

**Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 19, 2017 -- 6:30 p.m.**

**LHENA Board**

Frank Brown	Present
Tim Dray	Absent
Emily Duven	Present
Mark Greenwald	Absent
Katie Jones Schmitt	Absent
Bernadette Knaeble	Present
Joe Knaeble	Present
Bill Neumann	Present
Karlee Weinmann	Present

**Additional Attendees**

Lindsey Wallace, Ward 10 staff  
Joe Huber, chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Jake Knight, vice chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Zack Mohlis, chair, Renters Committee  
Saralyn Romanishan, board liaison, Social Committee  
Paul Shanafelt, incoming executive director  
Alicia Gibson, community member  
James Tsantes, community member  
Amber Morgan, community member  
Katlyn Flannery, community member

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The board approved the agenda unanimously. The board was unable to approve May meeting minutes as directed at the June 21 board meeting because they cannot be found. The board approved June meeting minutes unanimously.

**Board Elections**

Four people nominated themselves to fill the two open board seats, both for two-year terms. Nominees included Alicia Gibson, James Tsantes, Jake Knight, and Katlyn Flannery. Katlyn Flannery withdrew her nomination before the board vote. The board voted Alicia Gibson and James Tsantes onto the board.

**City Council Update**

- Minimum wage increase passed recently and will be phased in. The provision does not include a tip credit.
- Paid sick and safe time, passed by the City Council last year, went into effect July 1.

- The city finalized its purchase of the land underneath the Kmart site at Nicollet Avenue and Lake Street, part of a plan to reconnect the Nicollet corridor.
- Hennepin Avenue reconstruction (between Lake Street and 36th Street) was approved by the city. The project will widen sidewalks, incorporate boulevards with trees, and add bike lanes. Construction is slated for 2018.
- The installation of bike lanes on 26th Street and 28th Street is forthcoming. Painting will begin by the end of July. The work will include updating intersections to enable everyone to safely take right turns.
- 24th Street is on the city's bikeway plan; there have been no meetings schedule yet but Council Member Bender's office is interested in having a citizen advisory group specifically to address bike lanes in Ward 10.
- Lindsey Wallace will be leaving Council Member Bender's office. She will be replaced by former LHENA staff Tina Erazmus.

### **Treasurer Election**

There were two nominees for the open Treasurer position on the Executive Committee. James Tsantes nominated himself; Joe Knaeble nominated Karlee Weinmann, who did not accept the nomination. There was a motion to approve James by acclamation. The motion passed. On a voice vote, James was appointed Treasurer.

### **President's Report**

- Paul Shanafelt, who formerly worked as a community engagement staffer at the Whittier Alliance, will start work as LHENA's Executive Director on Aug. 7.
- LHENA will officially move into The Study (2909 Hennepin Ave. S.) on Aug. 1.
- A portion of LHENA's supplies will be stored in the park building at Mueller Park to ensure easy access for outdoor events, most of which are at or near the park.

### **Environment Committee Report**

- The Wedge will host six compost bins for LHENA renters unable to otherwise access city compost services beginning Aug. 1. Community members will need to sign up for the service. Committee members will also promote the compost buddies program at National Night Out. The city has given permission for LHENA to informally advertise the compost buddies program, with the recognition that composters assume risk. There is a waiting list for the program in the North Wedge.
- The Committee has discussed developing a sustainable purchasing policy for LHENA and its events. Bernadette Knaeble made a motion stipulating that the Committee would develop a policy; Frank Brown suggested the committee write the policy then present it to the board at a future meeting. The motion was withdrawn.
- The Greenway Garden is taking up a lot of Bernadette Knaeble's time due to construction and other activity by Elan at and near the garden space. She is concerned about staging and equipment at the garden, and hopes damage to the garden will be minimal. She has been in contact with Hennepin County and Elan to determine what work is happening and when; there was a permit that expired in April.

- Bernadette Knaeble said the Committee plans to purchase benches and nesting boxes for the Greenway Garden in the fall when construction is complete, as well as add new signage.
- A question was raised about who decides what content can be posted in the bulletin board planned for installation at Mueller Park. There was a discussion around whether the board should approve every item, with committees bringing items before the board. Emily Duven said it would be onerous to approve everything at the board level, but LHENA should have the key to the board. Bill Neumann agreed LHENA staff should have the key. Karlee Weinmann suggested the Committee draft a plan and bring it back to the board.

### **Finance Committee Report**

- Karlee Weinmann presented a draft funding application developed by members of the Finance Committee. It is designed to streamline LHENA funding for neighborhood projects while also providing more transparency and accountability. Applicant with ideas would fill out the form, allowing the Finance Committee and ultimately the board to determine whether proposals are in alignment with LHENA's stated goals for distributing NRP and CPP funds.
- Bernadette Knaeble said the application should include a comprehensive list of all eligible funds as dictated by LHENA's NRP and CPP priority plans. She listed community engagement, traffic calming, bus shelter improvements, updated public spaces, and partnerships as priorities. She asked for a summary of those contracts and available funding as part of the application. She also suggested a reference to renter engagement be removed from the application. Karlee Weinmann said renter engagement is a priority for LHENA and the city.
- James Tsantes clarified that the goal of the Finance Committee is to offer broad information in order to not be too overwhelming, and to enable community members to think creatively about their ideas. Jake Knight clarified that the document is a tool for guiding already-established ideas in a more efficient way. Zack Mohlis said the reference to renter engagement should not stop the application from being approved.
- There was a motion to table consideration of the draft application pending further discussion at the Finance Committee. The motion passed.
- Joe Knaeble suggested board members with strong thoughts about the application attend the next Finance Committee meeting.

### **Social Committee Report**

- Via an email vote among its five regular members, the committee elected Saralyn Romanishan as its board liaison.
- The committee will not meeting from July to September. Saralyn Romanishan said this is a regular committee summer hiatus. The next committee meeting will be Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. at Common Roots. The committee will discuss its four major events for the year and begin to plan fundraisers.

## **Zoning & Planning Committee Report**

- A new barbecue restaurant concept, Great Northern Smokehouse, is moving in at the southwest corner of Lake Street and Lyndale Avenue. The building owner will run the restaurant. It will have a full bar, patio seating, light music amplification (for jazz and bluegrass music). It will employ around 50 people, with an opening targeted for September. The restaurant owner is seeking a C2 liquor license, with a public hearing on the matter scheduled for July 25. Jake Knight recommended that the LHENA board send a letter of support for the liquor license. Saralyn Romanishan clarified that the CARAG neighborhood supports the project. Bill Neumann clarified that the restaurant owner answered all committee questions at the meeting. The board unanimously approved the motion.
- Joe Huber reported the committee voted to send a letter of support about a multifamily housing project proposed at 2449 Lyndale Ave. S. The development includes four units -- two with three bedrooms, two with four bedrooms. The committee-approved letter would request higher-quality materials for the exterior. The project does not include affordable units. Attendees raised concerns about the lack of affordable units. The motion to send the letter failed.
- Jake Knight reported that a developer presentation for 1930 Hennepin Ave., at the former Bradstreet site, was warmly welcomed at the committee meeting. The project is for youth that have aged out of the foster care system, aged 18 to 21. Joe Huber said the committee was excited about the project, which builds affordable housing for youth who need it. Jake Knight encouraged further discussion of the project among the board at a future time. Bill Neumann voiced strong support.
- Jake Knight encouraged community members to take the Transportation Study, available online through Aug. 6.

## **Renters Committee Report**

- Zack Mohlis reported that the committee is planning a Welcome to the Wedge picnic aimed at those who will move into the neighborhood over the summer, encouraging them to connect with neighbors and LHENA. He explained a new form developed by LHENA staff to help with more cohesive event planning, which will be used for the picnic. There is no date set yet.
- Alicia Gibson encouraged the committee to include family-oriented activities.
- Bernadatte Knaeble said park staff need to be contacted immediately in order to schedule and permit the event.
- There was a motion to provide \$150 in LHENA funding to support the picnic event. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Ad-Hoc Committee on Committees Report**

- Joe Knaeble reported the committee had a productive meeting focused on LHENA bylaws, specifically that each committee should have a chairperson, and would like to

continue its work. This committee feels that all LHENA committees should have more structure and accountability.

- Joe Knaeble said the committee is supportive of an event planning form/event logistics form, including a budget, and a post-event form. This will help with continuity.
- Saralyn Romanishan questioned whether the bylaws are consistent in requiring each committee to elect a chair. Board members cited confusion around provisions in the existing bylaws and whether they require each committee to elect a chairperson.
- There was discussion that the committee should set clear expectations that define an appropriate committee report and what is expected from each committee at the LHENA Annual Meeting.
- Frank Brown asked for a written report that outlines the committee's ongoing work and recommendations.
- Karlee Weinmann raised question of who is responsible for taking notes and whether this falls into the Secretary role, per LHENA bylaws. Frank Brown said LHENA staff has always taken notes during his time on the board. LHENA members discussed whether it should be the role of the secretary, as stated in the bylaws.

### **Safety Committee Report**

- Alicia Gibson said the committee has three members: her, Saralyn Romanishan, and another community member. The local precinct crime prevention specialist typically attends meetings, but the meetings have not drawn much interest in the past. There is a new crime prevention specialist.
- Alicia Gibson raised the idea of a larger Uptown-area crime and safety committee (including ECCO, CARAG, LHENA, and possibly more neighborhoods) to organize joint events and advertise them across all neighborhoods.
- Alicia Gibson said the committee has to meet a certain number of times per year in order to get crime reports.
- The next crime prevention workshop will be held Aug. 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. The LHENA committee will meet Aug. 2 at 4 p.m. at 2015 Bryant Ave. S. and will set up a regular meeting schedule. The committee plans to organize one event over the next year that would be advertised and leverage partnerships with other neighborhoods. Ideas include education about sanctuary cities and community policing.
- Frank Brown said the committee needs to work together with the community and get more people involved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

### **New Business**

- Zack Mohlis, who serves as the LHENA representative on the Midtown Greenway Coalition board, invited community members to participate in the Greenway Glow on July

29. He formed a Wedge Friends team to complete the 10-mile bike ride and view temporary art installations put up along the route.

**The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.**