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

Monday, June 11th, 2007; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Loring Park Community Art Center

Board members present: John Van Heel, Bob Hansen, Dick Sandberg, Terry Thompson, Richard Gardell, Pat Hafvenstein, Ela Rausch, Becky Gullickson, Robert Cook

Board members absent: Neil Carlson

Guest : Jan Sandberg

Staff: Jana Metge, CLPC Coordinator

I. Call to Order -- John Van Heel

Motion by Richard Gardell to approve agenda for the board of directors meeting. Seconded by Dick Sandberg.

Passed unanimously

Motion by Terry Thompson to approve the May 14th, 2007 minutes. Seconded by Robert Hansen.

Passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

John thanked Ela Rausch for the time that she has dedicated to the Board. Ela is leaving because she is moving out of the Loring Park neighborhood.

Jana announced that I-94 is down to one lane near the tunnel and the Star Tribune reports that the situation is unlikely to improve for the next few days.

Jana announced that Transit for Livable Communities (the advisory committee is chaired by Katie Hatt) has funded \$7.3 million in bicycle and mixed use. See <http://www.tlcmnnesota.org/bwtcjune07.html> for complete details. Loring Park projects include:

Hennepin Avenue Planning Study will examine how to implement bicycle lanes along Hennepin Avenue from Lyndale Avenue (Basilica) to 8th Street SE (NE Mpls). Specifically the study will consider: 1) bike lane placement and extensions, 2) type of bike lane treatments, 3) possible experimental designs, 4) traffic capacity and lane configurations, 5) transit stop locations, and 6) community interests/positions.

14th/15th/16th Street S. OP18 This 1.91 mile project along 14th, 15th and 16th Streets in downtown Minneapolis will add bicycle lanes. Where there is insufficient space for bike lanes, experimental treatments will be used. Signage, striping, sealcoating, and bicycle racks are all part this project.

1st/Blaisdell Avenues. OP29 This 5.78 mile project will add bike lanes by reducing the number of travel lanes along 1st Avenue and Blaisdell Avenue in South Minneapolis (corridor is pair of one-way streets). Where bike lanes are not deemed feasible due to the primacy of parking and traffic flow, chevrons with signage is proposed. 25 mph speed limit will be tested along this corridor. Transit for Livable Communities will explore the possibility of continuing the contra flow lane on Marquette along the entire stretch of 1st Ave South.

Bob Hansen mentioned the Police Citizen's Academy that starts Wednesday, September 5th and runs for 10 weeks to November 7th. This outreach effort has had no Loring Park participants recently.

III. 6:45-7:15 Reports

A. Land Use Report

- 1730 Clifton: The plans for the Hunt development were approved at the Planning Commission and with no appeals, the project will go directly to City Council, probably on the consent agenda. This illustrates some recent changes made to expedite the review process.

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- 1501 Nicollet: The CPED report is to be heard at Community Development meeting on June 19th; Room 317, City Hall.

Action Items From the Land Use Committee:

Action item: The Chair will follow up with Doug Kress and planning staff (Phil Schliesman, Grant Wilson, and Ricardo Cervantes) to determine the typical notification procedures, why the system seemed to fail in this instance, and plans to prevent such failure in the future. In addition, the city should include notification of the neighborhood office. Finally, enquire about procedures to notify renters.

Dick reported on his conversation today with Councilmember Lisa Goodman. Lisa determined that there was a glitch in notification, especially the failure to notify CLPC and the Wellington. She also found that the requirements for notification deal with the center not from the door of the property. Lisa is looking into how to better manage resources to inform large condo buildings, possibly through the management company. As to renters, the ordinance calls for notifying the property owner only. Dick suggested trying to work with Luther to develop better communication with property owners. Lisa also noted the significance of the issue because this is a part of the city that is zoned for uses that would not occur in most residential areas such as adult entertainment.

Action item – The chair is to contact Lisa’s office and ask for clarification of the office condo issue including applicable ordinances and relationship to residential ordinances. He will also contact the Heritage Preservation Commission staff about the building’s qualification as a historic building.

Dick reported that Lisa is familiar with the condo issue and the 1409 Willow building. Lisa believes that “condoization” should be permitted as it promotes ownership. There are no restrictions on such changes. Lisa was concerned that the owner had ideas for parking and a new ramp without any discussion with the city. She also thought that the owners approach appeared somewhat disorganized. Lisa would be willing to facilitate the attendance of the owner at the next land use meeting. The committee thought it would be helpful to have the owner come and speak. Dick reported that he sent questions about the heritage issue to Jack Byers.

Action item: CLPC Land Use Committee will put the pedestrian overlay district on the next meeting’s agenda. Jana suggests inviting someone from Stevens Square to discuss the issue. Determine the status of any moratorium: There may have been an item on the Zoning & Planning or Transportation committee agendas discussing a possible moratorium on development along part of Nicollet.

John van Heel attended an open house about the pedestrian overlay issue. The issue will be discussed at the next Land Use meeting including possible modifications to the Loring Park pedestrian overlay district.

Land Use Committee Item for CLPC Board Action

Motion from Land Use Committee: That CLPC support the new restaurant, Nick and Eddie, to open in the location of the former Loring Grill at 1612/1614 Harmon Ave. *Richard Anderson/Terry Thompson*

Motion from CLPC Board: That CLPC support the new restaurant, Nick and Eddie, to open in the location of the former Loring Grill at 1612/1614 Harmon Ave. *Dick Sandberg/Robert Hansen*

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B. Livability Report: Robert Hansen

- Robert reported on the items discussed at the Livability Meeting. Because the panhandling ordinance passed easily through the Public Safety Committee, there is likely little to be done with this. Robert also reported that Diane Moe discussed activities in the park. Robert hopes to set up a committee to explore community outreach. Robert has also contacted the “new” (as of June 2006) major at Booth Manor who is invited to the next Livability Committee meeting.

Livability Committee Item for CLPC Board Action

Motion from the Livability Committee: That the memo from David Wilson regarding parking complications surrounding the Eitel Hospital development be forwarded to the CLPC Board and that the Board devise comments or recommendations to be forwarded to the City of Minneapolis. David Wilson/Jan Sandberg. *Motion passed, one opposed.*

Robert noted that the developer has done a good job on the Web site, giving local residents a heads up as to construction. Jana added that most of the items listed in Mr. Wilson’s letter were put together by Jana and others and are being done. She has not received complaints from other residents. Some of his suggestions that were not previously considered include e-mail to permit holders, removing restrictions on eastside of Willow between Grant and 14th, and restricting parking to permit holders only at any time.

Committee discussion: this problem is likely to diminish as construction continues and there is a concern that there have been no other complaints so possibly follow up from others (although Emerson has reported no problems). Consensus that there should be a better gauge of concern before the committee tries to propose changes.

C. Nicollet Ave. Task Force – John van Heel

There are many changes coming for Nicollet Avenue, with the pedestrian overlay district, parking ramp sale, and other development. Those interested in participating on a renewed Task Force include Ann DeGroot (OutFront MN), Kam Talebi, Rosalie (Triple Espresso), Ahmad (International Coffee), Diane Woelm (GreatTapes) and probably Diane Hanson. John asked if others were interested to send him a list of possible dates so that a meeting can be set up. John also asked Jana to attend as she has met previously with all owners. John explained the parking ramp item—the potential buyer is proposing to add housing to the Loring Park ramp.

D. Parking Task Force – Jana Metge

Roger (Dunn Brothers) has agreed to convene the first meeting for the parking task force after PRIDE. Discussion will include stairs down from Loring Hill to 15th and a crossing at 15th and Oak Grove. There are about 8-10 persons interested in participating who represent churches, businesses and local residents in the Hill area.

IV. 7:15-7:45 CLPC Fundraising Workgroup – Ela Rausch

Ela distributed a set of draft workgroup meeting notes. There is a need for about \$7,500 for the rest of the year and \$70,000 for 2008. Ideally, there need to be long-term funding sources.

Board members made various suggestions. Richard Gardell suggested considering pull-tabs in some of the bars or restaurants in the neighborhood. The concept of teaming with a restaurant for a CLPC night out was also discussed.

Ela then discussed the need to identify a key message that would get people fired up enough to want to donate. What would happen if there were no CLPC? Ela described possible next steps including

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recruiting workgroup members and developing a marketing plan. Finally what are some activities that could be done now.

Jana said that she and John would continue to pursue the political angles. The NRP Policy Board is continuing to look at alternatives and City Council (Councilmember Lilligren) is looking at options. John said that the \$70,000 may be beyond what CLPC can do but \$10,000 should be considered an annual goal for fund raising.

Jana mentioned the United Way option that is currently used by one CLPC member. John mentioned that another neighborhood organization links to PayPal.

Ela made several recommendations. It is important to have a reachable annual goal every year. There should also be a multi-year plan that would stagger the strategies. Solicitation letters should be tailored to specific audiences. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 27th at Dunn Brothers, 7 p.m.

V. 7:45-8:00 CLPC Closed Administrative Session

ACTION ITEMS and THANKS

- 1409 Willow property owner to speak at Land Use meeting.
- John will reactivate the Nicollet Avenue Task Force.
- Parking Task Force will move forward after PRIDE.
- Terry Thompson will work with the writing portion of the fund raising effort (with Jana's historical background).

Adjourned 8:05 p.m.