

CEDAR-ISLES-DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Annual Members Meeting Minutes, May 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Minutes by Rosanne Halloran

Board members present: Chair Mary Pattock, Vice Chair Tim Sheridan, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Dean Kephart, Claire Ruebeck, Amanda Vallone and CIDNA Coordinator Michael Jon Olson.

Absent: Evan Carlson, Stephen Goltry, Treasurer Kevin Johnson

Invited guests: Lisa Goodman / Minneapolis City Council Member - Ward 7, Marion Greene / Hennepin County Commissioner - District 3, and CIDNA accountant Robert Thompson. About 25 community members were also present.

Call to order: Mary Pattock, Chair

- Mary called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The board approved the meeting agenda and the April 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Mary welcomed attendees and invited them to consider running for board membership later in the meeting.
- She welcomed CIDNA's new coordinator, Michael Jon Olson, who comes to CIDNA with extensive neighborhood organization experience and management skills. He reviewed the Zoom meeting protocols with attendees.

Financial Report / Robert Thompson, CIDNA Accountant

Robert said CIDNA is financially healthy. In addition to ongoing City funding, we have access to \$18,000 previously contracted but unspent, which must be spent by the end of December. Our loan to Propel for affordable housing was paid back; those \$134K Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) dollars can be used again for housing or other projects allowable under NRP legislation.

Annual Report / Mary Pattock, Chair

- CIDNA made substantial progress in community engagement this year, due in part to Communication Committee activities, including the "Take a Look at CIDNA" Facebook project, and the neighborhood survey, which has nearly 200 responses so far. The Committee plans to redesign the CIDNA website. In addition, CIDNA used grant money to increase participation in the U.S. Census, especially among renters and seniors, which in turn gave the organization greater access to residents of multiple dwellings, a long-time CIDNA goal.
- Our financial outlook has stabilized, at least for three years, because the City Council decided not to defund stable neighborhoods, but to continue funding all neighborhood organizations at a subsistence level and provide additional funding to stressed neighborhoods.
- The Environmental Preservation Committee continued to advocate for natural park assets and resist overdevelopment, in line with expressed neighborhood preferences. It continued CIDNA's Park Siding Park stewardship commitment and entered a new stewardship program for Cedar South Beach.
- The Land Use Committee monitored building variation requests. In the context of changes resulting from the Minneapolis 2040 Plan, it supported measures to preserve the urban tree canopy, support affordable housing, solar energy, and creation of a buffer between houses near Lake Street and nearby commercial area.

- The Social Committee remained active with virtual events during the pandemic, including census-promotion, CIDNA mArt, and May baskets for Jones Harrison residents.
- The Safety Committee focused on making the Lake Street area a “friendly neighborhood walk,” despite construction.
- Mary thanked and congratulated the board, committee chairs and community volunteers for their work throughout the year
- The full report is posted at www.cidna.org.

Report: CIDNA Survey Results / Communication Committee

- Communication Committee member Ben Suker reported on the neighborhood survey results (posted at www.cidna.org). The survey has so far received 192 responses — an excellent return — and will remain open for a while at www.cidna.org.
- Survey results will be used to determine CIDNA priorities and community activities.
- Top priorities identified in the survey include nature preservation, city services, crime prevention, road and path design, neighborhood events, racial equity, and exercise opportunities. Nearly two-thirds of respondents said they would be willing to donate money to support CIDNA priority projects. They offered dozens of specific suggestions, from scheduling regular walking times and routes, to welcoming new neighbors, and using our small parks, triangles and green spaces for yoga and tai chi.
- Social Committee Chair Amanda Vallone noted that the CIDNA neighborhood garage sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5. An attendee expressed safety issues for pedestrians crossing West Lake Street.

Report: Lisa Goodman / Minneapolis City Council Ward 7

- Council member Goodman expressed warm wishes and sincere gratitude to Mary Paddock, who will leave the CIDNA chair role in June after three years of service.
- Lunch with Lisa on May 26 features Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator at City of Minneapolis, who will speak on Ward 7 public art, including art in the new city service building, and an update on the future of mural art associated with George Floyd.
- People needing rental assistance may be eligible for Minnesota’s COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance. To apply, visit renthelpmn.org or call 211.
- Lisa outlined the five possible charter amendments that could be on the November ballot dealing with rent control, public safety and governance, urging folks to be aware that they are still in process and final language isn’t yet adopted. The three public safety and governance proposals so far are:
 1. The Minneapolis Charter Commission’s proposal to clarify the mayor’s powers as executive and the City Council’s as legislative.
 2. The Minneapolis City Council’s proposal to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) as a separate department and make it part of a new Department of Public Safety, under the authority of the Council. It would drop the requirement that the MPD have a minimum number of officers.
 3. The *Yes 4 Minneapolis* proposal (originated by petition) to replace the MPD with a new Department of Public Safety. The police chief would report to the Commissioner of Public Safety, Mayor, and 13 Council members.
- Regarding the BP station development, an attendee learned at last night’s West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council meeting that the project will continue as an 80 unit, 8-story condo building. A planning meeting will be held in July. Since the project is outside Ward 7, Lisa suggested that inquiries go to Ward 13 Council Member Linea Palmisano or to 311. If necessary, Lisa’s office staff will be happy to assist.

Report: Marion Greene / Hennepin County Commissioner - District 3

- Commissioner Marion Greene said the goal for unsheltered homeless people is permanent housing rather than temporary shelter. It is being addressed in partnerships with various government entities. She said, “We are in good shape,” compared to last year. The county is working with the advocacy group, Street Voices for Change. She said shelters are open 24 hours a day, and offer increased staff and outreach, more space, storage, 3 meals a day, case management, and development of culturally specific shelters. In the last year, 12,165 people left homelessness, including 217 of the most difficult-to-house. 140 fewer children are in shelters compared to one year ago. Encampments are popping up but not to last year’s extent. The prediction is that, due to funding for the shelter system and housing, the homeless numbers will decrease. More units of housing will be built. Nonprofit partners have helped enormously; she urged attendees to consider volunteering for one of them.
- Climate action plan: Commissioner Greene said Hennepin County is seeking a Climate and Resiliency Director. Hennepin County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Climate Action Plan, which:
 1. Embeds consideration of racial disparities and injustice
 2. Aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050
 3. Aims to reduce vehicle miles more aggressively than in the rest of the state in order to reach the overall state goal
 4. Prioritizes pedestrian, transit and bike transportation; many county roads are problematic.
- Regarding the pandemic, she said the county was supporting residents and small businesses and recommended that people contact her office if they have suggestions or need assistance.
- Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT): Hennepin County provides the lion’s share of the local match of federal SWLRT funding. The Metropolitan Council and Star Tribune recently reported that the project will be over budget. Mary Pattock said that last October the SWLRT Executive Change Control Board, which approves SWLRT change orders and of which Commissioner Greene is a member, expressed concern that there was only \$183 million left in the contingency fund. Since then, Metropolitan Council announced that it needed an additional \$93 million for the Bryn Mawr wall and additional funds for secant walls, soil remediation and costs related to the project being a year behind schedule. Mary asked if this would exhaust the contingency fund and if the county had written a blank check to Metropolitan Council for SWLRT. Marion said it had not and went on to say she is committed to LRT as part of a multi modal transportation system. Asked whether there is a point at which the county would determine that the project costs too much, Marion said she didn’t know. She said some of big items showing up now weren’t included in original budget because of other transportation projects. She doesn’t know how much money is left in the contingency fund but will email Mary Pattock about it next week.
- Attendees expressed frustration about home disruption caused by SWLRT construction. Marion said design changes are unlikely at this point. There was discussion about maintaining the safety and health of residents along the route in the presence of contaminated soils. In response to an attendee’s comment that this massive project’s destination is an inactive downtown area, Commissioner Greene reported that there will be no sidelining of the project due to current lack of commercial and business activity in downtown Minneapolis, as causal conditions are likely to change after the pandemic and SWLRT completion.

2021-2022 CIDNA Board Election

The CIDNA Members elected the CIDNA Board for the coming year. New members Laura Cederberg, Laura DeMarais and Mike Siebenaler, will join seven returning members: Stephen Goltry, Rosanne Halloran, Dean Kephart, Mary Pattock, Claire Ruebeck, Tim Sheridan and Amanda Vallone. Per CIDNA bylaws, "All Directors serve for a term of one year beginning with the first board meeting after the annual meeting" (June 9, 2021).

Closing Comments, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The next CIDNA Board Meeting, via Zoom, is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

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.