



# Longfellow Community Council

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 6:00PM

**Board members in attendance:** Deb Reiersen; Ken Koense; Dana Koponen; Jackie Hartwig; Lisa Boyd (Vice President); Selam Tilahun; Annie Wang (President); Bev Conerton; Kaelin Winkleman; Christine Marlo-Triemstra; Mike Berger (Treasurer); Tobin Shelton

**Guests:** Anna (East Lake Library), Katie Simon (resident); Joe Larsen (resident); Paul Jaeger (Minneapolis Park Board); Mark Brandt (resident)

**Staff:** Rachel Boeke (Executive Director)

### Welcome and introductions

#### Consent items

1. April agenda
2. [March minutes](#)

Both items approved by consensus

#### Guest Speakers

1. **Edmund Blvd Working Group:** Joe Larsen and Mark Brandt presented. Edmund Blvd. was named for Edmund Walton who was a realtor notorious for using racial covenants. Joe and Mike started discussion with neighbors focused on education and awareness initially, with the goal of changing the name of the street. Did door-knocking (with Free the Deeds), tabling and in-person meetings (with help from LCC staff); now have a working group. Also now have a website and two petitions: one on Change.org and one for Minneapolis residents (see below). Are starting to partner with schools and faith groups. Continuing to build connections. There are about a dozen street signs with the name Edmund Blvd. that would like to change but have a larger goal of increasing awareness of white supremacist symbols and history. Are asking for a general letter of support from LCC (see below).

Website - [www.reclaimingedmund.com](http://www.reclaimingedmund.com)

Petition for Mpls residents - <https://forms.gle/sCxBR42aojH3QxwX6>

Change .org petition -

[https://www.change.org/p/rename-edmund-blvd-to-stop-honoring-racist-legacy?source\\_location=psf\\_petitions](https://www.change.org/p/rename-edmund-blvd-to-stop-honoring-racist-legacy?source_location=psf_petitions)

Q: What has been the push back?

A: Hassles with changing address on documents primarily

Q: Is there an option to keep name with sub-name

A: Not sure if possible

Q: what are there ways that the change can happen

A: Petition by Edmund Blvd. residents; through City Council; or through Public Works.

Q: Have you considered signage to educate about the legacy?

A: Yes, would like to do this; which to do first? Change street name or put up signage about legacy

Q: where are you in process of connecting with residents

A: chosen to go through City Council; don't want to ram this through; want to raise awareness about our past too

Several questions were raised about voting for a letter of support before we see a letter or at least know the specific language.

Jackie made a motion (was seconded):

**MOTION:** Rachel will write a letter of support to the City Council to support Joe and Mark's initiative (as part of the Edmund Working Group) to change the name of Edmund Blvd.

**Votes:** 9 Yes; 2 No. Motion passed

(Note: the two "no" votes were due to procedural concerns that there was not a request for a letter of support on the agenda ahead of time).

2. **Paul Jaeger, Recreation Manager MPRB:** Reaching out to let us know that we can contact him for any questions or concerns. [pajaeger@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:pajaeger@minneapolisparcs.org); 612-499-3014

Q: What can the Parks Department do to help and support our unhoused neighbors who have been staying along River Rd. on Park land?

A: Paul referred Ken to his colleague Leslie Vinson who is more focused on this issue.

Q: How to find out maintenance and repairs that are planned for Minnehaha Falls Park.

A: Paul said the MPRB website has a planning page and also an interactive map that shows what capital improvements are planned over the next 5 years. He also will send contact info for his colleague who knows more.

## Action Items

1. [2023 990](#)
2. [2023 AG Filing](#)

The two terms were approved together unanimously.

3. [2024-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

Rachel reviewed feedback from the community from the General Membership Meeting; About 50 people attended. There were a few questions about any negative response (there were three total and on three different items). A few typos were corrected.

Christine moved to approve the strategic plan (was seconded); Motion passed unanimously.

## Discussion Items/Updates

1. Housekeeping (15 minutes)
  - [Volunteer hour tracking](#)
  - Evaluation of spring GMM
    - Election runs April 11th to 17th: no contested elections; and all ballots

to date voted in favor of plan modification; still two open seats (with no candidates)

- New Board members will be notified on April 18th
- New Board will convene starting in May

Feedback on how the meeting went: People liked space but a larger space would be nice (downstairs bathroom was inconvenient). Suggestions for locations for future meetings: Dream Lab (next to All Square), schools (particularly Charter might be more flexible on rules; also Minnehaha Academy might be an option but one person mentioned that it being an expensive religious private school might be an issue for some); Hare Krishna temple next to Dripping Roots. People liked time to chat with new neighbors and meet new people. Having people monitor the foods was key (so we did not run out of food).

- Upcoming events and activities
  - Doorknocking **April 8 - 25**
  - Earth Day clean up **April 20**
  - Trivia Night **May 16**
- Scheduling a special meeting of the upcoming Board of Directors to vote on ratification of EC/Hiring Committee recommendation for Executive Director candidate: 30 minutes on May 8th or 9th ([doodle poll linked here](#))

## 2. Committee updates

- [EDC minutes](#)
- ERG minutes (no March meeting)
- [Executive Committee minutes](#)

## 3. Financial Update

- [March budget actuals](#): Mike gave a review of finances; income somewhat light and expenses a bit up with home improvement loans

At finance committee meeting, talked about transition planning with change in Executive Directors; voted to be fiscal agent for Seward Longfellow Restoration Justice (SLRJ) (as in previous years)

Q: What is the status of Hops garden?

A: We are the lease holder (not the fiscal agent)

## Open Community Discussion

Deb is rotating off board so a new liaison to SLRJ is needed. Contact Deb if you are interested.

Dowling Elementary School is celebrating 100 years; Festival is May 18. Katie suggested that LCC could send a congratulations to them (several members were in agreement).

Rachel and others said thanks and goodbye to outgoing board members.

Lisa gave thanks to Rachel for years of service. She gave LCC a jolt of energy and provided great leadership. Also community partners are very thankful for all of her work. Many echoed similar sentiments.

## Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Attached for review: Staff Reports

1. [Executive Director](#)
2. [Community Organizer](#)
3. [Communications Manager](#)

**SLRJ Update:** In March Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice welcomed Erika Linder as the Program Manager. Erika started volunteering with SLRJ as a restorative conference facilitator in 2016. She takes a humanist approach to the restorative process by creating a safe space for all participants, family and community members to have real and hard conversations. Erika has a BA in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University with a focus on supporting the reentry process and community. Erika is a lifelong Minneapolis resident and she enjoys time outdoors with family and friends as well as attending and supporting local events.

This year marks 20 years since residents of Seward and Longfellow launched SLRJ. It's time to celebrate all we have accomplished together with an anniversary party! [Check out the details of the celebration planned](#) for May 2 at the Vine Arts Gallery. It would be wonderful to see you there. In case you missed it, the Longfellow Messenger featured SLRJ [in an article in April](#). SLRJ Anniversary Party information: [https://slrj.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/3224128?recipient\\_id=KtGNnws9z3UXYKx5rfhuWA%7C%7CcmVpZXJzb24uZGVlQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ==](https://slrj.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/3224128?recipient_id=KtGNnws9z3UXYKx5rfhuWA%7C%7CcmVpZXJzb24uZGVlQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ==)