



CITIZENS FOR A LORING PARK COMMUNITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10th, 2022
Virtual Meeting held on ZOOM
Approved 2.14.2021

Board members present: Lee Frelich, Mark Nelson, John Van Heel, Diane Connor, David Evinger, Faical Rayani, and Norman Mathers.

Board members absent: Terri Ashmore (work), Kate Olender (work), and Gary Simpson (illness).

Guests present from Friends of Loring Park: Pat Davies, Dave Hile, Todd Miller, Marcia Stout

Guests: MPRB Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, Mary Bujold/Berger Fountain TF Chair

Staff: Jana Metge

I. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by President Lee Frelich. Welcome & Introductions; Approvals of January Agenda and November Board minutes approved by consensus. Lee moved up the discussion with our new Park Commissioner to the beginning of the agenda.

II. Discussion with our new Park Commissioner - Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, introduced herself and thanked everyone for all of the volunteer work they do, the differences volunteers make within the Park Systems, and the huge initiatives which volunteers take on. She posted the link for the Cedar Isles Master Plan and reported that input is happening right now. She then asked for project updates and top concerns.

Top Concerns:

- The condition of the Paths/ex. Powderhorn Park
- Safety of the Park
- Condition of Loring Pond

Many spoke to the condition of the paths, how unsafe they are, that Seniors with walkers have many challenges walking the paths. Stated that Loring is a commuter park and paths are crucial. One board member broke his leg on the paths, on the ice, stated that year round maintenance is needed. A higher standard of paths are needed due to the citywide use and also the citywide Events and car/truck use.

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Friends of Loring Park spoke to their Strategic Plan:

- Rebuilt Tennis Courts; happening now
- Rebuilt Children's Playground; happening now
- Cattail & Duckweed Remediation
- Natural Habitat along the shoreline; example given was to visit Como Lake/ 7-10 Native plants along the shoreline, beautiful, pollinators & keep geese from Shoreline.
- Tree care & replacement; Lee also reported that the Loring Greenway Trees and boulevard trees were monitored and cared for by MPRB Forestry.

The jurisdiction of the Park in Loring is the perimeter of the Park. The park citywide has jurisdiction over a couple of golf courses and the Parkways.

Future Projects:

- New Pickleball Courts - 2023-2024; Joint Request
- Ideas to Activate the Park Building for residents with no community space or lobby to network; add outdoor tables/grills; CLPC Request
- Fruit Trees; in the Master Plan

Ongoing Projects:

- Flower gardens
- Urban Farm
- Cherry Trees donated by the Buddhist Center
- Volunteers are the heart beat of Loring Park Work. A Selection process is now underway for a new MPRB staff Gardener to be assigned to Loring. Dave stressed that this assignment must be someone with skills & experience working with volunteers.

Dave also talked about how important Loring Park Director Julie Sandin was and that 'we want to keep her' that she was created many new programs and invited everyone to snowshoeing and the bonfire.

A CLPC board member spoke to the need for Safety in the park and cited an example of walking to Lurcat and being harassed, very unsettling. Commissioner Shaffer will be working with Stephens Square on safety issues in their park. Jana requested that the Commissioner guide the solution away from displacement and into root caused need based strategies. Displacement while it gives those adjacent to a situation some relief, just

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creates a problem somewhere else. A Friends board member talked about the importance of abating Livability issues before they increased to violent crimes. Chief Ohotto was complimented on his work and his staff's work in Loring Park.

Expand Park Hours - Several spoke to the need of expanding park hours, that it should be open 7 days a week especially when events are in the Park. Also discussed was expanding park hours.

A CLPC Board member spoke to engagement ideas of under represented residents (renters, people of color, young professionals) in the neighborhood. Many apartment buildings have no community room or gathering place. A group has been thinking on how to better utilize the park building and create a place where residents can meet, Network, use internet and use it as a Workplace. Coffee could be provided and extra tables/chairs set up. Also suggested was to add additional seating outside and more grills. The more people use the Park, the more eyes on the Park, the safer it will be.

Mary Bujold spoke to the Berger Fountain Rehabilitation. The TF posted a Request for Qualifications and selected Damon Farber for pre design work and solid cost numbers. People want to donate but want to know the costs.

The existing MOU with the Park board is being updated and will come before the Park Board in February. Members of the TF met with Planner Michael Schroeder and will be working on the development of an Engagement Plan with MPRB this month.

\$700,000 of Park Dedication Fees to use on New Improvements, as well as Park M & R \$ from NPP20, Michael Schroeder is exploring the possibility of utilizing both for this project.

Loring Greenway Association:

- Getting into the Long Range Capital expense budget. It's been 15 years since Loring Greenway was rebuilt. Time to look at maintenance needs. Time to look at setting up a planning process and timeline.

Commissioner Shaffer can be reached at:

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EShaffer@minneapolisparcs.org

III. Financial Report - Jana/Terri at work commitment

Motion: Accept and Receive November 2021 Financial Reports.
David/John. M/S/C Passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the updated CLPC 2022 Operating Budget.
David/Diane. M/S/C Passed unanimously.

City Council awarded an additional \$5,000 during Budget discussions, so this was added to our budget approved in November.

Motion: To approve updated Financial Policies
John Van Heel/Mark Nelson M/S/C. Approved Unanimously.

Lee put the Financial Policies on the screen, reported that this was an update of the Policies we had in place for 25 years and that these were circulated to the board, comments gathered & changes made.

Motion: To approve 2022 Fundraising Plan
Mark Nelson/David Evinger. M/S/C. Passed Unanimously

Jana walked thru the 2021 Fundraising plan and new items to create the 2022 plan: Increase Operating Reserve - Berger Fountain fundraising - Create an Endowment fund. David spoke to this idea, he is willing to take the lead and asked for volunteers if anyone is interested to assist him, Jana, and Terri.

Report: Jana reported that 1099's needed to be filed & mailed by January 31st to all independent contractors receiving \$600 or more within the 2021 year. These will be done in 2021 for:

- Hannah Kamath - Newsletter & Flyers
- Shirley Yeoman - Book keeping

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IV. Berger Fountain Updated MOU

Mary reported.

The MOU is being updated from an existing one approved by the Park Board a couple of years ago and which we have in place. Timelines needed to be amended per impact of the COVID pandemic. This MOU is between CLPC, Friends of Loring Park and MPRB. It identified roles and responsibilities of the Partnership in rehabilitating the Berger Fountain allows us to move ahead with this project, fundraise, and implement rehab with the Tech assistance and review by Park Staff. Berger Fountain TF meetings are held monthly and MPRB has assigned a Park Planner to work with us. Jana suggested that we keep dates of approval of this MOU and any future MOU in italics at the bottom of the signature page.

Motion: To Approve the Berger Fountain MOU/Memorandum of Understanding as amended between CLPC, Friends of Loring Park, and MPRB.

Diane Connor/David Evinger. M/S/C. Unanimously approved.

Bylaw Discussion moved to February Board Meeting.

V. Program Report

Discussion: Nicollet as a Cultural Corridor and to discuss with MNDOT the potential to redo the Nicollet Bridge now.

John reported that no improvements have happened with the Nicollet Bridge in 20 years. That prior to the Freeway the two commercial areas were one and the neighborhood group was Loring/Nicollet. The neighborhood went to Franklin at that time. The freeway cutting thru had a very negative impact on the Nicollet Commercial Corridor. The Stephens Square area is not looking good.

2022 - Request in to MNDOT & Legislators as to the Nicollet Bridge rebuild.

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Nicollet Avenue/Eat Street - Also discussed was how important it is to get Eat Street; the original Cultural Corridor identified as one of the city's Cultural Corridors. Funding is being prioritized for these designated cultural corridors and Nicollet Avenue could indeed use additional funding and prioritization.

Since this designation was a City Decision, Mayor Jacob Frey and CM Goodman are the people to talk to about this. Suggested that this could come up at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting set for March 21st, 6:30-8 pm, virtual. Board Elections will be online.

V. Motion to Adjourn @ 8:00 pm. Consensus.