

CEDAR-ISLES-DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2021, 6-8:45 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Minutes by Rosanne Halloran

All board members were present: Chair Mary Pattock, Vice Chair Tim Sheridan, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Laura Cederberg, Laura DeMarais, Stephen Goltry, Dean Kephart, Claire Ruebeck, Mike Siebenaler, Amanda Vallone, and CIDNA Coordinator, Michael Jon Olson. Several community members attended.

Invited guests: Met Council SWLRT Outreach Coordinator David Davies

Call to order: Mary Pattock, Chair

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The board approved the minutes for the May 12 Annual Meeting. Mary welcomed new board members Laura Cederberg, Laura DeMarais and Mike Siebenaler.

Report: Minneapolis City Council Ward 7, Lisa Goodman

- Lunch with Lisa is scheduled for June 30. Frank Hornstein and Scott Dibble will report on the legislative session.
- Federal relief money will be received by the city in spring 2022. It is one-time money that has use restrictions, which is a disappointment to many, but Lisa feels positive about the suggested allocations. It must be spent, not held. The mayor is recommending that the first half be used for immediate existing needs created by the pandemic. Of the second half, \$10 million would be used for small business development (on Lake Street, for example) \$6 million for homelessness, \$21 million for affordable housing, \$5 million each for public services and crime prevention. This plan must be approved by the City Council.
- People have had problems with the rental assistance process. If you know a tenant or landlord who needs rental assistance, suggest that they call 211 or go to www.renthelpmn.org

Chair's Report, Mary Pattock

- Annual meeting: There was good attendance — 50 people — at CIDNA's May 12 Annual Meeting via Zoom. Members elected the 2021-2022 board. Reports were given by Council Member Lisa Goodman and Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. Due to the legislature being in session, Representative Frank Hornstein and Senator D. Scott Dibble will be invited to an upcoming CIDNA meeting.
- Neighborhood survey: Nearly 200 people participated in CIDNA's neighborhood survey; Mary said their many suggestions for new CIDNA activities and projects were a shot of energy for the neighborhood. The results will help inform future planning by the board during their upcoming retreat.
- Mary thanked Rosanne for her eight years of service as CIDNA secretary. Both Rosanne and Mary, who served 3 ½ years as chair, are stepping down as officers.

Election of CIDNA Board Officers

- The CIDNA Board elected 2021-2022 officers: Chair Laura Cederberg, Vice Chair Tim Sheridan, Secretary (open), and Treasurer Mike Siebenaler. Laura noted for the record that she and Mike are married to each other.

Coordinator's Report, Michael Jon Olson

- Michael Jon proposed creating a CIDNA Google Workspace to store CIDNA documents: \$800 for Zeke Cato Consulting and up to \$800 for extra hours for CIDNA Coordinator, Michael Jon Olson. The board approved the proposal.
- The board approved a proposal for Michael Jon to create a CIDNA Operations Manual, which will require up to up to \$2000 in additional coordinator hours. The City requires all neighborhood organizations to create and adopt specific policies and procedures by the end of December 2021 in order to maintain their status as formally recognized neighborhood organizations eligible for city funding.
- CIDNA is in good financial shape. Our bank balance is \$27,334.49. CIDNA Accountant, Robert Thompson will be invited quarterly to our meetings to give the financial report; Michael Jon will report at other meetings.
- As CIDNA approaches its 50-year anniversary (we were incorporated in 1975), we are starting a CIDNA archive project. Please contact us if you have CIDNA-related documents to donate. Significant documents will remain in CIDNA's records or will donated to the Hennepin County Library for inclusion in the Minneapolis neighborhood Special Collections.

Guest Report: Transportation Committee, David Davies, SWLRT Outreach Coordinator

The SWLRT construction project nears the halfway point, but as yet has no projected opening date.

Contractors continue to encounter difficulties and added expense related to building the Kenilworth tunnel on the unstable soil between two lakes. The latest problem is the necessity, unforeseen by planners, of grouting between steel sheet pilings used in tunnel construction. The Metropolitan Council recently approved a \$1.75 million change order from the project's contingency fund to pay for that cost. Of the \$204 million set aside in the contingency fund for unforeseen expenses, at this half-way point in the construction, \$83 million remained in mid-May 2021.

To maintain progress on SWLRT, the Met Council has decided it needs additional access to the site, and in June or July will start moving materials — especially concrete — along the residential streets France Avenue, Sunset and Depot Street, and Lake Street from the west. This is a departure from the plan, which promised to restrict construction traffic to the construction corridor.

The Met Council has notified the City and Park Board of the change; no permissions were thought to be necessary. Safety and air pollution from idling vehicles will be concerns, as will degradation of the roads; a traffic control plan is in development — and of concern to residents, given the existing bottleneck traffic conditions that already exist on Lake Street and Cedar Lake Parkway for several hours every day.

This operation will continue for approximately 124 weeks. Meeting attendees expressed displeasure with the arrangement, recalling that during the planning process, residents

repeatedly warned the Met Council of the problems inherent in building SWLRT on the unstable soil between two lakes.

- CIDNA resident asked that construction work not take place between Friday afternoon 3 p.m. to Monday morning at 7.
- Davies sent an email notification today to residents living in the West Lake Street Station area that another 50 feet of steel sheeting needs to be installed at the West Lake Street Station site this week. This involves the use of the vibratory hammer that was used last month, which causes significant vibration to nearby residences.

Land Use and Zoning Committee Report, Michael Jon Olson

- Regarding the BP station site in the West Maka Ska neighborhood, the current plan is for a 74-unit apartment complex and a height increase of 5.5 feet; it will be built out to the curb, without greenspace. The building will be within the Shoreland Overlay district, which is supposed to enjoy specific environmental protections relating, for example, to height and greenspace. The West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council hasn't taken a position on the current site plan. A hearing is scheduled for Monday, July 19. Michael Jon will create a CIDNA position statement and submit it to the board for review.

Safety Committee Report, Stephen Goltry

- There is increased Lake Street sidewalk pedestrian and cycle usage.

Social Committee Report, Amanda Vallone

- Nine resident addresses participated in the June 4-5 neighborhood garage sale, and the QR code for location information had 167 hits. Amanda thanked Kristin Dolphin for her help planning the event and James Reid for donating large signs that can also be used for future CIDNA events.
- *Take a Look at CIDNA*: Residents are invited to submit photos to CIDNA's Facebook page. June's theme is Summer Sandals, July's theme is Summer Gardens, and August's is Cedar Lake Sunsets. Shout out to board member Tim Sheridan for sharing his great photos.
- We have a new Instagram site for Cedar Isles Art, a collection of photos by youth. The URL will appear in the next CIDNA E-News.

Environmental Preservation Committee Report, Co-chairs Claire Ruebeck & James Reid

- CIDNA Gardeners will meet at Park Siding Park on Saturday, June 19 from 9 a.m.-Noon, with a rain date on the following Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Subsequent volunteer dates are the 3rd Saturday of each month through September. All are welcome. Contact info@CIDNA.org for more information.
- Related to the \$20K residual funding from the Cedar Lake South Beach project, the board approved the committee recommendation to contract with Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) to construct a concrete curb at Cedar Lake South Beach to separate grass and sand on the westerly side of the beach for costs not to exceed \$10,000. The remaining \$10K is being considered for public art, possibly on the Cedar Lake South Beach comfort station. The committee is pursuing clarification from the City of Minneapolis and MPRB about jurisdiction over public art in this location. The committee will strive to submit a formal proposal to the board by September.
- Resident and committee member Mark Schmidt offered to be lead on a pollinator protection program that will use the resources of the U of M's world-renowned Bee Lab. The Bee Lab project will be linked to promote an existing CIDNA endeavor such

as the buckthorn removal project, CIDNA gardeners at Park Siding Park, etc. Residents who would like to help, please contact info@cidna.org.

- Dean Parkway has been recently added to the Cedar Lake - Lake of the Isles Master Plan map by MPRB which positions the Dean Greens (lawns) to be classified a Metro Area Regional Park, as opposed to city parkland that has been utilized by local residents for decades. Accordingly, the Park Board, which is seeking input on its future in a survey, is encouraging input from people from the entire Metro area. They are undoubtedly thinking of its proximity to the future SWLRT West Lake and 21st Street stations. Note: trail construction in Regional Parks is exempt from Environmental Impact Statement requirements. CIDNA encourages neighborhood residents to respond to the survey, which is at https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/project_updates/community-engagement-period-extended-dean-parkway-added/

Communication Committee Report, Dean Kephart

- The board voted to authorize up to \$11,000 for rebranding and redesign of our website, and to authorize the Communication Committee to select the vendor.

Old Business

- CIDNA Values discussion was postponed.

New Business – none

Neighborhood survey results discussion

- Survey results discussion was postponed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 14, 6:00-8:00, via zoom.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to info@cidna.org. Please also submit comments, suggestions, or requests to help with activities reported from our meetings.