

Lexington-Hamline Community Council

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

4/24/2017 at 7pm

Present: Lucas Riley, Sarah Murphy, Emmy Treichel, Paul, Yvonne,

Excused: Jeremy, Ashley, Johnell, Sam

- 1) **Call to Order** – Sharon- 7:02pm
- 2) **Approval of April 2017 Agenda** – Sharon
Motion to approve agenda- Yvonne
Seconded by-Paul
- 3) **Board Discussion** - Our 2017 Retreat Goals

Goals-

- ***Internal Health-***
 1. Emmy says this is a very broad goal and that is a good thing because it gives us flexibility.
 2. Paul appreciated that we are getting things set up in the Events Committee to relieve Amy of repetitive annual tasks
 3. We have been making progress on Community Fund- set up meeting with Associated Bank- gave them info about Community Fund and task force- dates for proposed scheduled meeting
- ***Increase volunteer activism-***
 1. Sarah has some ideas about increasing volunteers- she will share these later
 2. Lucas- met with block leaders to get them to be more active, did have a lot of people come to the event. Hoping that this will produce a ripple effect to bring in more community members.
- ***Define and Implement plan for Good Works-*** These ideas are all, but published.
- ***Additional thoughts on Goals-***
 1. Board members appreciated going to a Task Force format to limit committees. This makes commitment easier because volunteers can be focused on an event/activity for a limited amount of time.
 2. Yvonne wondered if it were absolutely necessary for board members to be on a committee, She also suggested we may want to look at just 1 year on the Board instead of 2 years. Sharon's reply was that it takes 18 months to get to know an organization and then be able to contribute individual talents. Emmy also added that the reason we have the Community Fund is because of volunteers and their commitment of time.

Status and Next Steps

- During the above discussion, Emmy also brought up that there have been two daytime break-ins in the past month by her house. Crime prevention may be a good focus for us; Lucas suggested we invite a police officer for May or June meeting so that we can have resources available for National Night Out
- Also in the above the discussion was more information about Selby and the strategic plan: NEW INFORMATION- Pizza Luce has ownership in 5 lots on Selby in our neighborhood. Do we need take any exploratory actions to see what they are looking at doing in relation to the Selby strategic plan? Why did we get the high density comment in the strategic plan? Some residents of Lex-Ham have a lot of distrust for Pizza Luce because the parking lot ordeal was difficult. We value additional businesses, but want to avoid a monopoly.

4) Reports

Executive Director's Report - Amy- (see written report)

1. Thank you notes passed around for David Tzeutschler for his work with the Eavesdropper and Sarah Gilbertson for her work on the Website- Board members signed them
2. Shared award from Concordia – Presidents' Community Partner Award- Sharon says the event which she attended was very cool,
3. Photos of the Board will be taken next month to put updated ones on the website- Lucas taking pictures-
4. One of our Grid Reps for Union Park has just resigned from their Board- DJ stepping down- if you know anybody who would like to do that- please share with Amy
5. There are more conversations about the Land Bridge- (lidding of highway) in Rondo happening. Friendly Street Initiative is looking for volunteers for Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be looking Public health implications, technical expertise to evaluate public health implications- if you know of anyone that might be interested. Larissa recommended Kabby Jones. Amy suggested Ann Parker could also be a potential volunteer. Emmy said that Marv Anderson (from Rondo) will be the speaker at the Wee Care luncheon – there may be people at their luncheon who may be interested. The time commitment for the committee is 4 to 7 months. They are hoping to start in the next couple of months. Lucas suggested a blurb on Facebook perhaps that Board Members could share. Paul and Sharon would like Amy to be a part of this steering committee. Emmy feels we need to be on the ground floor. Emmy says she will serve on one task force related to this.
6. LED event will not be rescheduled. But input will be encouraged regardless of whether the event goes or not.

UPDC Reports- Amy shared for Jeremy.

1. A number of Lex-Ham neighbors came to UPDC meeting where Jeremy presented Selby Lex-Ham's findings and statement about the Selby strategic plan- the UPDC group would have approved statement, but they didn't have a quorum so they couldn't take a vote on it. After Jeremy's presentation, the UPDC Executive Board wanted to meet with Amy and Jeremy to see if they can work on the language of the statement that Lex-Ham proposed. Julie said that they cannot adopt language that is in contradiction to City's Plan. Comprehensive plan says on transit lines there will be increased density. Reaction from the Lex- Ham Board: Why would the city would have invited us to give any comment if they weren't going to accept anything that differentiates from the City's plan? Emmy suggests to keep our ears and eyes open so that we know what's going on. Speculation may not work. Jeremy wants to get in writing what Julie wants to change about the language- Meeting with Executive Board is Friday at 12pm- Paul can be there- Emmy and Sarah can come
2. The next UPDC meeting is Wednesday, 7pm- Jeremy needs a sense from the Lex-Ham Board on how he should vote on the following issues:
 - UPDC is crossing out by law that says one from each Legacy Council neighborhoods should be on the Officers of the Board- *Sharon suggested two out of the three, a majority of them or just keep the language- Jeremy could propose that change in language or vote to keep it*
 - Once people have been elected or appointed to director of UPDC, they will only be accepted after affirmative vote from Board of Directors- may choose to deny "for cause" *We want to support Julie if there is some reason for this. Sharon- wants to know what "for cause" is- We need to know as a Board why this change is necessary- Jeremy can ask for more information- Paul- "Cause" is not defined and there is no due process or appeal process. There are guidelines to be eligible to be elected in the*

first place. Yvonne- "for cause" should not be in there- Sharon does not think this will fly for Non-Profit. We need more information

3. Land Use and Economic Development – Paul- unable to make meeting

Grants Update – Ashley- Ashley not here so unable to do this report- Thrivent Financial submitted \$250 for the Ice Cream Social- If you know anyone who's Lutheran and has life insurance, you get \$250 grants to put toward a Non- Profit- Emmy and Amy, Steve submits volunteer time and his corporation gives a check to Lex-Ham, Ashley is currently working on 3 grants

Treasurer's Report – Emmy (see written report) We are still looking at insurance. If you have any questions, ask Emmy.

Committee Reports

1. Events – Lucas

- Talked about LED event postponed twice. Hopefully, it will happen this time.
- The committee is looking at objective and goals of each event. They have created a Google Doc where they are recording these thoughts. Members of the committee are contributing.
- They have talked about new website- brainstormed about it and a newsletter highlighting awesome people in our neighborhood.
- Talked about Selby Ave business deal
- The Park event and Somali market- one volunteer outside of the Board will be needed to help with this

2. Outreach – Sam- absent, so no report

3. Watershed Initiative – Sarah

- Met with Lena Buggs (Ramsey County Water Commissioner) conservation efforts do something with water and Lex-Ham,
- Ideas: We could do a Rain Garden initiative. They would help with funding for boulevard rain gardens or rain gardens in communal areas; Maybe rain gardens could be planted in conjunction with a tree removal. Perhaps we could pair with Emerald Ash Borer problem
- We could have a sign up at Ice Cream Social to gauge interest. Who would be interested in Rain Gardens? What other ways could we use Lena Buggs' interest in our neighborhood to do good things? This work might take a few years. We could ask Mac-Groveland about what the reception has been to rain gardens. And we could ask for pictures to show at Ice Cream Social

4. Dunning Community Garden – Yvonne

- The community garden on Concordia Avenue, utilized by Skyline residents and other members of our community, is looking for a 501c3 to help with their insurance. They have had an organizational shift in how they are uninsured- Gardening Matters was their umbrella organization- Gardening Matters is no longer in existence, they now need a 501c3 to help be their umbrella- Lex-Ham could potentially do this. They need a named insured on the City's form and on an insurance form, They would pay for whatever the cost is. They don't need monetary support they need institutional support.
- The Board needs to make a decision about whether we are comfortable taking on this community garden increasing our insurance.

- City of Saint Paul registers gardens as “events.” Does Lex-Ham need to write a formal letter to the city that says, your policy deals with events, we have a garden, what do we do?
- Paul is concerned about our deep pockets.
- Amy asked: City is listed as additional insured? What does this mean?
- Larissa says we need to find out more information.
- Paul is proposing that we are willing to investigation. We will pursue it acceptable upon liability.

Other ideas:

- Could we help them find an acceptable 501c3? Could we do the Good Works grant with this group? Can we still help them without taking on the risk?
- City does not have structure in place to support community gardens. Bigger Picture: Can Lex-Ham be an advocate for community gardens in the City? We should talk to our Councilman.
- We could also just help them for awhile until they can form their own 501c3. We could create an agreement- written. Amy is going to contact some other community gardens, Dai Thao, and Common Bond. Paul wants to participate in the solution.

4. Finance – Emmy

No meeting because the Task Force has not completed their work. As soon as that’s done, they will address the Housing Loan money.

Community Fund Task Force – Jeremy

Next step meeting with Associated Bank

5. Personnel – Sharon

No meeting this month or next.

5) New Business

Common Bond, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and Lex Ham are getting together to discuss Law Clinic. It would be great if Common Bond could participate in Lex-Ham Board, a staff member perhaps.

6) Adjourn Meeting - Sharon

Yvonne motioned to adjourn

Lucas seconded

Next BOD Meeting Date: Monday, May 22nd from 7-9pm (one week early due to holiday)

Upcoming Events:

April 27th from 11:30-1pm: We Care Lunch and Learn with guest speaker Marvin Anderson

July 23rd from 1pm-3pm: Lex-Ham Ice Cream Social at Tot Lot

July 31st from 4-8pm: New Park Event on Griggs (Co-Hosted with Union Park)

August 1st: National Night Out