sub-committee under EDC to try to increase our disability advocacy? If so, (1) is anyone interested in helping Jim get this subcommittee off the ground, and (2) what is the procedure?



Beverly notes that LCC has had working groups, but never sub-committees.
Erica asked if Jim could join the EDC. Unfortunately, online meetings are not
accessible for him; he can only attend in person. This introduced a question
about whether we should consider re-introducing in-person meetings or
explore a hybrid format.

Next Steps: Follow up with Jim for a specific "ask"

2941 26th Ave S

JP Morgan Chase asked LCC for a letter of support for their development on this property. They have not provided many details, except that they are asking for a number of significant variances. Accessibility Note: there is a sidewalk in that area that does not connect to the other sidewalks.

Andy provided background: Wellington owns much of the property in that area.

Sarah mentioned that Rachel (ED LCC) had been hoping to develop a database of properties in Longfellow undergoing, or potentially undergoing, development. Ben noted that the spreadsheet has been tabled, but that the LCC has a spreadsheet of "prior asks." Andy mentioned that ReDesign has an internal google maps of properties undergoing or potentially going development, and may be able to partner with LCC on this.

Proposed Next Steps: Sarah will follow up with Andy

ReDesign Updates

Seven Sigma is in design; work on the Coliseum is continuing as planned; testing is complete on the US Bank site. ReDesign is advising Nueva Rodeo and Town Diner on their new building.

3000 Minnehaha

Despite community meetings, the city wants 75% of the property to be devoted to voter services and 25% devoted to community use.

Fred and Sheila Brathwaite have an alternate proposal for a Black Cultural Center on the property.

Meetings surrounding the property continue.

2633 Safety Center

LCC is facilitating a conversation 6:00-8:00pm on 3/27 about this building at the city's request.

Question regarding LCC purpose: Bobbie requested more information about the role of the EDC or the LCC in this process. For example, are we considered an advocacy group that could organize a letter writing campaign or write a letter to the mayor's office? *Answer*: LCC is mostly serving as a facilitator in this matter, trying to bring people to the table.



Cooper Playground	Save Cooper Playground is focusing on determining what steps are necessary to prevent the playground from being demolished in the spring. MPS has approached two non-profits about potentially leasing the playground and assuming liability for the property; one of those potential partners is LCC, the other is likely Southeast Soccer. LCC has precedent for leasing a property on behalf of the community; the Community Hops garden is a prime example. Anyone interested in Cooper Playground should email info@plaympls.org Next Steps: Sarah will continue to update
Seward-Longfellow Boundary	Currently, the city, Seward Neighborhood Group, and LCC all use different definitions for the boundary between Seward and Longfellow.
	SNG's Community Development Committee will be proposing that they follow the boundary defined in LCC's bylaws. That boundary follows the rail corridor north of 27th street.
EDC Charter	MJ continues to review past documents that governed the committee. He will send out a revised proposed document in the near future.
	Galen commented that the phrase "charter" sounds formal; asked if we might consider something along the lines of "Guiding Document"
	Next Steps: MJ will send out a revised proposed document in the near future
Upcoming Events	Nicollet Redevelopment Open House (Former K-Mart Site) 5:00 - 7:00pm, Thursday, March 7 Abyssinia Cultural Center, 322 W Lake St
	Lake Street Cleanup 3:00 - 6:00pm, Tuesday, March 12 (Click on link for details)
	Community Safety Center Meeting 6:00 - 8:00pm, Wednesday, March 27 Powderhorn Rec Center, 3400 15th Ave S (Check LCC website for more details in the days to come)
Adjourned	7:10 PM