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Citizens for a Loring Park Community

Land Use Committee

Monday, November 28th, 2005

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

@ CLPC Offices/Loring Park Office Bldg.
430 Oak Grove St.; Room #207 612-874-9002

I. 6:30-6:45 pm Call to Order-- Bob Copeland, CLPC Land Use Committee Chair Agenda Approval, Introductions, Approve Minutes & Announcements

Bob led introductions of about 12 persons in attendance.

Motion by Jim Bullock, seconded by John van Heel, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed

Motion by John van Heel, seconded by Richard Anderson, to approve the minutes from October 24th, 2005.

Motion passed, one opposed.

Announcements:

- Distributed Winter Solstice flyer
- Fundraising buffet event for the CLPC Small Area Plan. Please post in buildings.
- No December Land Use meeting.
- January Land Use meeting will be held at MCTC/Metro State to discuss their proposed use of new funding for their buildings.
- John's Web site for the city's transportation plan is www.downtown2015.com

II. 6:45-7:15 PM Southwest Transitway Alternatives Analysis Study Chuck Ballentine (Hennepin County), Kathy Doty (consultant)

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and its study partners are presently examining several possible transit mode and route alternatives. They are seeking feedback from community groups. The goal is to select a single preferred alternative for the corridor on which to base a request for funding. Transit developments such as this raises issues like parking and bike paths, among others.

Chuck reviewed the mode (conventional bus, bus rapid transit, and light rail transit) and route alternatives. There are two bus rapid transit alternatives, eight light rail transit alternatives, and one enhanced bus alternative. The light rail alternatives vary in how the route travels through downtown (the city transportation planning should help with this) and several options at the southwest end of the route. The costs also vary with the tunnel option being much more expensive although it may better integrate with downtown. They also need to estimate ridership as that is part of the federal formula. The Hiawatha LRT has far exceeded its passenger projections.

Chuck estimated that the timeline for development of various plans were: Northstar will begin construction in 2007, and become operational in 2008; the Central Corridor is in the projection phase forecasting the number of riders. The Southwest Corridor is further down on the list.

III. 7:15-7:45 Downtown New Central Library Emily Watts

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Emily described the progress at the New Central Library, and also talked about programming and giving opportunities might be most appropriate for the residents of Loring Park in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Library. The temporary library site will be closed December 3 to move in 2.2 million books. The grand re-opening will be May 20th. New technology includes wireless access and 350 public access computer terminals. The use of compact shelving will allow access to 95% of the collection—in the old building patrons could only access about 15% of the holdings. Fund raising will continue to help fund acquisitions—the original \$15 million raised was for the building funds. New programs include a call for artists to display their work on designated library walls and co-sponsorship of National Night Out. The library will be open 50 hours a week including two evenings. Fund raising continues for the planetarium. The green roof will be visible from several places in the building but will not be accessible to the public. Rain water will be collected and used to water the roof during a drought. The parking ramp will be market rate. There were additional questions about the organization of the collection and accessibility, including cut-off dates for the materials that are accessible. There will be a café space with outdoor seating and covered beverages, but not food, will be allowed in the library.

IV. 7:45-8:00 Loring Park Bridge

Richard Anderson

According to Diane Moe, the bridge will not open this winter and no work will start on the bridge this winter. The CLPC Board discussed sending a letter to the Park Board contingent on feedback from the Land Use Committee although there was some discussion about whether there was a contingency. Richard feels that needs to be made a priority of the Park Board and the \$50-100,000 should come from the Park Board budget. We should invite our new commissioner to the January meeting. We should also attend a Park Board meeting and raise the issue during open mike time. Nothing in the park has historic designation although a structure can be designated. Bob suggested contacting a newly elected at-large commissioner (Tom Nordyke) who has experience with ArtSpace. We should also send a letter to the Historic Preservation Commission raising the issue of designation and clarifying that any WPA work was rebuilding, not original construction, as the bridge is over 100 years old. Keeping the original appearance is important—the structural relationship of the trusses is less important.

Motion by Richard Anderson, seconded by Jim Bullock, to ask John to write a letter to the Historic Preservation Commission expressing concern about the status of the bridge and to look into historic status of the bridge.

Motion passed, one no

John will also write a letter to the Park Board asking that the bridge be reopened as soon as possible.

V. 8:00-8:30 Reports

- **Lunds Hearing** – Jan Sandberg reported that Lunds appeal prevailed on all points except that the architect must work with the city to redesign the awning bracket.
- **Small Area Plan Fundraising Report**—Mike Marn reported that fund raising is behind schedule. The original plan to get funding from corporations did not materialize. There are several events planned including a curry buffet on December 1 and a \$75 a plate dinner at Tiburon on January 10. Including the NRP match, the task force hopes to raise \$40,000 by the end of January.
- **Small Area Plan/Consultant Update**—Jana reported on work to renegotiate with the first selected consultant. The consultant felt that a historic inventory was necessary but the board and city did not agree. The board stopped those negotiations and went to the second consultant. That consultant has developed a scope of service and will meet with the task force the first week in December. There were questions about the payment schedule—the first \$20,000 is available in advance of fundraising.

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- **Eitel Hospital Environmental Impact Statement**—the council voted to not proceed with an EIS.
- **Meter Farm**—the city has decided to put the meter farm up for an RFP. There will be a meeting December 7 of the affected businesses to set up a group to be part of the RFP design. Contact John if you want to be considered for this group.
- **Expanded downtown bus fare zone**—Metro Transit will run a pilot of the expanded bus zone.

Adjourned 8:40 PM