



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, January 11, 2023 — 6-7:30PM

### PARTICIPANTS

*Board members attending:* Chair Laura Cederberg, Treasurer Mike Siebenaler, Stephen Goltry (Zoom), Mark Miller, Mary Paddock, Rosanne Halloran, Vice Chair Tim Sheridan (Zoom), Claire Ruebeck, Amanda Vallone (Zoom), Dean Kephart (Zoom)

*Board members absent:* Laura DeMarais,

*Guests:* Seventh Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman; Met Council representative David Davies (Zoom); Henry LaBounta; Aaron Warford (Zoom), Jason Hadzic (Zoom) and Jason Staebell (Zoom) representing Hennepin County on Minnetonka Blvd reconstruction presentation.

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m

Approval of Agenda: Mary moved, Mike seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of December minutes: Mary moved, Rosanne seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### 6:05 PM Reports & Presentations

#### Ward 7: Lisa Goodman

There are 12 months before she retires. Minneapolis's new police chief, Brian O'Hara, will be featured at Lunch with Lisa on February 1 at St. Thomas, 12-1 p.m. Lisa welcomes topic suggestions for her Feb. 22 Lunch w/ Lisa. Call 311 if you see an area that isn't plowed. Lisa asked for feedback on one-sided parking (City wide) for the winter, but there was no feedback from attendees.

#### SWLRT: David Davies (via Zoom)

Construction updates: Met Council has relocated the walking path closer to Burnham Road; it should be safer than the previous one. Claire asked about signage for pedestrians. Mike suggested flashing lights. There was a concrete pour yesterday. Mark asked how far along, and David said the pour was 88% complete. David said he'd reached out unsuccessfully to a resident about a meeting he'd requested on safety standards; Claire said if David set the meeting up, she would notify the resident.

#### Minnetonka Blvd Reconstruction Project Presentation

Aaron Warford presented on the project. Available [here](#). Have worked with St. Louis Park through the municipal consent process. The project touches on CIDNA around the France Avenue intersection. Construction anticipated 2024. Two-year project, timing of pieces not yet

finalized. Minnetonka carries about 15,000 vehicles a day. Changes include the addition of 25-30 new public parking stalls in the commercial area near Yum; a 9-foot-wide multi-use trail on each side of the road; safer opportunities to cross the road; a reduction from four lanes to three. Mary asked if that would cause further congestion of eastbound traffic into Mpls, and county representatives said it would have neither a positive nor a negative effect.

#### **Water Quality Presentation: Henry LaBounta**

Presentation on Lake of the Isles pollution. Harry has removed 970 gallons of garbage from the lake himself. Euclid area is the worst, with storm drains emptying from Hennepin into the culvert on that side of Lake of the Isles. It would help if we could stop the trash from one or two culverts. Suggestions of three ways to help with the problem. 1) culvert boom (net to capture items coming from the culvert). 2) Different grates/storm drains, litter traps underneath the grates. 3) More frequent street cleaning on Hennepin. There could be more progress if CIDNA, Kenwood and East Isles and the park board could work together to ask the city to support these measures.

#### *Discussion:*

Claire hopes that we can show the importance of tying these items into the major public projects such as the Cedar-Isles Master Plan.

Mike asks if the city has been receptive. Some have been — Lisa Goodman, Liz Stout.

Laura suggested a letter from all the area neighborhood associations.

Claire would like us to leverage this to address the broader problem.

Laura said she would draft a letter to Public Works Director Margaret Anderson Kelliher.

Mary said this issue was part of the difficult project “turning a big ship” — both the city, and the park board — toward greater environmental preservation. This issue may be a good way to activate the city. Claire agreed.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Governance:** Laura said the committee had discussed the board retreat and talked through rail safety letter.

**Communications:** Mary said the committee did not meet last month due to holidays and people out of town. CIDNA street sign design has been submitted to the city for approval. Tim asked about website updates. Rachel will work to complete them this week. Mark wondered if there was any response from the City to CIDNA’s letter about tree removal on Hennepin; there was not.

**Social:** Amanda said the Kenwood and East Isles winter Palio games are on January 26<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity to cheer on your neighbors. CIDNA will be invited to the summer games, and hopefully will join next winter. Working on a recommendation for fundraising. Next month Amanda will bring 2023 event calendar.

**Environment:** Claire said we are waiting on the draft Cedar-Isles Master plan release by park board staff.

#### **7:00 PM      Discussions / Actions**

*Rail Evacuation Drill letter:* A letter requesting such a drill will be sent to Mayor Frey, cc-ing others. This would not be a DIY drill but would involve the city and other first responder agencies. State funding is available for this kind of exercise, but the money must be spent by June. Edits to the letter were discussed. Claire moved and Rosanne seconded the motion to send this letter, and the motion passed unanimously.

*Board Retreat Agenda:* It will be held on January 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Laura said she has requested a speaker on diversity from the Minneapolis Foundation. Also on the agenda will be committee structure — what’s working and what’s not, and what skills can we engage. Mary said it would be important to have this discussion of committees, calendar, budget, fundraising etc., in the context of annual goals, which could be identified at the retreat.

**7:20 PM          New Business**

Laura C.: Woods by Burnham are being used informally as an off-leash dog park. A dog owner assaulted a runner. Parks police are going to start patrolling in the morning. We want residents to be aware of this problem and let us know if they encounter issues.

Laura C.: What can we do for Ukrainian refugees? Mary said Patty Schmitz’s family has been successful in meeting their \$25,000 funding goal to support the Ukrainian refugee family they will be sponsoring. Laura asked what we might want to do for them as a community. Mary said Patty would like us to wait until the family arrives to see what they may need.

Mary: Gave an update on Hennepin County having discontinued the broadcast of public comment period at its board meetings. In August CIDNA wrote to Board Chair Marion Greene opposing this measure, but it passed anyway. On January 9, the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information will hold a press conference identifying its opposition as part of its legislative agenda; Mary has been asked to participate.

**7:30 PM          Adjourn**

**Submitted by**

**Rachel Svihel**