

Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28th, 2009

Those present: Paul Hinderager (resident), Dick Sandberg (resident), John Van Heel (resident and Chair), Scott Erickson (MCTC), Paul Prenevost (Kurt Properties), T.M. Malaskee (MCTC), Aaron Spiegel (MCTC-WAY), Becky Gullickson (resident), Virginia Reilly (resident), Diane Scovill (MCTC), Lena Jones (MCTC), Dave Hile (resident), Lisa Pederson (resident), Michael McLaughlin (Loring Business Association), Charles Rinaron (MCTC), Jerry Svec (resident), and Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator).

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by John Van Heel, chair
Introductions were conducted.
Minutes were approved.

The following announcements were made:

- **Community Sing-Along** – Oct. 13th & Nov. 17th - 7:00-8:30 PM Loring Park Com. Center
- **Court Watch** – Oct. 2nd, 10:00-11:30 AM Central Library 2nd floor
- **Dusk2Dawn Event – Sept. 26th** – Jana reported that this occurred and was very successful.
- **Traffic Calming Task Force Meeting:** Jana reported that this meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd this month. The group is working on a letter to request that the City identify 15th & Oak Grove as a city crosswalk. Dave Hile drafted up the initial letter, task force members have added comments. They will review it at their Oct. meeting and then present it to the Oct. Land Use Committee for approval and forward to the CLPC Board. The intent is to have this letter also signed by St. Mark's, Hennepin Methodist, the childcare centers, and The Woman's Club of Minneapolis. Additionally, volunteers have been taking shifts to conduct a traffic count of bikes and walkers at this intersection. The Minneapolis Police followed up from the last meeting mapping traffic stops at locations throughout Loring Park Neighborhood. Thanks to Lt. Hansen!! The task force is made up of 8-10 consistent volunteers and chaired by Sasha Mayer.

II. Twin Cities Streets for People – Lisa Pederson

Streets for People is an advocacy and education organization focused on improving streets for bicycling, walking and community use of public space. The organization has developed an online resource, with articles, videos and explanations of best-practice street designs that make it safer to walk and bicycle, at www.tcstreetsforpeople.org. Streets for People has been working to strengthen locally-focused bicycle and pedestrian advocacy, and has reached out to collaborate with other organizations who work on these issues at the regional and state level. Upcoming local issues of note are the reorganization of Minneapolis' Bicycle Advisory Committee, the first Bicycle Plan of Minneapolis, and projects to add/remove bicycle and pedestrian facilities downtown. There is also a statewide Complete Streets campaign, aimed at ensuring that roads built in Minnesota are safe for all users of all ages and abilities. Information about the complete streets campaign is available at www.mncompletestreets.org/

III. Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC) - Outdoor Plaza Project – Scott Erickson

Scott Erickson, MCTC Vice President of Finance, presented ideas and drawings for the redesign of the MCTC Outdoor Plaza. The outdoor plaza is adjacent to Loring Park and under construction at this time. It is being renovated through the State of Minnesota funding. The plaza will be completely transformed into a park-like environment that slopes gently from the college to Loring Park. The steps to the college will be removed to improve accessibility and the large concrete surfaces will be replaced with native plantings, grass, trees, and pedestrian sidewalks. The plaza renovation is part of the MCTC's campus master plan and will improve accessibility to the campus and advance their commitment to sustainability.

Scott also talked about the Helland Center and the future renovation to open it up to the neighborhood, as well as to develop a student clinic. Aaron, from MCTC WAY spoke on a student led and organized effort to create a Wellness Center and Community Clinic in the Helland Building expansion concept. There is a desire to assess the Loring Park neighborhood residents as to the need for a community clinic.

Aaron requested to be on the October Land Use agenda to present on WAY and efforts for a community clinic.

It was suggested that CLPC have a representative on both the Helland Design Team, as well as the MCTC Comp. Plan Advisory team. Since CLPC is developing the neighborhood Master Plan, which eventually will be approved by both the City and Met Council and then an appendix to the City-wide Master plan, communication and coordination between institutions like MCTC and CLPC will be imperative. Jana will follow up with Phil Davis on this request.

IV. Loring Kitchen and Bar-Variance request

Loring Kitchen and Bar has requested to increase the allowable square footage from 3,000 square feet to 4,200 square feet and to increase the seating capacity from 110 seats to 169 seats. This is a new requirement by City Staff per the restaurant's request to install bi-fold doors to enclose their patio seating per inclement weather or to keep any excessive noise from adjacent residents. The request was presented to the City Planning Commission at 4:30 on **Monday, Sept. 28th, 2009 at 4:30** (this same day as the Land Use meeting). Jana attended the meeting, as did 2 Loring Way residents who testified, David Banks the business owner, and 1 Loring Way Board member. New information at this hearing was that the intent of the bi-fold doors are to now be permanent vs. temporary or seasonal. Loring Kitchen and bar will run heat ducts to this new enclosed space.

The following application was submitted and approved by the Planning Commission. Hilary Dvorak is the City Planner assigned. Her email is hilary.dvorak@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. The application now goes to City Council for approval.

- Conditional use permit to amend the Planned Unit Development for the Eitel Hospital Development
- Variance to increase the size of the neighborhood serving retail sales and serving retail sales and services use from the recently approved 3,000 square feet to 4,200 sq. feet for the Loring Kitchen & Bar
- Variance to increase the seating capacity of the Loring Kitchen & Bar from the recently approved 110 seats to 169 seats
- Site plan review

Jerry Svec, from Loring Way testified against this request. He came to the Land Use meeting to express his concern about the liquor license (which was approved by the City's Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee). His concern is that if the restaurant fails and the owner has this license, that they could turn the business into a night club and that noise, people, exhaust from cars would be a terrible thing to the neighborhood. He is planning to write a letter and submit it to Councilmember Goodman prior to the hearing. Committee members felt that the license had to reflect the business plan. Jana was requested to get a copy of the business plan from licensing staff for the CLPC file.

V. Report from Task Forces

•**Ladd House** – John reported that the CLPC Board did not act on the motion from Land Use. They are requesting additional information from Heritage Preservation staff prior to action. There is a question as to why this property at 131 Oak Grove is not “recommended for further study” in the Historical Asset study recently completed by a consultant for the City. There is another question as to what city staff may be moving forward on within the recommendations of this study and whether or not there is city staff capacity to work on this designation application proposed. This item will be on the Oct. Land Use agenda.

•**Emerson School Status Report** – Jana reported that she had attended the Public Hearings. Emerson School parents made a great showing. They talked about their need to be accessible to a metro bus route to attend parent/child activities. They talked about the \$3 million + investment into the building to date for new windows, HVAC system, tuckpointing, roof, and a new fence.

Even with this testimony, the School Board voted to moved the Emerson Dual Immersion program to Anwatin as of next year, unanimously.

Paul and Jana spoke on a meeting held with the School Facility staff. To date, parking arrangements

have been made through Barb Berg, the community liaison for the school. For 2009-2010, the School wants a formalized written lease agreement. Paul, David Banks, Spirit Garage, Barb Berg, Jana and school Facilities staff will meet again on Oct. 8th. Loring Kitchen and Grill and Music Box use the Emerson lot for their valet parking. PRIDE and the Loring Art Festival use this lot for events. Jana is representing the “community use” section for the document. She has it available at the CLPC office as it develops if anyone is interested.

Jana stated that Land Use needs to put Emerson School ‘on the agenda’ for 2010. Re-purposing discussions will occur throughout 2010. Community members should think about **Re-Use or Demolition of the building as a 1st item of conversation.**

•**Master Plan Task Force** – John reported that this core group continues to work on the framework/scope for the Loring Park Master Plan. The goal, once a scope is determined, is to create and post a Request for Proposal for a consultant. The group has reviewed other neighborhood Master Plans, as well as reviewed all plans that have been completed for Loring Park project areas. They are compiling this information. Meetings of this team are the 4th Wed. of each month at the Loring Office Bldg., room 207.

•**Historic Plaque Task Force** – John, Kim, Bob Copeland, and Ray Harris have been working this project with Ryan from Shea, Inc. Architectural Firm. There will be 8 plaques completed to be installed at a pedestrian level around the parking ramp. It was also reported that in a private/public partnership, the City contracted Forecast Public Artworks to create a colorful mural around the top of the parking ramp. A press conference was held earlier this month.

•**Save Wesley Church** – No news at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.