

Date: January 2, 2024

Location: Zoom

Time Meeting Called to Order After Quorum: 7:05PM by Chas Scheiderer.

Board Members Present: Chas Scheiderer (Presiding); Sue Westerman (Treasurer); William Goodnow (Secretary); David Bjork; Fran Davis; Will Stancil; Sarah Grundhoefer; Anne Nelson; Jon Suk; John Lillehei, MD.

Other Attendees: Inspector Christie Nelson, LT McCree, Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman, Carla Godwin, Barb Davis.

Minneapolis City Council Update

Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman provided an update. This was her first time attending LHNA as she is the new Ward 7 council member as of yesterday (January 1, 2024). Katie is working on hiring staff and currently has a staff of two. The City Hall is currently under renovation so she will be working from home until next week. She would like to hold a virtual meeting every two weeks with representatives from the ten neighborhood organizations. The City opened up applications from the Partnership Engagement Fund which is a \$25,000 grant for community projects. Katie will forward the information to Thomas and Will Stancil.

Minneapolis Police Department Update

Inspector Christie Nelson and LT McCree provided an update. The buyback program has ended but Inspector Nelson affirmed her commitment to continue to support our neighborhood. We have seen some property crime. Do not leave cars running unattended and idling to warm up in the morning as it provides an opportunity for theft. We had several robberies near 59th/Penn and near 26th/Lyndale. The victims have all been women robbed at gunpoint for their purses. The “fake rear ending” ruse has been happening regularly as well. The “fake rear ending” causes people to let their guard down, get out of their car, and get robbed. Inspector Nelson was asked whether it is legitimate to drive off after an accident in light of these “fake rear endings.” She said it is a tough decision but would always prioritize personal safety and use your judgement. Most of these crimes are being committed by teenagers in stolen KIAs or Hyundais so pay attention if someone of that description runs into you. Free clubs are still available at the 5th Precinct and the station is open during the daytime. The Community MSTAT event will be on Thursday January 18th at 5:30pm at the Five Event Center at 29th and Bryant Ave S. At the MSTAT meeting, the precinct will go over crime statistics.

Crime & Safety Update

Treasurer Sue Westerman provided an update. The walking club in December was attended by only Jennifer and one other person and it was raining. The next walking club is scheduled for January 20th and will be meeting at Sebastian Joe’s – Chas will buy

coffee for anyone who shows up. The following Walking Club will be February 24th and after that we will return to twice a month on an evening and a Saturday morning. We had the Roll Call meeting today with Kenwood and East Isles. It was a productive meeting. There was enough of a crowd that the MPD staff felt appreciated and we got to share the cost three ways. The police said their biggest challenge is staffing and that they are paid significantly less than the suburbs. The 5th Precinct is at 50% of its necessary staff levels. The City Council voted against a pay increase for police officers in December which had a negative impact on morale. The police stated the YouTube film The Fall of Minneapolis encapsulates the feeling of the police and “really tells it like it is.” The police department also stated that they would really like it if the council members would do some ride alongs with them (although Council Member Cashman was present she did not respond to this point when asked about it). In Lowry Hill, there was one carjacking and one robbery. The carjacking involved a DoorDash driver and a gun was pointed at them. It is now the third month in a row where we have had violent crime. There were a number of additional property crimes.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Sue Westerman provided an update. We have had almost no monthly activity for expenses this past month. However, we did have over \$1254 of contributions from neighbors as a result of the two emails that went out across 20 or 25 donations.

Events Update

Events Chair Jackie Brown-Baylor was not in attendance.

Communications Update

Communications Chair Sarah Grundhoefer provided an update. Sarah met with Cuyler a few weeks ago and discussed bringing him on as a board administrator. It sounds like Cuyler is interested. Cuyler provided a couple of estimates of the amount of time he might need to spend on LHNA Board work. The lower estimate is for 16 hours/month. Sue, the treasurer, stated we have some wiggle room for 2024 due to a funding carryover and suggested we consider 20 hours/month. Sue mentioned that the Engagement Plan (which is about \$9000/year) specifically addressed getting more engagement from renters and we need to do something different. There was an extensive discussion about hiring Cuyler and concluded that 20 hours a month to start is acceptable. David, Fran, Sue, and Thomas will work on a proposed contract and send it to the board. We will use Cuyler’s contract from other neighborhood orgs as a template. We will vote on the matter by email in January.

Zoning

Zoning Chair Fran Davis provided an update. There is no zoning business pending.

Donation Committee Update

Donations Committee Chair Nate Morris was not in attendance.

Governance

Approval of the November & December 2023 Minutes: motioned by David Bjork, seconded by Chas Scheiderer. Passed by unanimous vote.

Business District Improvement Grand & Façade Grant Update: Will Stancil provided an update. We are on hold in wait and see mode for these two grants. The façade grant is a 2 to 1 matching grant meaning the business puts up 2 parts and the grant puts up 1 part of the funding. We have not contacted any businesses yet. The plan is to wait and see if we get and funding for the Business District grant and then start reaching out to businesses.

LHNA Vice-President: we are still in need of a vice-president. Please speak with Fran or Thomas if you are interested in leadership of LHNA.

Onboarding Procedures for New Board Members: David Bjork stated that when we add new members it is important to go through a general educational session to fill in gaps in knowledge about our operations, funding, the rules and regulations are, and a host of other issues. David sent out a tentative outline. David would be happy to work with someone on this but would like a seasoned board member to be involved. Fran Davis volunteered to work with David.

Annual Meeting Discussion: William Goodnow contacted the Walker to determine cost of using the museum as a venue for the Annual Meeting. In the past it was prohibitively expensive. The alternate location will be First Unitarian Church as in 2023. We have fixed a date of Tuesday June 4, 2024.

PERIS Hill Update

Carla Godwin provided an update. Carla started by thanking us for our support of PERIS and for considering PERIS for NRP dollars. Carla put together a presentation for us. PERIS is a newly built supportive housing community for young people who are aging out of foster care. 36% of fosters will experience one episode of homelessness before age 26. The building is 45 units of which 30 are affordable and 15 are specifically for young people who have aged out of foster care. YMCA Youth and Family Services are on site from 9am-11pm. Property management is Volunteers of America. Inspire to Change audits them for effectiveness to determine what is/is not working. They plan to publish a case study in five years about whether their approach worked. They would like to add some cameras in several areas for increased visibility and security as well as additional overnight presence. They already have overnight security on Friday and Saturday nights. Their line item requests for NRP funding are 1)\$15,000 for 4 additional security cameras and 2) \$25,000 to provide additional overnight support staff. Carla can be reached at 214-733-7713. Typically, residents stay for 18 months to 2 years but they are permanent supportive housing so they will not kick people out (you can stay as long as you want). Most residents are not going to school and are working, though some are working. The Partnership Engagement Fund may apply to operational costs.

Motion to Approve the \$15,000 Proposal to use NRP Funding for Security Cameras at PERIS Hill and Work With the City to Approve: motioned by David Bjork, seconded by Sue Westerman. Sue will work with Bob Cooper at the City and will either do it herself or direct it to Chas and Thomas. Passed by unanimous vote.

We will also apply for the \$25,000 Partnership Engagement Fund Grant the rationale for which will be to support operational expenses for overnight staffing at PERIS Hill.

Definitions

LHNA: Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association

MPD: Minneapolis Police Department

HLP: Hill & Lake Press

NNF: Neighborhood Network Fund

EEF: Equitable Engagement Fund

NRP: Neighborhood Revitalization Program

As there was no further business,

Meeting adjourned by Chas Scheiderer at 9:00 PM by motion carried.

The next LHNA Board Meeting will be held in-person at the Kenwood Community Center on February 6, 2024 at 7PM.

Minutes by William Goodnow

Secretary, LHNA Board