



**CIDNA Board Minutes - Wednesday, March 13, 2024**  
Jones-Harrison Lakeview Room (3700 Cedar Lake Ave)

**Board members in attendance:** Erica Solomon Collins, Laura DeMarais, Steve Goltry, Mark Miller, Patty Schmitz, Amanda Vallone

**Others in attendance:** Rachel Svihel (Coordinator), Council Member Katie Cashman, Kaydee Kirk (GreenLineLRT), Alex Dietz

**Call to Order - Erica Solomon Collins at 6:02 p.m.**

Approval of Agenda - Patty moved, Steve seconded, motion passed

Approval of January Minutes - Amanda moved, Steve seconded, motion passed

**Presentations**

*Katie Cashman, Minneapolis City Council Member, Ward 7*

- As this was CM Cashman's first time joining us, she requested that Board members introduce themselves and share their focus areas/issues of utmost importance to them
- CM Cashman is chairing the Climate Infrastructure Committee - a great fit with her past experience as a climate change activist and organizer
  - Focus of the committee is exploring and responding to the ways in which climate changes impacts the city's budget and infrastructure (for example: snow removal)
  - On March 14, the committee will hear proposals for how to best utilize the historic \$10 million investment being made in climate infrastructure - will eventually be open for public comment
  - Also important to the committee: zero-waste work (expanding composting, especially in multi-family dwellings and community drop-off sites); transportation to make the city more pedestrian-friendly (example: passed legislative directive asking Public Works to make a plan to respond to the 1,000 backlogged traffic requests)
- Public Safety
  - Precinct 5 "robbery spree" (over 7,000 car thefts in Minneapolis in 2023)
  - Working with MPD and the city to identify technology, personnel, and systems gaps contributing to the problem; some differences of opinion on punitive approach for youth; new policy allows shifting officers to different precincts during robbery sprees
  - Emphasized importance of awareness and personal responsibility for safety; Software update clinics for Kia and Hyundai owners
- Raised to CM Cashman that there are concerns about the city's current funding model for neighborhood orgs and that we are interested in working with her on how to be advocates for reform in this area

- Encouraged [signing up for Ward 7 email newsletter](#) and attending upcoming “Coffee with Katie” opportunities; [learn more about CM Cashman here](#)

#### *Kaydee Kirk, Metro Transit Green Line SWLRT Extension*

- Kaydee reviewed the [updates document](#) that was shared before the meeting
- It was raised that a TC&W truck regularly parked at the Cedar Lake Rd railroad crossing appears to be continuously running—requested that we ask them to be more considerate of environmental impact
  - The presence is a freight corridor safety measure. Kaydee will try to pass this along, but she encouraged us to contact TC&W ourselves
- Question raised of where buses will stop for the W Lake St elevator (VCB-vertical circulation building)
  - Right near the entrance at the top of the bridge; there will be no lane changes on Lake, so buses will need to stop along road

### **Reports and Updates**

#### *Coordinator Report - Rachel Svihel*

- Annual Report was submitted to the City on schedule
- Brief overview of recent [Environmental](#) and [Communications](#) Committee meetings (reports linked); upcoming meetings of these committees - Environmental on March 20, Comms on March 27 (both at 7 p.m. via Zoom)
- Communications updates
  - April Hill & Lake Press ad will include a volunteer highlight and April events
  - E-news will go out on Friday, content due ASAP (end of day Wednesday)
  - Print newsletter to be discussed at the March 27 Comms Committee meeting

#### *Financial Report - Patty Schmitz*

- See [February Financial Report](#) from Robert Thompson
- Patty is learning more about what funds we have that are truly unrestricted and will plan to share her findings at the April Board meeting
  - It was suggested that we connect with other neighborhoods about what they do to raise funds/maximize unrestricted dollars; Erica attended Community Connections Conference and learned from discussion with other neighborhood reps that our frustrations in this area are not unique (points further to the need to advocate to CM Cashman and others at the city level)

#### *Upcoming Events*

- The April 20 “Earth Day Swap” event that we’d previously discussed is no longer happening since KNO is shifting gears - we will look to do an event like this in spring ’25
- We were invited to partner with West Maka Ska on an April 20 community clean-up/treasure hunt event with food trucks and music in the Whole Foods parking lot.
  - Erica proposed that we participate in the April 20 event with West Maka Ska in lieu of a standalone CIDNA clean-up on the 13th. All were in agreement.

- Tim Knight from West Maka Ska invited CIDNA reps to join an event-planning meeting happening on Sunday (March 17) at 2 pm at My Burger. Laura, Erica, and/or Jackson Collins will attend. We will report back and seek approval for any financial support needs
- Rachel flagged that details (especially start time) need to be shared ASAP if we want them included in e-news and April HLP ad; Erica will request from Tim
- Owner of Arts & Flowers (across from Park Siding) was one of the original founders of Earth Day. Is there a way to include/honor him?
- Tue, April 30 - May Day basket making at Jones-Harrison, 6-8 p.m. in the Lakeview room; Amanda will be reaching out about volunteer needs
- May 11 Neighborhood Day - bike tune-ups and B.Y.O. picnic at South Cedar Beach
  - Bike tune-up contact quoted \$440 to be there from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; we'd previously planned the event for 11-1, so Amanda will check on whether this impacts the costs; proposed that we encourage donations (possibly via "lemonade stand"), and can also request city reimbursement as this is an Equitable Engagement initiative. Will likely need to use the small strip of land across from the beach
  - Will want to have good volunteer presence - at least two per hour for lemonade, donation collection/CIDNA ambassadorship, maybe another at the bike station
- Amanda has requested a \$2,500 grant from People for Parks to fund the summer storytime event series with the goal of broadening the reach
- Awaiting confirmation on the calendar for summer music at the beach series, Solstice, and ice cream social events
- Uptown Farmers Market proposal
  - Former East Isles initiative is shifting/expanding due to construction on The Mall; seeking neighborhood partners to host pop-up markets at events (the Fall Festival could be a great fit for this)
  - Amanda read the suggested motion language shared by East Isles:
 

*Be it resolved that \_\_\_\_\_ endorses the concept of a joint neighborhood collaborative and community partner Farmers Market in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. The association will engage with the newly formed Farmers Market steering committee to develop a plan to make the market a self-sustaining entity via community volunteer time, stakeholder sponsorships, and related. The association will actively engage board members and community members for the purposes of seeing the Farmers Market, previously run by East Isles Neighborhood Association, return in the summer of 2024. Board members may engage with the support of the association for the purposes of activities including but not limited to fundraising, grant writing, volunteer recruitment, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning/counsel.*
  - We want to learn more about the requirements and think about if we have bandwidth. Language will be shared for us to review so that we can have longer discussion at April meeting

## **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**

The [nomination form](#) for the 2024-2025 Board term is now open; it is in the March HLP ad and on the [CIDNA website](#).

- All encouraged to think of 1-2 people that they can personally encourage to join; also, remember to submit the form yourself if you intend to continue on the Board
- We'd like to see the return of a youth/student representative on the Board
- Underscored the importance of following through with outreach to prospective Board members to connect and invite them to upcoming meetings; Rachel can share the contact info so that we can do this—but we need to commit to consistency on actually doing the outreach we sign up for!

We walked through the proposed [New Member Handbook](#) contents compiled by Laura

- Proposed that those interested in contributing content add to the shared Google Doc linked above to flesh out the content with the goal of having a more final draft to share at April meeting
- Rachel pointed out that we do have some of the docs/content already, and she will work on pulling those in and flagging where updates are needed
- Will also need to be accompanied by orientation to walk through content
- Raised that we might consider updates to bylaws, for example: to increase term length from one year to two. Will need to explore details on if/how we do this.

## **Other New Business**

*Annual Meeting - May 8*

- Will be at Jones-Harrison; Rachel has reached out to our contact to confirm availability of the Centrum room
- Possible addition of childcare? Ask people to let us know by a deadline if they would utilize so that we don't pay for staffing that isn't actually needed
- CM Cashman confirmed; Erica will reach out to Rep. Hornstein and Sen. Dibble; other past guests have been Precinct 5 Inspector, Elizabeth Shaffer from MPRB
- Includes 30 min social time with snacks (potential for Chilango to donate food?); opportunity for volunteer recognition?
- Noted that we don't necessarily want to put that much bandwidth into planning the Annual Meeting—we opted not to have it on Neighborhood Day (May 11) because we wanted to focus on the more “fun” event that day, so the plan was always for this to be a business meeting
- Erica to circulate draft agenda for review at April meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**