

# Lexington-Hamline Community Council

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2/27/2017 at 1pm

**Present** - Ashley Rashid, Emmy Treichel, Jeremy Lostetter, Johnell Kolve, Larissa Kiel, Paul Bakke, Samuel White,, Yvonne DeMarino, Amy Gundermann, Ashley Rashid

**Guests**- Jenna Fletcher, Leben McCormick, Karen Randall, Sarah Murphy

**Excused**- Sharon Fischlowitz

1. Call to Order - Emmy 7:01pm
2. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Jenna Fletcher, Trust for Public Land -
    - She is working on the park at Griggs. Trust for Public Lands is a National Non-profit. Currently it owns 3 parcels of land, which will be the future site of the Griggs park. She passed out pictures of the land. It's almost 5 acres.
    - Park is going forward- good news. Trust for Public Land is working with Parks department in a few ways. First they are doing "deep" Community Engagement with residents close by. Secondly, they are looking for sources of private philanthropy to come up with 1/2 the park budget. TPL is working together with Parks to raise \$3 million total to build park. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT- The area where Griggs Park will be is currently not really a neighborhood. TPL is hoping to bring communities together to better understand what they want out of the park. They want create the opportunity to let the community determine what they want from the park. TPL is currently seeking grants to do community engagement- upstream engagement before city engagement. They have started with "Park Listeners" to listen to residents about what they want. These Park Listeners have been standing at light rail stations, door knocking, etc. They have already talked to 700 people in non traditional ways. TPL is also figuring out how to create a park naming process- what does that process look like?  
FUNDRAISING- Fundraising is going well. A giving site will go up in a few weeks so small donors can give there toward the park.TPL would love it if Lex- Ham could donate to Park Development.
    - There are events coming up to build awareness and support for the Griggs park. April 5th, there will be an indoor event at the Flamingo Restaurant. There will be a clean up event April 28th. Gordon Parks is hosting an event May 25th. And there

will be perhaps a June or July event- TPL wants to have these events have some cohesion.

- TPL wanted input from the Lex-Ham on “Park is Coming” campaign: Yvonne asked- Are there surveys available online to provide input? Jenna said the website doesn’t support online input. City will do a more formal survey. Lucas asked if signs about the park could have a website listed for input and information. Sam asked- Have you spoken to Concordia Call Center? Jenna said no, but appreciated the idea and will follow up.
- Karen asked- What happens to the Gordon Parks HS design of park? Jenna said that concept plans from that original project could be fodder for design. Some of the ideas may be utilized. TPL is staying connected to Gordon Parks HS
- Amy asked - How do we make Dunning and Griggs Park connected?
- Yvonne asked -Where would I go online for more information? Jenna suggested the Three Ring Garden Website.

b. Lebin McCormick, LHCC resident with presentation on Ash borer -

- Lebin used to be on the Board. He has lived here 20 years. He is an arborist with Rainbow Tree. He is the local neighborhood representative to the Tree Advisory Panel- How to care for trees?
- Emerald Ash Borer and the effect on Lex- Ham- Residents may have noticed the green ribbons on trees. This is an awareness campaign of how many Ash Trees we have in the city. It is, in fact, the most popular tree in the city. Because of Emerald Ash Borer infestation, every Ash is going to die unless it’s adopted and treated. The city is only going to treat some about 10 percent. 90% will die in 9 or 10 years after they are infected. The Ash Borer has been here for 7 years already and we are at the end. We have 2 or 3 years left at most. The city won’t remove trees until they are dead- dying.
- We are right at the edge where we could intervene. There are some streets in Lex-Ham that will be hit hard- Hague, Laurel, Ashland. The treatment for trees is 99% effective- Yvonne asked what the impact of this insecticide would be on pollinators. Lebin replied that ash trees are wind pollinated trees not insect pollinated- did not see a conflict in treating trees.
- City is committed to removing Ash and replanting with diverse canopy.
- Sam- How much does it cost to adopt a tree? 15 inches around \$10 an inch = \$150. The treatment will keep the trees healthy for two years. \$75 per year will save a tree.
- City has adopted Dayton. The trees on this street weren’t too old or too small. They will only treat 10 and 20 inches

- Emamectin benzoate is the chemical- injected directly into the tree. Chemical is gone in two years- metabolized or evaporated. Insects can't evolve fast enough to overcome chemical. - City is treating every three years.
- Lebin says we don't have to treat every tree. One of the things the neighborhood could do- fundraise to treat a few trees every block. So that they are not bare. Diversity of trees would be good.
- Emmy suggested we assign this to a committee to come up with what we should do, how we should do it?
- Trees need to be treated in the summer- May, June, July-
- IDEAS-Specific recommendations- ribbon trees to show people where they are, use the Eavesdropper to let people know specifically that there are Ash trees- Emmy- Flier for Spaghetti Dinner-
- There is an Interactive map on City Map- 97% of the city of Saint Paul is infested-
- Yvonne cautioned us to make sure we understand the environmental impact of treated the trees with pesticide. We need to better understand how this chemical is metabolized through the trees, and if foliage will carry the pesticide and spread it to our soil. We need to look at the problem from both sides.

c. Karen Randall, LHCC resident with presentation on race conversations

- Karen brought forward a proposal to hire consultant for Lex-Ham to help facilitate race conversations. She first shared this idea with Amy, then brought it to the board for consideration.
- Karen- Talking about Race can be one of the few things that we can do that will have an impact, What makes a difference in Racial Bias? Being aware of color makes a difference. What does race have to do with everything in our culture? Start with local conversations with neighbors. Are there places that facilitate this?
- Karen and Amy spoke to the YWCA in Minneapolis. The YWCA helps organizations examine their own practices- Policy advocates. They also can lead community conversations. It's a part of they YWCA's mission. They told Amy and Karen to worry about goals for the organization not the price. They will make it possible.
- Karen stressed the importance of courageous conversations about Race. The way you change the world is by having relationships with people. How can we create authentic connections with our neighbors? Emmy says there was a time when white people would not look at a house in this neighborhood.
- Potential Workshop ideas- Addressing Racism through Minnesota Nice. Talking about Race to Kids.
- Lucas- How do we get everyone in the community around the table? Intentional invitations to leaders- If we are mostly a white neighborhood, is there value to having these conversations? It was agreed by a few board members that having

conversations among white people can be valuable. Emmy brings up the point that bias can cross other lines, i.e. agism. Yvonne asked us to be wary of tokenism. Larissa added that while it's very important to speak about Race (we shouldn't take for granted that it's an easy subject for anyone) it needs to be done in a context that draws people into the conversation. How can we create an event that does this? How can we keep it from just being an academic exercise?

- Flat rate for YWCA workshop when they go to corporations is \$200/hr
- Emmy would like to set up a plan to see if there is an event that we can do-
- Jeremy shared that at Hennepin County where he works they had Circle Conversations around race- the Y helped set it up. He said employees were not required to participate, but people did. And he found it helpful.
- Carolyn Liber - teaches a course on racism can be a part of this conversation-
- Emmy will be back with next step next month. Larissa, Emmy, Karen, and Amy will try to meet to discuss this further.

- d. Sarah Murphy, new LHCC board applicant- She was introduced to the board and welcomed.

### 3. Approval of February 2017 Agenda and January 2017 Minutes – Emmy

Move to approve agenda- Yvonne

Paul seconded

All in favor

Move to approve minutes- Sam

Paul seconded

All in favor

4. Park at Griggs Update – Jenna Fletcher (see notes above)
5. Ash Borer Solutions – Leben McCormick (see notes above)
6. Race Conversations in Lex-Ham – Karen Randall (see notes above)
7. Board Discussion: Intentional BOD Recruitment and Succession -Keep this in mind, Sharon has been President- We don't have a Vice President... who will be next? We need to be thinking about actively filling in Vice President and President roles.
8. Reports
  - a. Executive Director's Report - Amy
    - (see written report)
    - LED stuff is coming up soon- bulbs testing will be happening, Talk to Amy if you want more details- March 6th is the date they will be installing bulbs for testing. You should get a letter through the mail with survey.
    - Loving Every Neighbor Yard signs are here and on sale for \$16. Window clings are \$4.

- Lex-Ham has received the Presidents Community Partnership Board Award from Concordia for Bridge Event-. The event is April 5th to accept the award. Amy can't be there. Sam could do perhaps do it.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Emmy
- Actual Activity YTD: Our is postage high, but that seems to be a one time cost; We may not need to be carrying the insurance we are carrying for board members. Lex-Ham is looking into the Law that protects board members to verify whether the insurance is needed at all.
  - Also we are looking at our housing endowment. It's currently not being utilized by residents- it's been paid back; \$20,000 2nd mortgage Emmy-Could we purchase a CD with \$20, 000? This could be an issue for the Finance committee to discuss.
- c. Committee Reports
- i. Personnel – Johnell/Larissa (see written report.)
  - ii. Finance - Emmy (see above Treasurer's Report and Community Task Force Report)
  - iii. Community Fund Task Force - Jeremy  
Looking for more personal trusts to meet our specific needs- banker gave advice- look for trust departments at banks. The Task Force set up meeting with Anchor Bank for Wednesday at 3pm, They are also talking about working with Associated Bank
  - iv. Events - Johnell  
(see written report) The next event coming is Block Leader event March 10th at Axel Bonfire- Board members are welcome to come. Citywide clean up is April 22nd- Should we add Tree Tagging to highlight Ash Borer issue?
  - v. Outreach - Sam  
Sam is Chair- They created 4 task forces at the meeting: Wee Care, Communications, Good Works- For Good Works, they talked about starting a program called Lex- Ham Life Squads (working name). These would empower people in the neighborhood to hold their own events with \$300 "grants". The leader of the event would get a t-shirt; Would be great to get this idea to the community by Spaghetti Dinner- The next Outreach meeting is Wednesday, March 8 4:30pm
- d. UPDC Reports
- i. UPDC BOD - Jeremy  
At January Meeting, highlights:
    - There is crime at Large Retailers. Some of the retailers lean too heavily on police and not their own security- The community and law enforcement is looking to Dai Thao to help with establishing limitations on these calls.

- Hamline Midway is still lobbying to change their borders- UPDC is not going to agree to it. Hamline- Midway may get a petition.
- UPDC is getting a new office space starting March 1st. Moved in the last weekend- WACPAC Space.

February retreat highlights:

- It was held at St Thomas. They went through budget for next year.
- Talked about how they want to run their board meetings. Lex- Ham has a standing Agenda item as Legacy Neighborhood- UPDC is thinking of changing it so that if we have a request, we could have an Agenda Item. How do we approach this?
- Emmy wants to know how we can request some of the money they get for us? Our population gives them money. We need to come up with ideas for specific money requests.
  - ii. Land Use and Economic Development - Paul  
Perspective 60 unit development- building south of Anchor Bank - 6 stories. There is discussion about getting a retail space in there.

9. Approval of Amended 2017 Budget - Emmy

Move to pass Budget- Paul

Seconded by Johnell

All in Favor

10. Introduction of Sarah Murphy as new Board Member- She's been in her house in Lex-Ham about 1 and 1/2 years. She and her husband, Joe have two kids. Before Lex-Ham they lived in Frogtown and the East side. They were very active in those communities. She's excited to become more active with Lex-Ham

Motion to approve Sarah to Board

Seconded- Lucas

All in favor

Amy will show Website next meeting on projector, Lucas

11. Adjourn Meeting - Emmy

Move to adjourn meeting- Yvonne

Second - Paul

All in favor

**Next BOD Meeting Date: Monday, March 27th from 7-9pm**

**Upcoming Events:**

March 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at Axel's on Grand: Block Leader Appreciation

March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm : Annual Spaghetti Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church (note the location)

April 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4pm at Lexington and Laurel: Pedestrian Safety Event (Stop for Me)-

doubling their goal to 60 events throughout Saint Paul- Amy organizing 6 events on University

April 22nd from 9am-10:30am at Dunning Park: Citywide Spring Clean Up Event

Submitted by Larissa Kiel