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Board of Directors Meeting Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Monday, May 14th, 2007; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Loring Park Office Building, 430 Oak Grove, Room #207

Board members present: Becky Gullickson, Ela Rausch, John Van Heel, Bob Hansen, Dick Sandberg, Terry Thompson.

Board members absent: Robert Cook, Richard Gardell, Pat Hafvenstein, Neil Carlson

Guest : Jan Sandberg, co-chair Livability Committee

Staff: Jana Metge, CLPC Coordinator

I. Call to Order -- John Van Heel

Jana circulated paperwork about an item added to the CLIC (Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee)¹ plan for \$1.3 million to be used to upgrade the 13th Street pedestrian plaza that connects Nicollet Mall and the Convention Center. This item is scheduled to go to the Planning Commission on May 24th. This item was discussed at a CLIC meeting held April 24, 2007. The concern is that this item suddenly appeared on the CLIC list without any neighborhood discussion. CLIC forwarded a list of questions for Board response that focus on the involvement of the neighborhood in developing the project. The bottom line is that the neighborhood has not been involved in this project to date. The questions for CLIC are:

1. Was the neighborhood informed that the project will be submitted?
2. Is the project a neighborhood priority?
3. Would the neighborhood consider allocating NRP funds to the project?
4. Has communication from the public agency/department to the neighborhood on the project been sufficient?
5. Did neighborhood input influence the scope of the project?
6. Will the neighborhood be involved in the implementation of the project.
7. Is the project included in or consistent with your Neighborhood Action Plan?
8. Is there another project the neighborhood would have given a higher priority and liked considered in the 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program?

See action items at the end of the minutes for the disposition of this item.

***Motion** by Dick Sandberg to approve agenda for the board of directors meeting. Seconded by Terry Thompson.*

Passed unanimously

II. Announcements

Jana distributed a large number of items. Several discussed included:

1. The Minneapolis Police Citizen's Academy has an opening. This is a ten-week, one day a week, time commitment designed to help citizens gain a deeper understanding of how the police work. See the City's Web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/news/2007CitizensAcademy.asp> for more information.

¹ For the 2006 CLIC report (which does not include this project) see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/financial-reports/clic/2006CLICReport.pdf> The committee makes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on capital improvement program development and annual capital improvement budgets. Appointments expired in January and the process closed in early March 2007--there are currently no openings.

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2. Jana passed around a PowerPoint of the police department's proposal for additional funds for summer policing. See the PDF file of the May 2, 2007 presentation to the Public Safety Committee at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/Docs/Buyback-PowerPoint.pdf>

At the May 11, 2007 meeting, the Council approved \$750,000 for funding additional policing this summer including downtown and "hot spots" in precincts 2, 3, 4 & 5.

3. Jana mentioned that tomorrow is the annual Loring Business Association meeting on crime and safety. It will be held this year at Westminster Presbyterian.

4. Jana distributed a handout of talking points on the Library merger issue. The bill is still in play at the Legislature. See House File 1973 (Carlson; Kelliher; Peterson, N.; Dominguez) which has passed out of the Tax Committee and had its second reading and Senate File 1812 (Rest; Michel; Scheid; Higgins) which sits in the Senate Tax Committee.

Ela Rausch announced that she has bought a house outside the neighborhood and must unfortunately resign from the Board. Board members congratulated her on home ownership but expressed considerable regret at losing her as a strong, productive Board member.

II. 6:45-7:00 Loring Hill Public Realm and Parking Task Force

Jana received a request from one of the Dunn Brothers owners to organize a new task force. Several years ago, Dennis Acrea from Dunn Brothers came to the Land Use committee to discuss developing a pedestrian link via stairs from Oak Grove Street to 15th Street. This issue is broader and also includes parking. Jana said that both residents and institutions such as the Loring Park Office Building, several churches, and the Woman's Club are interested. The topic appears within the recommendations of the Loring Hill guidelines, reproduced in Attachment 1.

The first step is to organize a local meeting of those interested including the above-named institutions, Dunn Brothers, and several CLPC representatives. CLPC will help develop the framework for the task force which might develop specific language for NRP Phase II.

III. 7:00-7:45 Community Engagement/NRP/CLPC -- Jana

Jana reviewed background information on legislation for NRP funding, community engagement, and CLPC funding.

NRP Funding:

Last month there was a vote at City Council to not support state legislation (House File 0822-- Clark; Kahn; Mullery; Loeffler; Senate File 1957-- Torres Ray; Higgins; Berglin; Dibble; Pogemiller) to expand the life of NRP funding which is set to expire 2009. The legislation has passed through several committees, and the second committee added a proposal to require NRP to bring back a funding plan by October.²

Several weeks later those on the NRP Policy Board supported the legislation and directed NRP to independently develop a funding plan which will be due December 15, 2007. County Commissioner McLaughlin proposed that a funding mechanism based on a tax on the sale of Twins tickets, currently

² The Senate file is sitting in the Business, Industry and Jobs committee. The House file has had better luck, passing out of both the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division and the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs committees and now sits in Taxes. The bad news is that on March 26, 2007 the bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus tax bill. There are two omnibus tax bills. House File 2294 has been enacted into law. HF2362 now sits in a conference committee. The NRP language does not appear to be in either bill.

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untaxed, which would raise about \$2.5-3 million a year (the source would not be available until after 2009).

At the City level, the Community Development committee acted against the legislation and at the Council meeting, three members voted to begin a dialog but that proposal failed.

Community Engagement:

In early May, Councilmember Lillegren supported the movement of community engagement from Community Development to the Committee of the Whole (COW). COW then approved a work plan (see Attachment 2).³ Further, the committee stated:

The City Council directs the City Coordinator to organize appropriate staff teams to begin implementation of the following improvements to the City's community engagement system:

1. Explain the decision-making authority and process for each type of major City decision;
2. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of all official committees, boards and commissions; and
3. Develop accessible, consistent, two-way communication systems to allow residents and other stakeholders to better understand and participate in City decision-making processes.

The City Council further directs the City Coordinator to report, on a quarterly basis, the progress of each staff team, at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole, and to refer budget implications of their work to the Ways and Means/Budget Committee and Office of the Mayor.

NRP Funding

Funding for neighborhood groups comes from NRP and from some city money focused on development. The final outcome for CLPC will depend on the proposed solution for funding. More council members appear positive or willing to be convinced to provide some funding.

According to recent discussion and information on its Web site (<http://www.nrp.org/R2/News/NewsArch/2007/20070417.html>), NRP will be \$7.7 million short for NRP Phase II. Some neighborhoods have already spent their funds, some have finished a plan and the money is in the NRP account, and 42 percent of neighborhoods have not yet finished a Phase II plan. For CLPC, the available funds could drop from \$1.2 million to \$500,000 and possibly as low as \$250,000. In addition, 75% of NRP Phase II must go to housing. The NRP Board directed some folks to take a closer look at the accuracy of the numbers.

See the three-page memo to the Mayor and Council about the projections at http://www.nrp.org/R2/News/NewsArch/2007/2006_2009_Common_Project.pdf

Jana thinks that CLPC's NRP Phase II process needs to move faster and finish ahead of the original projection which had a kick-off at National Nite Out—it is suggested that the process be advanced to provide an interim report of progress for the early August event.

Ela suggested seeking a student intern to help pull the plan together and gave Jana a possible contact. This will require determining what has and hasn't been completed for an area.⁴ There has been some preliminary work done and some parts are nearly complete: transportation, Nicollet Avenue, Loring Hill. But much work remains including how to fund staffing.

³ The community engagement report from November 2006 is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/docs/CE_Report_final.pdf

A PowerPoint is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/docs/CE_Report_final.pdf

⁴ For details about the Phase II Neighborhood Planning Process, see <http://www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PhaseTwo/PlanProcess.html>

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CLPC Budget

Jana reported that NRP Phase I is nearly expended. Current income sources include a small amount from the city and the return of principal and interest from business loans (apparently the principal did not roll over to fund additional loans). Several large items have not yet been billed and paid. One major issue is that in previous year's CLPC underspent (spending 25% rather than 52%) and this will have to be made up in Phase II. If the total funds that come in from Phase II are less than originally anticipated, then even more of Phase II will need to be spent on housing to ensure that the total dollars intended are spent.

Jana then reviewed the 2007 budget and projections. The budget recognized \$68,000 of known income through December in contrast to \$78,000 of expenses. If there is no capital campaign, staff hours will quickly decline. The Board needs to determine what it wants and design a campaign to raise funds. The best approach is probably a personal approach. One person had CLPC designated as a recipient through United Way. The Woman's Club and its members are possibilities. Other possibilities, challenge Councilmember Lilligren to come up with bigger funds for neighborhoods (e.g. increase from the current \$2,000 from CPED to \$25,000). Ela suggested getting people together quickly to generate ideas.

IV. 7:45-8:00 Reports from the Annual Meeting – Becky and John

1730 Clifton Project Status – This item goes back to the Planning Commission on May 21, 2007. It was continued because the city wanted more time to complete the planning report. The developer is asking for a large number of variances and CUPs. One Board member expressed concern about how well the project agrees with the Loring Hill guidelines.

1501 Nicollet – There may be an opportunity to modify the pedestrian overlay district to allow greater density in this area. Ann DeGroot may want to attend the June 4 Land Use meeting.

ACTION ITEMS and THANKS

1. 13th Street Pedestrian Plaza:

- Put this item on the June 4, 2007 Land Use agenda
- Ask Richard Anderson to attend the Land Use meeting
- Robert Hansen will call Doug Kress about open CLIC appointments.

2. Loring Hill Public Realm and Parking Task Force

Jana will call Roger of Dunn Brothers and ask him to organize the new task force.

The task force must inform CLPC of the meeting schedule

The task force will report to the Land Use committee.

The task force should define its scope, membership, chair, and timeline.

Because various commercial entities could benefit from some of these issues, those involved should be aware that there needs to avoid any conflicts of interest.

Jana asked that the Board send her suggestions for membership on this task force to ensure broad representation.

3. CLPC Budget

Ela will e-mail Board members with several dates and times to organize a group to discuss strategies for fundraising.

4. 1501 Nicollet

Ask Ann DeGroot to address the June 4 meeting of the Land Use Committee

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5. Thanks to Colleen Foster for her fundraising efforts.

Adjourned 8:35 p.m.

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ATTACHMENT 1

The Loring Hill Design Guidelines recognized the importance of parking and pedestrian issues. On page 15:

2.10 Recommendations

Public Realm and Parking

1. Loring Park is the "front yard" to Loring Hill and part of the prominent public realm; access, preservation and connection to the park should be emphasized, including:
 - Enhanced pedestrian access/connection from Loring Hill to 15th Street and from Loring Hill across 15th Street to Loring Park
 - Traffic calming efforts for 15th Street
2. The primary pedestrian route to Loring Park, along Oak Grove Street, Clifton Place and Clifton Avenue merits traffic calming treatment at key intersections such as Oak Grove Street, Clifton Place at Oak Grove, Clifton Avenue and Groveland, as well as at Clifton Avenue and Clifton Place.
3. The Lyndale/Hennepin Avenue corridor on the west edge of the neighborhood must be treated in an attractive and appealing way to improve pedestrian crossings. Special consideration should be given to the Groveland Avenue and 15th Street/Oak Grove intersections.
4. Aesthetics in the neighborhood along the south side at the freeway cut should be improved. Examples include:
 - Decorative fencing along the MnDOT ROW
 - Decorative fence on Groveland Avenue across I-94
5. Incorporate pocket parks and plazas at key locations
 - NE corner of Spruce Place and Oak Grove Street
 - SE corner of Oak Grove Street and Clifton Place
6. Incorporate dog parks where possible.
7. Re-align Dell Place to the I-94 Hennepin Avenue exit.
8. Shared parking lots are a common practice in Loring Hill; consider more formal, district parking solutions at strategic locations - these may be formally or informally defined and easily delivered by private partnerships - since a number of office, commercial and nonresidential uses require parking this may support a modest parking fee solution. Potential locations include:
 - Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church surface lot
 - Episcopal Center site
 - Surface lot at Oak Grove and Clifton Place
 - Woman's Club surface lot

Desirable types of parking structures are illustrated in the Building Types section of the Guidelines. (See Type VI images for examples.) The decision to approve additional parking facilities should evaluate overall traffic impacts as well as impacts to intersections, pedestrian traffic and on-street parking availability at peak demand hours.

9. Views of the architectural features of institutions (such as the churches along Hennepin Avenue and the Woman's Club) and locally designated historic buildings should be preserved from public streets and lands. New development should not interfere with these views.

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ATTACHMENT 2

Proposed Work Plan for Community Engagement (CE) System Improvements & Related NRP Decisions

All dates are *target dates*

Exact dates are communicated via each committees' official agenda (available online typically two to three days prior to a meeting)

Track 1: <i>Implement Consensus Recommendations for Immediate Improvements to CE System</i>	Track 2: <i>Define Roles and Funding of Neighborhood, Community and Cultural Organizations as parts of CE System</i>	Track 3: <i>Determine the Focus, Funding and Governance of NRP Program and Action Plan Activities after 2009</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee of the Whole (CW) recommends which consensus recommendations to implement and gives related staff direction [CW 4/26] ○ City Council (CC) approves selected consensus recommendations and staff direction [CC 5/11] ○ Assigned staff begins work with internal and external stakeholders to implement consensus recommendations approved by CC ○ Staff informs the Mayor and the Ways and Means/Budget Committee of implementation activities related to consensus recommendations that might affect the 2008 budget [WM/B 6/25] ○ Mayor considers CE elements that may be included in recommended 2008 budget, and presents recommended budget to CC [CC 8/9?] ○ Staff continues to work with stakeholders to implement consensus recommendations that are possible within scope of the 2007 budget ○ CC considers and adopts 2008 budget, including approved CE elements [CC 12/21?] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CW recommends charge and membership of Task Force and related staff direction [CW 5/10] ○ CC approves three-track work plan [CC 5/11] ○ CC approves charge and membership of CE Task Force [CC 5/25] ○ CE Task Force begins work and makes regular progress reports at CW [CW 5/24, 6/14, 6/28] ○ Task Force presents report of preliminary recommendations [CW 7/19] and circulates report for public comment ○ CE Task Force designs and facilitates community engagement process to present and gather community feedback about its preliminary recommendations ○ Task Force considers feedback from community engagement process, finalizes recommendations and presents its final report to CC [CW 10/18] ○ City considers Task Force recommendations as it begins development of 2009 budget in 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CW recommends background information scope and gives related staff direction [CW 5/10] ○ CC approves three-track work plan [CC 5/11] ○ CC approves scope of background information to request and related staff direction [CC 5/25] ○ Staff begins work preparing background information requested by CC ○ Staff completes requested background information, presents final report to CC and makes information public [CW 10/18] ○ CC convenes policy discussion with joint-powers partners to determine the focus, funding and governance of NRP after 2009 ○ CC and partners jointly frame and adopt 2008 NRP legislative strategy [CC 12/21?]

Downloaded May 15, 2007 from: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070427/Docs/01_Three_Track_Work_Plan_Updated_May_2_2007.pdf