



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

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LAKES & PARKS ALLIANCE OF MINNEAPOLIS

Contact: Mary Pattock
Citizen Group Appeals Tunheim Decision on SWLRT

The Lakes and Parks Alliance of Minneapolis has appealed, to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge John Tunheim's decision against them in their environmental lawsuit against the Met Council.

The case addresses whether or not the Met Council has acted in ways that prematurely limited the choice of routes — such as by entering memorandums of understanding with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park — in violation of the National Environmental Protection Act.

Judge Tunheim, characterizing the suit as “a close case,” said those MOUs were “promises that can be broken” — as argued by the Met Council — and on that basis decided against LPA.

The Minneapolis MOU was concluded in July 2014 after days of closed-door negotiation between the City of Minneapolis and the Met Council that was mediated by retired federal magistrate Arthur J. Boylan.

A joint Met Council-City of Minneapolis press advisory announcing the agreement characterized it as “final” upon approval (which then occurred). Similarly, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board used the term “binding agreement” in the resolution approving its own MOU with the Met Council.

“The case will be argued by attorneys,” said LPA spokesperson Mary Pattock, “but as a citizen I believe it destroys people's trust in government to find out that a negotiated, written agreement with a public agency, intended from the outset to be binding, can turn out to be just ‘a promise that can be broken.’ This decision actually harms the Met Council — who in the future will want to do business with them knowing their written commitments mean exactly nothing?”

Issues addressed in the Minneapolis MOU that become nonbinding under Judge Tunheim's opinion include light-rail tunnel design, a 21st Street Station, pedestrian access, noise mitigation, landscape restoration and other improvements along the Kenilworth Corridor in Minneapolis.

The MOU with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, among other things, committed the Met Council to mitigating SWLRT damage to certain environmentally and historically sensitive areas in one of the most precious parts of the City's Grand Round.

All of these commitments are now nothing more than “promises that can be broken.”

Editor's note: Mary Pattock reported in the March issue, but I neglected to add her affiliation

Inside

Happenings	2-6
Meet your Neighbor	3
Sand on the Waters	4
SWLRT letters	6,14
Urban Coyote	7, 8
The neighborhoods	10-13
Madeleine Lowry	15



Photo by Scott Vincent

School parents organized a peaceful demonstration of support for students and teachers to acknowledge the 17 students in Parkland, Florida who died due to gun violence. Community members circled the school to observe 17 minutes of silence in front of Kenwood School, March 14th, 2018.

Judge Tunheim got it WRONG!!!

My name is Stuart A. Chazin, a resident of Minneapolis who believes Judge Tunheim got it WRONG when he ruled against Lakes and Parks Alliance (LPA) of Minneapolis in the lawsuit that would have required the Metropolitan Council to follow the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regarding Southwest Light Rail. LPA asked the Court to require the Met Council to perform a proper environmental review of all options for the SWLRT project—instead of choosing one option first, and then using the environmental review to justify support for that option.

When the LPA brought its first motion for summary judgment, the Court (Judge Tunheim) stated that the Met Council “has come dangerously close to impermissibly prejudicing the ongoing environmental review process.”

In subsequent discovery proceedings, LPA uncovered a multitude of emails, letters and other documents that clearly demonstrated that the Met Council reached a decision on the route for the SWLRT long before the end of the environmental review process in July 2016. The following are a few examples:

In August of 2013, Met Council Chair Susan Haigh asserted, in a letter to Governor Dayton, that routing the SWLRT outside of the Kenilworth Corridor had already been “rejected.”

On October 6, 2013, then chair of the Met Council Adam Duinick sent an email to Susan Haigh stating he agreed with the City of Minneapolis that it was overwhelmingly clear the Met Council staff wanted the SWLRT to run through the Kenilworth Corridor and this sense of it being a foregone conclusion was the primary driver of why Minneapolis believed the process had not been fair.

On October 9, 2013 at a Southwest Corridor Management Committee (SWCMC) meeting, Mark

Furhmann, Metro Transit program director for light rail, specifically stated that a proposed resolution to discontinue work on moving the existing freight rail out of the Kenilworth Corridor “will make it very clear for the FTA [Federal Transit Authority], that the action of the SWCMC is a shallow LRT tunnel and all other options that were considered are no longer in play.”

Later in October 2013, the Met Council staff recommended building the shallow tunnel as part of the Kenilworth Corridor route.

Judge Tunheim's decision rests on the basis that agreements (referred to as “MOUs”) the Met Council signed with the City of Minneapolis, City of St. Louis Park and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board regarding the SWLRT did not commit the Met Council to a specific light rail route, “despite giving the appearance that it did.” In effect, the Court said the Met Council made PROMISES THAT CAN BE BROKEN.

But the LPA discovered an email from Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges to then Chair Adam Duinick of the Met Council stating that, the “City of Minneapolis in no uncertain terms considers them (the MOUs) to be binding.” Another email was discovered in which Met Council staff assured St. Louis Park that either the shallow tunnel co-location design would be built through the Kenilworth Corridor or nothing would be built.

In addition, the Minneapolis MOU nowhere states that it is “nonbinding” or “conditional.” It specifically states that “in consideration of the mutual agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows.” This language makes the document a contract, based on mutual consideration binding the Met Council to a specific route before the completion of the environmental review in violation of NEPA.

Finally, Judge Tunheim mistakenly expresses sympathy

Judge Tunheim got it WRONG to page 5

Lunch with Lisa April 25, at noon. Come early to get your lunch and a good seat.

RSVP 612-673-2207

REMINDER: 911 Director Heather Hunt will be presenting next Wednesday! This session should be very interesting and fun - especially the insider stories she will tell regarding some of the more unusual 911 calls. Names will be left out to protect the innocent!!!!
WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING RSVP'S

Fifth Precinct Open House

All Are Welcome!

Fifth Precinct Open House
Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 from 5-7pm
3101 Nicollet Av S.

Great Music, Fantastic Food, Fabulous Location, Terrific Cause

By Glenna Case

You won't want to miss it!! April 27th, 6:30 pm, at the beautiful Minikahda Club. Go right now to: <http://www.minneapolisuptownrotary.org/> to purchase your ticket or reserve your seat. Space is limited.

So what's the big deal? Asian Fusion Cuisine with drink pairings from Ferris Shiffer – one of the Twin Cities premiere chefs; fabulous jazz music from Dakota Club greats

Steve Blons & Mary Louise Knutson; fabulous views of Minneapolis from inside the lovely Minikahda Club; wine raffle; and unique Silent Auction.

Best of all, for a mere \$75.00 per person you can support excellent causes:

- Food for the hungry (The Joyce Uptown Food Shelf)
- Clean water for Haiti (Haiti Outreach)
- Children at risk of hunger in Minneapolis (Sheridan Story at Jefferson School)
- Literacy and other educational programs (Jefferson School)

What an unbeatable combination at a fantastic price – having a lot of fun while doing lots of good! The Asian Fusion menu is intriguing. Vegetarian and alcohol-free drinks will be provided. If you are uncomfortable with online transactions, you can phone or text 612-308-3441 to reserve your spot. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door if we do not sell out in advance.

This event is sponsored by Minneapolis Uptown Rotary Community Service Foundation, which will absorb all administrative costs to ensure maximum support for the programs.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

April 25, noon, Lunch with Lisa
April 27, 6:30 Minikahda Club rotary event
April 30, 7-9 p.m. Jones Harrison, MayDay Decorating Event
Monday May 7th, at 6PM, at Kenwood Corner Kenwood Isles Annual Gathering
May 8, Plant sale at St. Mary's
May 9, 5:30 CIDNA annual meeting J-H Home
May 13, 4pm Jewish Chorale at Temple Israel
May 15, 6pm LHNA annual meeting at Unitarian Society on Mt. Curve
May 16, 5-7pm Fifth Precinct Open House
May 29, 9-11am Park Siding Prk Gardening
Summer Solstice Celebration on Thursday, June 21, 6-8 p.m. at Park Siding Park.

Neighborhood monthly meetings

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm Jones-Harrison
EIRA: 2nd Tuesday 7pm Grace Community Church
KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center
LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 21 AND WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 12 FROM 9:30 AM TO NOON. PLEASE CHECK BACK HERE AFTER APRIL 30 FOR AN UPDATED CLEAN UP SITE LIST.

Park Siding Park Gardening
Saturday, May 19
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Park Siding Park, 3113 W. 28th St.

Join CIDNA's volunteer gardening team. No gardening experience necessary. Tools will be provided. Help is needed all season, so mark your calendar for the following Saturday mornings: June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 15. Details at www.cidna.org

Also, please note that CIDNA's May meeting is the annual meeting, details below...

CIDNA Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 pm socialize; 6:00 pm meeting begins, Jones-Harrison Residence

TWIN CITIES JEWISH CHORALE Announces Concert on May 13, 2018, 4:00pm at Temple Israel.

On May 13, 2018 the Twin Cities Jewish Chorale (TCJC) will present a concert "Celebrating Israel at 70" in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. This 70th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate Israel's rich growth as the Twin Cities Jewish Chorale presents choral music reflective of the 70 year history sharing the voices of new and old composers. The program also includes a representative from Israel sharing experiences that articulate the cultural developed within Israel. \$15 general and \$10 student/senior 65+. A group rate is available with prior arrangement. with TCJC at twincitiesjewishchorale@gmail.com. To hear a selection of the concert music beforehand, TCJC will participate in the community-wide celebration of "Israel at 70" on Sunday April 22 at the St. Anthony Event Center.

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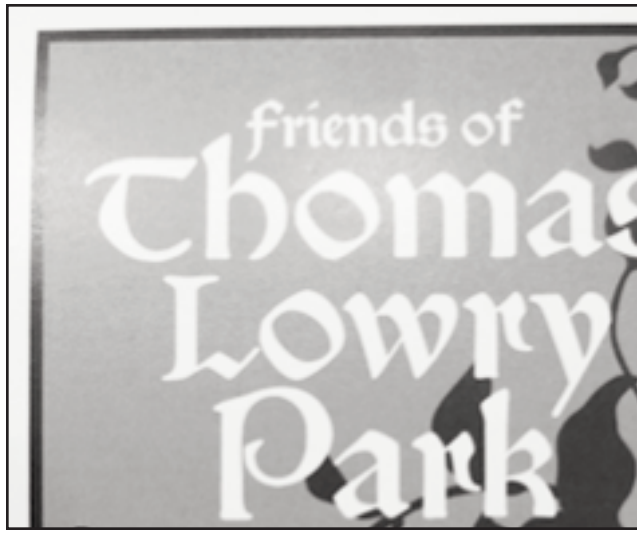
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Meet your Neighbor. "The Fremont Triangle"



You are invited to volunteer in Thomas Lowry Park from 10am to 12 noon.

Volunteer dates:

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

Friends of Thomas Lowry Park supply gloves, small tools, and treats.

FRIENDS OF THOMAS LOWRY PARK

By: Barry Lazarus

"The trumpet of the prophecy! O Wind! If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind."

Ode to the West Wind (last line) Percy Shelley

It is fortunate Poet Shelley did not live in Minnesota. The the line would read "If Winter stays, can Spring still cometh".

Hello to you readers. Friends of Thomas Lowry Park is still alive and well. Friend's messages in this column are to the point. First, the dates to exercise your green thumb in 2018 on Saturday from 10 am thru Noon are as follows: May 12, June 9, July 14, September 8 and October 13. Please mark these dates on your respective calendars.

The Park really needs volunteers to maintain the high standard set in prior years of beauty and tranquility. Second, Friends will provide some assistance to the garden known as the "Fremont Triangle". Third, as ever Friends needs your deductible donations so it can continue to assist the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in the purchase of amenities to enhance the Park. Donations can be sent to the author of this missive payable to "Friends of Thomas Lowry Park", in cash or bearer bonds.

There are additions to Friends' board this year.

Craig Wilson reveals how the Fremont Triangle, a once neglected corner of Lowry Hill, came to be re envisioned and revamped – and how you can help to ensure that it is properly maintained moving forward.

Where is the Fremont Triangle located? The Fremont Triangle is located at Fremont Ave S and Mt. Curve Ave in Lowry Hill.

What motivated you to see it improve? I walk my dogs by the Fremont Triangle almost daily and I grew tired of calling the Park Board to mow overgrown turf grass. Every time I'd walk by the Triangle, I imagined a lower maintenance landscape with far greater aesthetic impact in this beautiful corner of the neighborhood, which is the center of Mt. Curve Ave and probably its biggest "curve".

What was the solution? I first checked with Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb and asked if it would be possible to ditch the turf grass and create a low maintenance garden. She loved the idea and helped with Park Board approvals. Then I went to the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA), shared my vision and asked for their support. They were delighted to support it and set a modest budget to do so. Sarah Janecek, who tragically died this past winter, suggested that Lowry Hill rebrand itself with planted "urns", like the Barb Fogel urn in Thomas Lowry Park. I suggested that an urn would make a lovely focal point for the greenspace—and since the Douglas Median project at Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads was delayed a year, I suggested that we use it for the Fremont Triangle. Voila, we had an urn!

What about the gorgeous plantings? Along the way I ran into Mark Addicks, a Lowry Hill resident and

master gardener, and learned that he had been greening many public spaces throughout the Hill Lake area, such as the Mall in East Isles and spaces around Lake of the Isles. I asked Mark if he would be willing to design and plant the Triangle and he agreed with enthusiasm! Mark really rose to the challenge and created a gorgeous space with diverse, low maintenance plants. Mark and his husband, Tom Hoch, were generous enough to not only donate their time designing and planting the space but to purchase all of the plants as a charitable donation to the LHNA.

How will it be maintained? Mark Addicks has agreed to maintain the plantings for the foreseeable future with any volunteers who are willing to help. If you would like to help, please email Mark at mark.addicks@gmail.com.

What can I do to help? We need you to help pay for the seasonal plantings in the urn and garden supplies. Fortunately, Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, a 503(c)(3) non-profit, has volunteered to act as a fiscal agent for any charitable donation to the Fremont Triangle. Anything you can give is appreciated! We are asking people to send tax deductible donations by check specifying "Fremont Triangle" to: Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, 1716 Colfax Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Joining Suzanne Payne, Kathy Gaskins, Jeanne Scheiderer and the author are Elizabeth Shaffer, Craig Wilson and Kathleen Bottini. Please thank them for their public service to the Park. None of the directors of Friends receive even the smallest coin of the realm for her or his service. Friends looks forward to seeing you, your kinder and pets in the Park very soon.


Volunteer dates: May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13 from 10am to noon.

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Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting



Let's talk about CIDNA's future. Join our board, too!

.....

Wednesday, May 9

5:30 p.m.: Chatting and light refreshments

6-7:30 p.m.: Meeting

.....

Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

Visit cidna.org for meeting agenda and details on fun upcoming events.

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter on our website or text "CIDNA" to 22828.

sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

What is Smokey the Bear's middle name?

Answer: The

Telegrams never used them. Google allows you to omit all of them while doing a search. Miss Irma, the librarian at our town library in Pennsauken NJ taught me a secret about it when I was probably seven. Miss Irma was a very buxom older woman (probably 26) who enjoyed helping kids. (Don't stop reading for fear of this turning into a sordid tabloid account of mischief in the stacks.) One afternoon I was on a futile quest to find a book using the card catalog. Miss Irma noticed me nearly in tears with the T drawer on the ground. "It's just not there! I hate it and it's not fair!" I sobbed. She helped me slide the drawer back in and then, in a consoling and conspiratorial voice, she made me feel special.

Miss Irma said that I could just ignore The when it was the first word in a title. To prove it we went to the B drawer. As she was leaning over close behind me, I temporarily forgot the alphabet as our fingers flipped through cards. Too quickly we came upon The Baseball Book of Records. Before I could think of another search or catalog tip to prolong our moment, duty called. Arnie Sussman was chewing gum and fiddling with something on her desk, and she was gone.

That is my favorite story about "the," an article that can help convey greatness (the Best Picture, the World

Champion) and double as an obscure, often omitted afterthought. The main thoroughfare in Minneapolis and environs is 35W. In Los Angeles it is the 405, spoken with fear and awe. Minnesota boasts the inlet that becomes the (mighty) Mississippi River The president recently got in trouble for referring to The Ukraine. Granted that may be the least of his problems, even in that region of the world, but the can be a big deal. Just ask anyone who went to school at the Ohio State University.

A pet peeve of mine is nurses, usually older, who speak of an omniscient, distant but all-powerful being. "I will pass your concerns on to Doctor." or "Doctor wants you to take this before bed." Substitute "Oz" and you have the tone of reverence. I want to know if this is the same guy who wears rumpled Dockers, a misbuttoned shirt, ten year old Reeboks and who has ink on his neck. He is the doctor. I believe that is respect enough. Strangely, "going to hospital" is very satisfying and British to my ear. Although I say "the hospital," I admire and appreciate someone who has the sophistication to pull off: "Popping by hospital to visit an old chum who had a bit of a nasty fall."

In a somewhat related manner to linguistics and health, we need another word or phrase for the truly ill to describe symptoms. "The retired astronaut and combat pilot began complaining of vertigo and light headedness..." This is a brave man. Likely he is just informing the medical staff of his condition. People

like me complain (and kvetch) often over rather trivial maladies. Stoic souls with critical illnesses are unfairly described as complaining.

* * * * *
* * * * *

Peter, Paul and Mary sang a poignant anti-war song in the 1960s entitled "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". My question is where do all the flowers come from? Should not a person's last wish be honored? Almost every obituary states that the deceased had a good sense of humor and suggests that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the Neptune Society, the SPCA, AIDS, Alzheimer's or cancer research, Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, Border Collies in Need (my favorite) or to the charity of one's choice. Yet most churches and synagogues overflow with floral arrangements. Who takes them, and where do all the flowers go?

Tom H. Cook remains an occasional columnist. He writes to keep from thinking about THE BIG AWFUL in Washington D.C.

Driving down a bumpy path with the new Park Board

by Meg Forney

Nowadays, we transition our teens into driving with restrictions on age, time of day, and number of passengers, among other things. My mother was just given a driver's license when she turned 18 in 1933 — no instructions, no provisional rules — she just hit the road. I was fortunate to get "behind the wheel" of the Minneapolis Park Board when there were seven experienced driver-Commissioners to smooth the initial ride for me and my other new colleague. Oh, I'm sure the two of us made some "wrong turns" and "spin outs" that our experienced colleagues tolerated with either a smile or a "huh?"

With two-thirds of the Park Board as new "drivers" this year, many of you have asked me how's the drive so far? Well, no crashes, but maybe a whiplash or two with breaching of policy, protocol and procedure, with urgencies upon urgencies, with willful disregard of staff and legal opinion, and with a hasty pen on a blank check of our budget.

But I am hopeful that each new Commissioner will

transition as I did with no crashes. I have confidence that each colleague will drive from the campaign trail to the highroad of governance. Thanks to some very experienced and wise Park staff, additional training has been provided, a strategic direction has been distilled from our collaborative input, and a time schedule affirmed for a Superintendent search and hire — the

number one function of the Board of Commissioners. I ask for the community's patience as you were gracious enough to give to me four years ago. But I also ask that you pay attention and hold us accountable to our "driver privilege."

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Title: Annual Public Spring Plant Sale of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

When: Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 1 pm – 6:30 pm

Where: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Great Hall, 3450 Irving Ave. S., Minneapolis

Description:

This Plant Sale offers new/unusual annuals/perennials and container plants not seen at your local nursery! There will be a very large selection of all-season native and butterfly/bee-pollinator plants. Experts will be on hand to provide information on growing a healthy native and pollinator plant garden.

This year's new plants have come from one of our own member's "plant neo-natal center" in his basement, North Carolina Farms, Wagner's, Mast Young Plants, Four Star Plants, Creek Hill Nursery, Walters Gardens, the Jolly Farmer, Bluebird Nursery, and Glacial Ridge Growers (supplier of native plants). Just a few of the new plants available are Dark purple Bloomerang Syringa (a reblooming lilac), Dipladenia (a member of the mandevilla family), Megawatt Bronze leaf Begonia (like the Whopper), Constellation Aries Petunia (similar to Night Sky Petunia), Pentas Star Cluster Pink, Gerbera Daisy (varied colors), Whopper Begonia, Craspedia (Golf Beauty), and Roaring Fire Coleus. Additionally we will have a very large selection of specialty hostas: World Cup (the hosta of the year!), Yellow Polka Dot Bikini, Diamonds are Forever, Cherry Tart, Smoke Signals (blue in color), Lakeside Paisley Print (will be 2019's hosta of the year with heart-shaped leaves), Fire Island, Forbidden Fruit, Flamenco Mouse (one of the "mouse ears" with dark purple flowers), Funny Mouse, and Paradigm (blue-green).

This sale is open to the public. Cash, checks and debit/credit cards accepted.

For more information go to Events at www.mwgcmm.org

April 20 Event - Livability and Resiliency: Long-term Community Impacts of an Oil Train Tragedy
CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT TO SPEAK ABOUT LAC-MEGANTIC OIL-TRAIN DISASTER

Livability and Resiliency: Long-term Community Impacts of an Oil-Train Tragedy
Mélissa Gagnéux, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C., University of Sherbrooke, Quebec

Friday, April 20, 2018 -- 4:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Presentation hosted by Citizens Acting for Rail Safety-Twin Cities (CARS-TC), and

William Toscano, Ph.D., University of Minnesota School of Public Health

On July 6, 2013, a train carrying 72 cars of Bakken crude oil derailed in the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, causing a catastrophic oil spill and fire--resulting in 47 deaths, the destruction of 44 buildings, and the evacuation of 2,000 people. How can we prepare to respond to these tragedies? And how can we prevent them?

Dr. Gagnéux, as Chief Public Health Officer for Quebec's Eastern Townships, led the response to the Lac-Mégantic disaster. Her ongoing research on the long-term effects of the derailment and fire, especially its broader public health and community mental health implications, informs global response and understanding of community resilience.

Come join us for this free community event:
Friday, April 20, 2018 -- 4:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
4:45 p.m.-Refreshments; 5:15 p.m.-Presentation
Wilder Foundation Auditorium, 451 Lexington Parkway North, St. Paul, MN.

Free parking in marked visitor parking spaces in parking ramp adjacent to building.

Light Rail: Lexington Green Line, stop across the street at University/Lexington.

Your Legal Rights: Motor Vehicle

Warranties

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General

Lori Swanson

It is a common occurrence: people receive a mailing claiming that a car's warranty is expired. The mailer lists the make, model, and year of the car, leading people to believe the mailing is an official notice from their manufacturer or dealer. Instead, these mailings are often solicitations from third party sellers of extended car warranties, not from the manufacturer or dealer. The warranties may contain dozens of coverage exclusions, resulting in denials of claims for needed repairs.

Beware of Aggressive Sales Tactics

Sellers of extended car warranties—sometimes called motor vehicle service contracts—may use deceptive tactics to trick consumers into thinking they are buying a warranty extension from their manufacturer or coverage similar to a manufacturer's warranty. Sellers may try to create a false sense of urgency by suggesting the offer is time-sensitive. Some companies try to scare potential customers into agreeing to buy a contract by describing expensive repairs, since over 60% of people in a recent survey said they didn't have sufficient savings to fix their car if it broke down. But vehicle owners should not be rushed into spending thousands of dollars on a service contract without doing their homework first.

Judge Tunheim got it WRONG

thy for the Met Council in having to balance conducting the environmental review with obtaining municipal consent for a specific route through the Kenilworth Corridor. That wasn't intended to be the case. Early Met Council timelines for the SWLRT project show the environmental review was to be completed prior to the start of the municipal consent process. Had that happened, there would have been no conflict. But when the environmental review process fell far behind schedule, a conflict arose once the Met Council decided to proceed with seeking municipal consent so it could stay in the queue for federal funding even though the environmental review was not yet completed. And, in order to obtain municipal consent, the Met Council had to cut deals that formally eliminated all the alternative routes except through the Kenilworth Corridor. In short, the Met Council created the problem. It deserves NO sympathy.

I am extremely angry with the Court's decision. The Met Council failed to perform a proper, thorough and unbiased environmental review, which would have exposed the significant environmental damage that will be caused by this project as it cuts through our precious chain of lakes.

I hope the Legislature takes further action to stop the project; that the FTA does not fund it; and the City of Minneapolis sues the Met Council to stop the project since the Met Council doesn't have to do any of the things that it promised/agreed to in its MOU with the City.

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Are You Already Covered?

If people receive an offer for a service contract, they should first check their car's paperwork, or contact their car's dealership or manufacturer, to see if their warranty has actually expired or whether they already have a service contract from the dealer. Sellers of service contracts often try to sell something that vehicle owners actually don't need.

Research the Provider

Service contract companies must register with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and disclose whether an insurance company backs their service contracts. To avoid joining other consumers who have lost thousands of dollars and their repair coverage when a provider files for bankruptcy, people should find out whether a provider is registered in Minnesota and whether an insurance company backs the contract by checking with the department before buying:

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CHRISTOPHER WATSON DANCE COMPANY presents the premiere of DIVE

CHRISTOPHER WATSON DANCE COMPANY presents the premiere of DIVE

and 5 additional new dance works

TWO SHOWS ONLY

Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6

Christopher Watson Dance Company presents the premiere of DIVE, a dance work exploring resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity, Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6 at the JSB TEK BOX Theater in the Cowles Center for Dance, 528 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Performances are Saturday at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM. Tickets are available via Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/

The catalyst for the creation of DIVE was the passing of Michael Eastman, Christopher Watson's husband of 40 years. The abstract work is a response to the process of reckoning with the cycle of life and death.

Other dance works on the program are by company choreographers Becky Heist, Ryan Parent, Sarah LaRose-Holland and guest artist Daniel McCusker. The program will include screenings of two dance films: Catch and Release, by Christopher Watson and Close Reveal: An Homage to Hilary Harris by Becky Heist.

Christopher Watson Dance Company is a diverse, multi-generational company. This is the company's 27th season of performances.

Christopher Watson has created more than 60 dance works for his own company and as guest artist for other companies. programs.

Letter to FTA and Met Council and officials from George Puzak and response.

Dear staff of the Federal Transit Administration and Met Council and elected officials,

I am writing to comment on the SWLRT Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The SEA was triggered when Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) demanded that the Met Council build and pay for a 1.4 mile-long, 10-foot tall concrete barrier protection wall separating SWLRT from BNSF freight rail. In addition, BNSF demanded that Northstar Commuter Rail be included in the project. More specifically BNSF is demanding that storage tracks for Northstar Commuter Rail be moved at least 1,800 feet west onto property directly above Bassett's Creek Tunnel; the impact of storing commuter rail cars on top of Bassett's Creek Tunnel was never studied or commented on and the tunnel will need to be re-built to accommodate the weight of Northstar's commuter rail cars.

Even though the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that all affected modes of transport be included in a project's initial scoping document, neither Northstar Commuter rail nor freight rail were included in SWLRT's 2009 initial scoping document. Since these two modes were omitted from initial scoping, the public's legal right to comment on and shape the initial project was obstructed. The SEA is insufficient to address these omissions because the public is limited to commenting on a continually-changing plan that includes new modes of transport, rather than shaping the plan when all modes are included from a project's beginning.

The impacts of the newly proposed barrier wall and of the commuter rail car storage on top of Bassett's Creek Tunnel have not been sufficiently studied. For example, the wall will affect the free flow of wildlife from Theodore Wirth Park and Bassett's Creek valley to the Chain of Lakes. The wall will also cause noise from freight rail and LRT to reverberate off the concrete barrier wall. These effects must be thoroughly studied in a supplemental EIS.

For all these reasons, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) should order that the Met Council re-open scoping to include all modes of transport in this project—light rail transit, freight rail, and commuter rail. Neither the effects of the barrier wall nor the impacts on Bassett's Creek were ever included

in the Draft EIS, the Supplemental EIS or the Final EIS. At a minimum, the FTA should require that the Met Council complete a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for SWLRT.

George Puzak

RESPONSE

Thank you for your interest in the Southwest LRT (METRO Green Line Extension) project.

This email confirms that we have received your comment on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Metropolitan Council will include your comment in the official record; you will not receive an individual response. Comments submitted on the SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will be addressed as appropriate in the Decision Document.

Southwest LRT SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Comments

Full Name (required) George Puzak
Email (required) greenparks@comcast.net
City: Minneapolis
State / Province: MN
Postal / Zip Code: 55403
Country: United States

I am a resident of (required, select one)

Minneapolis

My comments relate to (required, check all that apply): BNSF agreement modifications (corridor protection elements including a barrier between freight rail and light rail tracks in Minneapolis, pursuant to an agreement between the Metropolitan Council and BNSF Railway).

Failure to include commuter rail and freight rail in SWLRT initial scoping

Please enter your comments in the box below

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People Incorporated to Host Gratitude Event April 20

Free event will celebrate all who have contributed to improving mental health care in Minnesota and is open to the public

In advance of its 50th anniversary in 2019, People Incorporated is delighted to invite the public to a FREE Gratitude Event on Friday, April 20 at the McNamara Alumni Center on campus at the University of Minnesota. This event is a celebration of all who have contributed to improving mental healthcare in Minnesota over the past five decades. While we have a long way to go to achieve mental health parity, People Incorporated is eager to reflect on where we've been to move forward newly energized.

The evening will begin with a casual social hour where guests are invited to walk through several rooms filled with educational videos and exhibits about mental health – including a sneak peek at the upcoming Mind Matters: Mental Health exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota, as well as an Artability activity. A humorous improv performance about mental health from the Brave New Workshop will conclude the evening.

Xantos Snowstorm Briefly Interrupts Improvement



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Did it cause much delay? Not so much. Construction activities are going full-speed ahead at Cedar Lake South Beach. The restroom building and retaining wall are being constructed and the remaining improvements will follow. The regional trail, beach and lake access will remain closed until construction is completed, which is on schedule for the Fourth of July weekend. To learn more about this project and others, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/planning.

A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS BIRCHBARK BOOKS.

By James P. Lenfestey
www.coyotepoet.com

[AUTHOR'S NOTE: We live in one of the five best neighborhoods in the nation (I don't know the other four). But I do know that great neighborhoods provide easy access to essential services. Occasionally in the months ahead, I will profile neighborhood businesses and institutions that provide that access. I begin, not surprisingly, with a bookstore.]

I remember sometime in the late 1990's when Louise Erdrich told me she was eying the old dentist's office in the building across 21st street from Kenwood School for a bookstore. She asked what I thought of the idea. My bookish heart thumped, but my practical head responded, "it will never work there."

Next thing I knew Birchbark Books opened its blue



door on the site. The rest is book selling history, an incalculable boon to the breadth and depth of our neighborhood, our city, our lives.

When Louise opened the store, she wrote it was in part a rebellion against the "mallng" of America. Because a neighborhood bookstore is far more than a selection of books. It is where neighbors gather shoulder to shoulder seeking the resonant perspectives not available from quick stabs of electronic media nor the rubs of conversation at the local bar or restaurant. As

Louise wrote in Of Books and Islands, her lovely memoir in part about the bookstore: "Books. Why? Because our brains hurt."

Our bodies hurt as well. And so we need community. Birchbark Books does what all great bookstores do. As you wander its intimate tables and shelves it quietly recommends good reads with little handwritten notes, like a trusted friend whispering over your shoulder.

Urban Coyote to page 6



Front Entrance to Birch Bark Bookstore



Bookshelves that include small pieces of paper with handwritten recommendations.

Photos by Dorothy Childers



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STEVE HAVIG
President/Broker, CRS, GRI
612.867.5624
steve@lakesarearealty.com

JANE O'REILLY
Realtor®
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GARY BENNETT
Realtor®, GRI
612.229.6972
gary@lakesarearealty.com

der. As neighbor Dorothy Childers wrote to me, "I love seeing all the small pieces of paper taped to the bookshelves, with handwritten recommendations. I love walking in there."

I do too. Birchbark encourages you to touch and feel and browse and read in comfortable chairs, to relax while your children read in a loft reserved for them. As a visitor commented, "Great staff, great books, great atmosphere, and NO rules for kids!"

Birchbark hosts readings, now at Todd Bokley's gallery two doors away, a service to the community and also to authors, the chance to see in shining faces an immediate response to work that took years to create and more years to publish.

Because Louise is a novelist of native heritage, Birchbark offers a special focus on native authors, history and crafts. As one visitor from afar commented, "I felt like I was walking into a sacred space..." She wasn't just referring to the store's famously repurposed Catholic confessional, now a "Forgiveness booth."

These days another "mauling" bookstore has crashed the scene, Amazon.com, even more convenient and far more stocked than diminutive Birchbark Books. But before you send an electronic message to the robots in the Amazon warehouse in Shakopee, call 612-374-4023. Carolyn, Martha, Prudence, or Nate will order your book for you. When you pick it up in person, you can also browse the store, not in the company of an algorithm, but with your neighborhood friends and their recommendations.

Real people, real bricks, real windows on the world (in this case, the playground chorus at Kenwood School).

Sunday, April 15, at the height of our insane April blizzard, I stayed cozy on the couch reading a Birchbark book. On April 16, as the sun finally broke through, I walked to Birchbark to pick up Jesymn Ward's *Sing Unburied Sing* chosen by my book group, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti's "Greatest Poems" ordered for me. While there I browsed, read in a soft chair, napped a bit, and upon waking asked for forgiveness. Saint Birchbark did not deny me.

A Gem in our Neighborhood. Birch Bark Bookstore, following an evening reading at The Bockley Gallery



Photo by Dorothy Childers

On March 18, 2018, the Birchbark Book Reading Series, curated by Michael Kiesow Moore and Ardie Medina, presented a reading event to a fully-packed room at The Bockley Gallery. The audience was treated to readings by Diane Wilson, Anthony Ceballos, Susan Power, and James Lenfestey. Afterwards the crowd gathered at the bookstore and enjoyed refreshments featuring Moore's homemade chocolate chip cookies. To check for upcoming news and events, go to <http://birchbarkbooks.com>



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Since opening February 16th of this year The Cafe Meow has been a successful spot to find and fall in love with a furry friend. The cafe has two areas. The first is a cozy cafe with organic and fair trade coffees and teas and other beverages along with locally-made treats and cat-tastic merchandise. While the other side hosts anywhere from 10 to 15 adoptable cats at a time. The cats at the cafe are all up to date on vaccines and are chosen to be at the cafe because of their outgoing personalities. They come from foster-based rescues that are all no-kill. So far the cafe has helped the three rescues they work with to adopt out over 20 cats as of April 13th.

Since opening the cafe has started events such as yoga with cats, cat time happy hour, and is hosting event on June 24th to help it's rescue partners which will be donation based. Lots of information and updates are posted on the cafe blog, website and social media.

If you're looking for a new feline to join your family we would highly suggest visiting the cats of The Cafe Meow. If you're not looking to currently adopt but just want to hang out with some lovely rescue cats the cafe also makes a great place to brighten up your day. To visit with the cats there is a \$10 cover fee and you can reserve through the website or walk in and see if there are tickets available. Even if there are no slots available the cafe side is a great place to relax with some friends as you know when you relax there your are helping cats get into good homes.

FROM JESSICA AT THE CAFE MEOW



Cafe Meow, 2323 Hennepin Ave S, thecafemeow.com

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LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Craig Wilson, Acting Secretary

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2018, First Unitarian Society, 900 Mount Curve Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Board Members Present: Craig Wilson (acting Chair), Krishna Dorney, Tom Huppert, Bob Hinck, Jennifer Breitinger, Lee Switzenberg, Sam Ellingson, Evan Stern, Kathleen Bottini

Others: Justin Baylor; Becca Hughes, Virginia Nadimi (City of Minneapolis); Colleen O'Dell, Madeline Hudek (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Craig Wilson gave a brief welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Huppert moved, and Lee Switzenberg seconded that the minutes of the March 6, 2018 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Announcements: Council Member Lisa Goodman Ward 7 was away on vacation but provided the following updates in a brief:

Lunch with Lisa, Wednesday, April 25, 2018 (12:00-1:00) with Heather Hunt regarding the 911: New Dispatch System, Department Overview and Insider Stories at St. Thomas (Opus Hall, room 202)

Hennepin Avenue (Douglas to Lake Street) Open House Wednesday, April 11th (6:00-8:00) at the Jefferson School Cafeteria

Future reconstruction project proposed for 2023

Public works conducting preliminary input to submit for federal funding (July). This corridor is constrained and there are plans for a future Bus Rapid Transit (E-line)

Project Scope

Replace aging traffic signal and storm water infrastructure.

Make sidewalk and intersections accessible for all users

Durable pavement marking, crosswalks, plantings

and furniture

Evaluate bicycle network connectivity (potential bike lanes)

Provide space for enhanced transit stops

Contact: Becca Hughes (612) 673-5012 or rebecca.hughes@minneapolismn.gov

Burnham Avenue Bridge maintenance (over Kenilworth Trail)

Bridge improvement project: Repairs to bearing on both ends of the bridge and replacement of approach panels.

Work begins the week of April 9th

Duration: 4 weeks

Pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to use the bridge for most of the project (some impacts will take place on the Kenilworth Trail below the bridge).

Spring Street Sweeping Begins Tuesday, April 17

This will cover 1,100 miles of streets and 400 miles of alleys

Takes four (4) weeks to complete

No Parking signs will be installed the day before each street is swept

Street sweep times are 7:00 am – 4:30 pm

Robo-phone calls made to residents (listed residential phone numbers)

Look up:

www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping

Parkways and downtown streets are not noted on the look up program

Yard Waste Collection

Begins the week of April 9 (weekly through the fall)

Delay in Lowry Hill due to Gypsy Moth quarantine

Potholes locations can be reported through 311

Still doing cold patches until the weather becomes warmer for asphalt patches

City Releases Draft Comprehensive Plan for Public Comment

Minneapolis 2040 is a draft framework of interdependent policies, topics, action steps and maps intend-

ed to drive a citywide conversation about how Minneapolis will grow and change over the next two decades.

The goal is to provide a roadmap to follow so existing disparities will not deepen and Minneapolis can be a city that works for everyone who lives here.

The draft policies are organized under 14 goals that the city council adopted in 2017

Public Comment Period

Comments will be collected through July 22, 2017

Comments can be made at www.minneapolis2040.com

Open Street 2018 - Free events bringing community and local businesses together.

Sunday, June 10 (11:00-5:00): Lyndale (22nd to 54th Street)

Sunday, July 22 (11:00-5:00): Lake + Minnehaha

Sunday, August 5 (10:00-10:00): Northeast

Sunday, August 26 (11:00-5:00): Franklin (Portland to 28th Ave)

Saturday, September 15 (11:00-5:00): West Broadway (Lyndale to Penn)

Sunday, September 23 (11:00-5:00): Nicollet (Lake Street to 46th Street)

Sunday, September 30 (11:00-5:00): U of M

Web Page: www.openstreetsmpls.org

Apply for Opening on Minneapolis Boards and Commissions

There are a number of board and commission openings this spring

These groups provide valuable insight and help shape policy

People can apply by visiting: www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings

Creating Resilient Yards Workshop

Two Separate Workshops (\$15)

Planning Your Resilient Yard

An overview of changing climate and ways to minimize its impact using turf alternatives, rain gardens and

LHNA to page 11

EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Diana Schleisman, Administrator

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, 3/13/18 7:00 p.m. Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street

Board members present: Mike Erlandson (Vice-President), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Debbie Gold (Secretary), Andrew Degerstrom, John Grochala, Amy Sanborn, Julia Curran

Board members absent: Brad Ash (President), Steve Havig, Peter Mason

Guests: Lisa Goodman (City Councilmember), Nancy Johnston (Outreach & Nominations Chair), and EIRA Residents: Laura Murphy, Corey China, and John Morrow

Welcome & Call to Order: Mike Erlandson, EIRA Vice-President

Guest Speaker: Lisa Goodman, City Council Member

Lunch with Lisa is Mar 28th in Opus Hall Room 202. Mike Kennedy, a long-time employee with the City of Minneapolis, will talk about how he determines snow emergencies, street sweeping schedules, pothole filling, and more.

Metro Blooms is coordinating workshops for \$15. More information is available on their website.

A Small business web portal was created to help entrepreneurs: business.minneapolis.gov.

Minneapolis Boards & Commissions have openings. Please contact Lisa Goodman's office to inquire.

City Assessors are mailing valuation notices. Be watchful of the timeframe to appeal.

Lisa will attend the EIRA Annual meeting on Apr 10th.

Committee Reports:

President's Report (via email)

Mayor Jacob Frey and City Council Member Lisa Goodman confirmed and they will make up the first 30-45 mins of the EIRA annual meeting on Apr 10th. Then we will cover all of EIRA's accomplishments, elect new BOD members, and then spend the remainder discussing Debbie's work with the farmers markets and what's to come. She may even have a guest coming for that.

We have a postcard mailer printed and ready to go out (still finalizing the date) and then a small stack of cards to leave at Isles Bun on the counter.

Isles Bun will be catering some small bites as per the menu sent around last month and I will coordinate with Diana next week on some social media / email posts as well.

Hopefully we can make this well attended and build some excitement for the year to come.

Treasurer's Report

Payments from the city are in process for the warming house refresh, and Osman Cleaners funds have been received. The Good Chair Project will be processed soon after the upcoming plan modification.

Cash flow is tight due to advances that need to be "repaid" to the city, even though progress is being made.

Unrestricted funds will help tie over cash flow.

NRP Steering Committee

Although \$10,000 for the Minneapolis Good Chair Project was approved at the Dec 2016 EIRA BOD meeting, it was not specified which funds were being used. As such, the following NRP/PPP contract plan modification was created with ample notice on the website and also included in the e-newsletter. This was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice vote.

The NRP Committee and EIRA Board have already

approved allocating funds to help support moveable wooden benches placed around East Isles. In order to accommodate support for such a project, a Plan Modification to EIRA Phase 2 NRP strategy is necessary. This NRP strategy aligns with the goals of supporting public space improvements and improving parks and green spaces in the community. The plan modification moves dollars into this account to fund the benches. Specifically, the proposed plan modification would shift \$10,000 of funds:

From 2.1.1. Affordable Housing Loan Program

To 7.4.1. Public Space Improvements

The Affordable Housing Loan Program generated over \$125,000 in program income for EIRA's NRP account when the loans were repaid. The EIRA is in the process of allocating these funds to neighborhood projects for the public good, including enhancements to the community's vital parks and open spaces.

Outreach & Nominations Committee

There are 11 seats total on the EIRA BOD. Two BOD members' term limits are up and there is an additional vacancy. Additionally, 2 alternates are desired.

BOD Members may miss up to 2 meetings per year so the time commitment consists of one monthly meeting for 10 out of 12 months.

Executive Committee Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be elected at the May meeting so new BOD Members have time to consider positions.

An ad has been placed in the Hill and Lake Press for the annual meeting.

Nextdoor has been a good medium for posting events and notices.

EIRA is trying to increase Social Media presence

EIRA to page 11

LHNA from page 10

other practices

One-on-one design assistance from Blue Thumb landscape designers and U of M Extension Master Gardeners from Hennepin County

Turf Alternatives

The what, how and why of converting traditional lawn into low-impact turf alternatives that support pollinators and clean water

Workshops are held around the city (April-June) – Space is limited

For more information:

www.metroblooms.org/workshops or call 651-699-2426

Treasurer's Report: Wilson reported LHNA is in good shape. Several additional donations received for Sarah Janecek fund. Current bank balance showing approximately \$19,000.

Presentation on Douglas Avenue - West Lake Street Project (Becca Hughes, City of Minneapolis Transportation Planner): SEE UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER GOODMAN BRIEF ABOVE FOR MORE DETAILS. Hennepin Avenue between Douglas Avenue and West Lake Street is proposed to be programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program for reconstruction in 2023. Public Works is conducting preliminary planning work in 2018 in order to submit an application for federal transportation funding through the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation. Public Works will conduct technical work, collect community feedback, and review policy guidance including the Access Minneapolis Plan (2009), Complete Streets Policy (2016), and Vision Zero commitment (2017) to inform the design of Hennepin Avenue. The reconstruction project provides an opportunity to redesign Hennepin Avenue, so it meets the street's current and future needs. The goals of the future reconstruction project will aim to provide the following design elements:

Improve the sidewalk and intersections for all users, install durable pavement markings and crosswalks, and support pedestrian activities with space for planting and furnishing zones where feasible.

Evaluate bicycle network connectivity, as the City's Bicycle Master Plan identifies this corridor as a future on-street bikeway and bicycle lanes should be considered when the street is reconstructed.

Provide space for enhanced transit stops compatible with future E-Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service.

Replace aging traffic signal and stormwater infrastructure. Maintain mobility and circulation for transit and motor vehicles.

To support a successful application for federal transportation funding, Public Works is planning to conduct technical analysis and gather community feedback in advance of the federal funding application deadline in July. Public Works will be engaging stakeholders in the winter and spring of 2018 to understand what design elements are important to consider for Hennepin Avenue. Should the project be awarded federal funding, there would be future opportunities in 2019 and beyond for the public to provide additional input on to inform the design details.

Winter/Spring 2018: Technical evaluation and public engagement

July of 2018: Submit application for federal transportation grant, through the Met Council

Winter 2019: Grant recipients announced

2019-2021: Detailed street design and engineering

2023: Anticipated project construction

Presentation on MPRB Southwest Service Area Master plan project (Madeline Hudek & Colleen O'Dell - MPRB): A Service Area Master Plan is a process that engages the community to:

Take a complete look at all outdoor park assets: fields, playgrounds, paths, etc. (Recreation center buildings are not included in this Master Plan. They are part of RecQuest.)

Create improvement plans for each neighborhood park

Guide decisions on capital improvements, how to spend NPP20 funding, land acquisition, and development of new parks.

Set a vision for operations, management, and improvements

Set priorities and estimate budgets

The Southwest Service Area Master Plan (SWSAMP) will include all neighborhood parks south of I-394 and west of I-35W, including small triangle park properties. In all, 39 park properties are included in the SWSAMP project. SWSAMP will not include regional parks such as Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park (including Brownie, Cedar, Lake of the Isles, Bde Maka Ska, and Harriet) nor regional trails (Kenilworth, Cedar Lake, and Minnehaha Parkway) because these parks and trails are required by the Metropolitan Council to have their own, separate master plans.

Project Milestones

Spring 2018

Project start-up

Park inventory and analysis

Consultant selection

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) application process

Summer-Fall 2018

Community visioning

Community discussion park needs, likes, dislikes, concerns, and dreams

Fall-Winter 2018

Development of park concept plans

Community discussion about park plans and area-wide vision

Spring-Summer 2019

Creation of Southwest Service Area Master Plan (SWSAMP) document

Community comments on the document

Final adoption by MPRB Commissioners

Committee Reports:

Environment: Lowry Hill has the largest gypsy moth infestation ever seen in the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be updating residents regarding treatments with an organic, biological pesticide to be applied to trees in mid-May. Bob Hinck will follow up with the State to see if they would like to attend the annual meeting or include an article in the May Hill & Lake Press.

Zoning and Planning: Nothing to report.

Crime and Safety: Lee Switzenberg stated that there was nothing to report.

Events: Annual Meeting - Wilson led a discussion of the upcoming Annual Meeting. It will be held at the First Unitarian Society on May 15th. The format for the meeting will be the same as in prior years. Social hour with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar from 6 to 7 PM. The business meeting, with an update from the Board, guest speaker Mayor Jacob Frey and election of Directors will be from 7 to 8:30 PM. Wilson is coordinating the mailing all households, which should be received by April 14th.

Neighborhood Priorities: Wilson reported on the recent Hennepin-Lyndale Space Coalition discussions. Green Minneapolis is developing a budget for the installation of the Douglas Median and maintenance of the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads and the maintenance and grant agreements are making their way through City and MNDOT approval processes.

Historical: The committee will continue to research conservation districts.

Communications: Hill & Lake Press Ad to include gypsy moth quarantine information and notice of Annual meeting.

New Business: No new business.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

EIRA from page 10

and is now on Instagram.

The Southwest Journal article on the EIRA Farmers Market pilot project helped significantly boost views of the EIRA facebook page.

Social Committee (N/A)**Zoning & Land Use Committee (N/A)****Transportation Committee**

Hennepin Av will undergo a temporary transit change including bus only lane trials to assess benefits and impact.

Self-driving cars will be tested on the Greenway during a weekend in April. They move fairly slow.

Action Items:

Hill & Lake Press sent an invoice for \$1,000 to publish monthly 2018 minutes. This amount was increased from \$900 in previous years. The amount was approved unanimously.

Motion was approved to spend up to a budget of \$1000 to cover food and other expenses for the annual meeting to be held this year at Isles Bun and Coffee. There will also be a postcard notice of the meeting mailed to all EIRA residents. As part of the discussion it was noted that this is a significant increase in expense over previous years, but is being done on a trial basis aimed at increasing attendance and is in line with what other neighborhoods spend on their annual meetings.

Open Forum:

The Minneapolis Park Board is moving forward with East Isles on a Farmers Market pilot in The Mall. A Market Manager has not been chosen yet. One option is to hire an experienced Market Manager as a consultant to advise on processes and procedures. In the meantime, to keep the momentum going, Debbie has reached out to potential vendors. So far, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. When asked what type of vendors would participate, it was explained that the Park Board's Agra Initiative would require 100% food and food-based vendors, with no alcohol. A food truck would be allowed with a possible additional permit fee. Wednesday evenings were considered, but Thursday evenings may be the best time, which was determined by analyzing other local Farmers Markets. EIRA will charge an application fee and per occurrence Market fee. Furthermore, a deposit can be requested to ensure participation. It was suggested to come up with a budget and provide a proposal so EIRA can assess risk and ensure that vendor fees cover costs. A highlight of this market is that it is not-for-profit based and seen as a medium to bring local and sustainable foods to a highly dense area with a lot of foot, bicycle, and bus traffic. Next steps include crafting a letter to business owners for sponsorship and notifying nearby residents. Help is needed and anyone who would like to volunteer should contact info@eastisles.org.

The meeting was adjourned.

East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at info@eastisles.org at least five (5) days before an EIRA sponsored event.



CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY MONICA SMITH

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, March 14, 2018

The meeting was held at Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Interim Chair Lowell Berggren, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Rich Heichert, Stephen Goltry, Stacia Goodman, Barbara Lunde, James Reid, Amanda Vallone, Vern Vander Weide, and Mike Wilson.

Coordinator: Monica Smith

Interim Chair Lowell Berggren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, March 28, noon at University of St. Thomas. The speaker is the Director of Public Works to discuss snow plowing, street sweeping, potholes, etc.

A side yard variance is being requested for 2740 Chowen Ave S.

2018 Property Value Notices will be mailed mid-March. Hennepin County will also be mailing the property tax statements.

The draft of the City's comprehensive plan, Minneapolis 2040, will be released on March 22 for a public comment period.

Announcements

The Park Board will host a Volunteer Appreciation Open House on Tuesday, April 24, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Bryant Square Park.

Variance Request, 2740 Chowen Ave S

Roy and Linda Close, 2740 Chowen Ave S, are seeking a side yard variance to build a conservatory on the south side of the home that will be within 4 feet of the property line. There is no sidewalk on that side of the property so the lawn extends to the street (the conservatory will be 19 feet from the street).

The Closes have distributed information about the project to nearby neighbors.

The Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing for the variance at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 at City Hall, Room 317.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to not oppose the project as presented.

Board Items

Repeated attempts have been made to contact a board member who has been absent from meetings for the past six months; there has been no response. The CIDNA Board approved a motion as per the bylaws that the CIDNA Board exercises the right to remove Karen Stublaski from the board.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to have the CIDNA membership (at the May 9 CIDNA Annual Meeting) approve this amendment to the CIDNA bylaws, Article VI, Section 5, Electronic voting: Approval of minutes of CIDNA Board meetings and member meetings require a majority of affirmative votes from all current directors and may be voted on electronically by a reply-all response. Other matters that arise after a regularly scheduled Board meeting and that require a simple majority vote by the directors before the next Board meeting may be voted on electronically, according to a policy adopted and periodically reviewed and, as deemed necessary, updated by the Board.

Schedule for the Interim CIDNA Chair:

April – Steve Goltry

May – Amanda Vallone

June – Taylor Pentelovitch

Transportation Committee, Mike Wilson

It was brought to the board's attention that the joint CIDNA-West Calhoun Neighborhood Council resolution regarding the Lake St/Dean Pkwy intersection that was approved by CIDNA on February 14 was not the same resolution that was passed by the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council. The CIDNA Board voted to rescind the February 14 resolution.

The board approved a motion to change the committee's name from Transportation Committee to SWLRT Committee.

Judge Tunheim ruled in favor of Met Council in the Lakes and Parks Alliance lawsuit.

Met Council is working to reach an agreement with Twin Cities & Western Railroad for railroad operation in the Kenilworth corridor.

Mike Wilson is representing CIDNA on the Section 106 process for the BNSF crash wall.

NRP/PPP Report, Monica Smith

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to approve the CPP annual report as presented.

The tentative date for the reopening celebration of Cedar Lake South Beach is July 19. Details and a budget need to be finalized.

The Calhoun Isles Condo Association met with the NRP Committee to request financial support to help CICA hire an engineering firm to oversee work that the Met Council will be conducting related to how vibrations from the construction and operation of SWLRT will impact CICA's high-rise building. The board approved the committee's recommendation to send a letter of support to elected officials on behalf of CICA but did not recommend that CIDNA provide financial support.

CIDNA Events, Amanda Vallone

Upcoming events:

May Day Basket making event for Jones-Harrison Residents, Sunday, April 29, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison. Help is needed to deliver the baskets on Monday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. Jones-Harrison is donating up to \$250 for the event expenses.

Summer event - possible Solstice Celebration on Thursday, June 21 depending on volunteer capacity with the South Beach celebration in July.

Jones-Harrison is not hosting a yard sale in 2018; a volunteer would be needed to organize a neighborhood-wide sale.

Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The tentative date for Art Mart is Saturday, November 24. A volunteer is needed for the event day coordination.

Pedestrian Safety Committee, Steve Goltry

The committee will focus on pedestrian detours once construction begins at 3100 W Lake St.

Land Use Committee

Bob Corrick has resigned as chair of the Land Use Committee.

Neighborhoods 2020, Monica Smith

The City has published a roadmap for the future of neighborhood organizations once the funding expires in December 2020; public comments are being accepted through April 30. Board members are asked to provide feedback to the NRP Committee to help craft a response to the roadmap. The committee will meet on Tuesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison to work on a draft to present at the April 11 board meeting.

Annual Meeting Planning

A planning committee brought recommendations to the CIDNA Board for the annual meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at Jones-Harrison. The goal is to limit the meeting to 90 minutes and focus on livability issues in the neighborhood. The board approved up to \$250 of unrestricted funds for food for the social time.

CIDNA Traffic Concerns

The topic was postponed until the April meeting.

Park Board Southwest Service Area Master Plan CAC

The Park Board is beginning a master planning effort for the Southwest area, which includes all neighborhood parks south of I-394 and west of I-35W. A Community Advisory Committee will be formed. CIDNA, West Calhoun and Linden Hills are grouped together to select one person to represent their interests on the CAC. The board approved a motion to have Barbara Lunde represent CIDNA to work with the other two neighborhoods in selecting the CAC representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence. Steve Goltry will serve as Interim Chair.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to info@cidna.org.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, April 11, 2018

The meeting was held at Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Interim Chair Stephen Goltry, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Rich Heichert, Stacia Goodman, Barbara Lunde, Jan Nielsen, Taylor Pentelovitch, James Reid, Amanda Vallone, Vern Vander Weide, and Mike Wilson.

Coordinator: Monica Smith

Interim Chair Stephen Goltry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, April 25, noon at University of St. Thomas. The speaker will be the Director of 911. The May event will feature Senator Dibble and Representative Hornstein and the June event will be a field trip to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

An open house was held on April 11 about the reconstruction of Hennepin Ave (from Lake St to Douglas) scheduled for 2023. An alignment will not be chosen prior to the city applying for a federal grant for the project. Provide feedback via an online survey at surveygizmo.com/s3/4265320/Hennepin-Avenue-Business-Owner-Survey through April 25.

The Burnham Bridge will be closed for construction for four weeks beginning April 16.

Street sweeping will begin April 24 and will last four weeks.

Yard waste pick up has begun for the season.

Call 311 to report potholes.

CM Goodman's appointee to serve on the Park Board's Southwest Service Area Master Plan CAC is Larry Moran.

Announcements

The Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing for the variance request at 2740 Chowen Ave, at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 at City Hall, Room 317.

Earth Day clean up is Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Cedar Lake Pkwy and 25th St W.

The Met Council responded and rejected CIDNA's request for financial support to help Calhoun Isles Condo Association hire an engineering firm to oversee the Met Council's vibration study.

NRP/PPP Report, Claire Ruebeck

Park Siding Park: the gardening dates for 2018 will be the third Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. (May to September). The board approved a budget of up to \$150 of unrestricted funds for coffee/snacks for the 2018 season. The NRP Committee will renew the Park Steward Agreement.

Cedar Lake South Beach: The reopening celebration is being planned for Thursday, July 19 beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony and continuing into the evening. The CIDNA Board approved a budget of \$5,000 for the event. Details for the event are being worked out.

The CIDNA Board appointed Claire Ruebeck to serve as CIDNA's elector for the NCEC elections on June 14.

Park Board SW Service Area Master Plan CAC, Mike Wilson

Mike Wilson introduced the process to appoint one person to represent CIDNA, West Calhoun and Linden Hills on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The board joined the other two neighborhoods in electing Jana Griffin, a Linden Hills resident, to represent the three neighborhoods.

Traffic Concerns, Mike Wilson and Rich Heichert

Mike Wilson and Rich Heichert met with Minneapolis traffic engineers about traffic concerns in the area and proposed a regular forum to engage about concerns.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to establish new board committee to focus on livability issues.

Annual Meeting Planning

The board reviewed the proposed agenda for the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 9. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with refreshments and socializing fol-

CIDNA to page 13

KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

BY SHAWN SMITH, CHAIR

April 2018 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met April 2nd, 2018 at Kenwood Rec Center

Chair Shawn Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Directors present: Chair Shawn Smith, Vice Chair Larry Moran, Treasurer Matt Spies, Will Stensrud, Angie Erdrich, Carl Goldstein (Minutes), Kyle Leier, Jeanette Colby. Absent: Mark Brown, Jack Levi, Mike Bono. Also present: CM Lisa Goodman, Mark Holtey, 3 neighbors, speakers below.

City Council Update – Patrick Sadler for CM Lisa Goodman

The next Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, April 25th. Guest speakers are from the Minneapolis 911 emergency response system, at St Thomas Opus Hall, downtown.

Hennepin Avenue is scheduled for a renovation from Douglas Ave to 28th St. Public input is being taken via the city's website to comment on the balance of automobile, bike, pedestrian, and transit traffic and infrastructure. The survey is available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/future/HennepinSouth

Burnham Bridge to be closed for replacement of ball bearings and maintenance, starting April 9th and will last 4 weeks. Detours to West Lake of the Isles Parkway will be in effect.

Street sweeping begins April 16th; it will take 4 weeks, please be aware of parking restrictions.

Yard waste pickup resumes April 9th

The City of Minneapolis recently released the proposed Minneapolis 2040 Plan. City planners were primarily involved in planning it with little CM input.

Key points include: allowing 4 plexes on every residential lot in the city; 4 story buildings along transit ways (future included) which include Sheridan and Franklin Ave in Kenwood; elimination of off street parking requirements for new buildings; allowance for commercial rezoning within neighborhoods.

A full city council vote will take place by the end of 2018. Public comments are accepted through July 22, 2018

KIAA to plan an information session for question/answer, but feedback should go directly to the city website Minneapolis2040.com. Meeting to be set for within a month and communicated by e-blast.

The plan strategy is to create more supply of housing thereby lowering housing prices.

Kenwood School Update/Principal Search – Heidi Johnson (Interim)

Heidi introduced herself as Interim Principal. A new principal to be named by the end of May 2018.

Kenwood School budget was reduced by \$2.5M vs LY. Enrollment is 388 for next year with a class size of 23-29 students.

Funds from the auction and fundraising cannot be used for staff, only operational costs.

Southwest Service Master Plan/MPRB – Madeline Hudek and Colleen O'Dell

This plan is scoping only neighborhood parks. In Kenwood, this includes Kenwood Park, Kenwood Parkway, and a small plot outside the Kenwood School where there are 3 picnic tables. MPRB is seeking a neighborhood representative to be the liaison between the team developing the 20 Year Master plan and the neighborhoods.

Public outreach will last through summer 2018 and the final plan by 2019. So far there is no volunteer from KIAA, East Isles, Bryn Mawr, or Lowry Hill boards to join the Community Action Committee, however, Chair Emeritus Larry Moran will represent Kenwood.

Financial Report – Matt Spies

Dennis Fazio (finance contractor) has been a strong asset in helping Matt update and modernize finance record keeping and process.

YTD donations are at \$1100 vs \$3000 goal. The annual gathering is an important opportunity to gain financial support from neighbors for expenses that are

not reimbursable by the city.

Total expenses are \$3000 under budget when accounting for all allocated funds.

Annual Gathering - All

The date is Monday May 7th, at 6PM, at Kenwood Corner (Downtown Kenwood) as in past years.

Red Wagon Pizza is catering the event; contract is signed, and deposit paid

In case of light rain/cold, Bockley Gallery will be the location. In case of bad weather, the date will be postponed to Monday, May 14th.

Guests will include Recycle Minneapolis, Park Board representatives.

The meeting is required in our bylaws for the annual election of the 2018-2019 KIAA board. Kenwood residents are encouraged to join our board, we are specifically seeking a Secretary. Come help make a difference!

Shawn motioned to approve \$200 for expenses to ARTrageous Adventures, \$100 for Bockley, approved unanimously.

Communication to be NextDoor, email blast, and the website

KIAA Name Change – Amanda Vallone

Clarification is needed on the results, Amanda to follow up with Survey Monkey.

Over 300 neighbors voted in the survey, with Kenwood Neighborhood Organization being the top vote getter.

Shawn noted that changing the name is workable for the city; contract updates, website domain change, etc.

East Cedar Lake Beach Summer Events – Will Stensrud, Amanda Vallone

June 9th – Summer Kickoff and Beach Opener – activities and food

June 24th – Shakespeare production, other events

July 21st – Pirates and Mermaids – activities and food

August 18th – Summer Luau and Beach Closer

The activities are meant to provide positive programming to encourage residents and families to come to the beach

Other events to include 612 Sauna, Yoga

More details to be communicated in Hill and Lakes, and e blast.

Continued discussion on a Performance Space for local musicians. The Park Board and Cedar Lake Park Association advised KIAA to proceed informally as the project is too small for the master plan and unlikely to be funded.

Action Between Meetings - All

- **The KIAA Board approved** the KIAA 2017 Annual Report by email vote on March 20,

2018. The soft copy of the 2017 Annual Report was submitted to the City on March 20.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Shawn Smith at 9:05 p.m.

Updates: Please visit our website at kenwoodminneapolis.org. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact us via our website as we are holding elections on May 6th.

The next Kenwood Isles Area Association Board meeting is the Annual Gathering on Monday, May 7th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Corner. Monthly meetings are held on the first calendar Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. KIAA invites and encourages participation by every resident, including renters to each program, service, and event organized by KIAA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, please let us know by contacting us at kenwoodminneapolis.org

CIDNA from page 12

lowed by the meeting from 6-7:30 p.m.

The CIDNA Board approved the budget increase to print a full-color postcard invitation to be mailed to all residents, and a budget for 20 reusable yard signs to promote the event and for thank you gifts for Craig Westgate and Bob Corrick.

CIDNA Events, Amanda Vallone

Upcoming events:

May Day Basket decorating event for Jones-Harrison residents on Sunday, April 29, 2-4 p.m. at Jones-Harrison. Help is needed to assemble and deliver the baskets on Monday, April 30, 7-9 p.m.

Summer Solstice Celebration on Thursday, June 21, 6-8 p.m. at Park Siding Park. The CIDNA Board approved up to \$450 for entertainment and refreshments.

Pedestrian Safety Committee, Steve Goltry

The committee had a walkabout with city and county traffic engineers on April 5.

SWLRT Committee, Mike Wilson

The Met Council's vibration study has taken place (the results have not been finalized). The consultant hired by Calhoun Isles Condo Association was satisfied with the way the study was conducted.

Lakes & Parks Alliance has appealed the judge's decision granting summary judgment in favor of the Met Council.

Neighborhoods 2020, Claire Ruebeck

The City has published a draft of the roadmap for the future of neighborhood organizations once the funding expires in December 2020; public comments are being accepted through April 30. The NRP Committee is drafting comments on the roadmap.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to accept an electronic vote on the written comments for Neighborhoods 2020 to be submitted by the deadline.

Minneapolis 2040, Claire Ruebeck

The City has released a draft of the comprehensive plan (Minneapolis 2040), which is open for public comment through July 22.

CIDNA formed a subcommittee to work on crafting a response to the draft plan. Residents interested in joining the subcommittee may contact info@cidna.org to get involved.

New Business

The board will not take up a request for endorsement from iMatter Minneapolis.

A presentation by the City about their new search engine has been cancelled due to board meeting time constraints. The topic will be referred to CM Goodman for a topic for Lunch with Lisa.

A celebration is being organized for June 1 to open the cornerstone of 3100 W Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting is the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 p.m. socializing and refreshments; 6-7:30 p.m. meeting at Jones-Harrison Residence. Amanda Vallone will serve as Interim Chair.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to info@cidna.org

Hill & Lake Press

www.hillandlakepress.com

Letters

Dear representatives Hornstein and Dibble--

I'm disappointed. I received your letter on April 7, Saturday, and you encourage me to make my views on the matter known BY MONDAY, TODAY, APRIL 9.

This is nuts. Have you even tried to read the document in question--much less understand it??????? You think I and my neighbors are going to devote one whole day of our weekend to research this issue--which is all the time allotted--in order to "make our voices heard?????"

Feels like being run over by a truck. Or a train. But I wonder-- isn't this pretty much the methodology of the whole project?

Charles Gribble
Kenwood

Dear Mr. Gribble,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the BNSF freight rail crash wall.

We regret that you did not receive our letter on this issue in a more timely manner. We contacted the Metropolitan Council regarding your interest in participating on the public process related to this issue. While the comment period did close last week, the Council informed us that you can still submit your concerns directly to the Metropolitan Council chair, Alene Tchourumoff. Her e-mail address is: alene.tchourumoff@metc.state.mn.us.

For your information we are attaching the comments we submitted.

We appreciate and share your strong interest in this issue and please contact us again if you have additional ideas, advice, or concerns.

Sincerely,
Frank Hornstein
State Representative, 61A
Scott Dibble



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Since March 1976, The Hill & Lake Press has served the community as a non-profit newspaper staffed by volunteers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
2928 Dean Pkwy #4	\$120,000	\$0	0	\$120,000	C	1/1	707	\$112,635	\$1,733	1960
1425 W 28th St #419	199,900	0	0	217,000	C	1/1	860	120,810	1,735	1986
2521 Humboldt S #112	209,900	0	17	209,900	C	1/1	680	155,145	2,366	1922
3104 W Lake St #112	235,500	0	89	230,000	C	1/1	963	195,000	2,717	2007
1425 W 28th St #511	299,900	0	10	299,900	C	3/2	1,400	264,145	3,705	1986
826 Summit Ave S	400,000	4,000	14	400,000	TWN	2/2	1,672	343,715	4,955	1990
2713 W 28th St	525,000	0	67	512,500	TWN	3/2	1,777	369,330	5,610	1953
3104 W Lake St #403	595,000	11,200	273	563,330	C	3/3	2,054	547,000	7,996	2007
3108 W Lake St #132	650,000	0	20	650,000	TWN	2/4	2,262	576,000	8,091	2007
1770 James S #2	725,000	0	0	725,000	C	2/2	1,998	451,000	6,311	1923
154 Groveland Terrace	839,900	0	59	782,000	TWN	3/3	2,999	656,600	10,015	1982
2000 Humboldt S	919,000	0	128	845,000	H	5/4	4,320	750,000	16,353	1906
1708 Irving S	1,275,000	0	74	1,239,000	H	5/5	4,421	911,500	19,970	1908
1817 Knox S	1,295,000	0	113	1,225,000	H	5/5	4,613	975,000	15,511	1909
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig					Home	H				
					Condo	C				
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County					Townhouse	TWN				(Go to mpl Realtor.com for additional info)

September 20, 2017
Alene Tchourumoff, Chair
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Questions related to proposed Barrier Wall for Southwest Light Rail Transit Project

Dear Ms. Tchourumoff:

We have been working with the Metropolitan Council for many years on the Southwest Light Rail Transit project. We have worked hard to encourage design of a project that serves the metropolitan area and, at the same time, benefits the communities through which it runs and is fair to the immediate neighborhoods through which it passes. We have continued to consult with your agency despite large and unwelcome changes to the project, including co-location of LRT and Freight Rail, which our residents had earlier been promised would not occur, and despite the fact that moving freight rail out of the corridor was proven by the Met Council's own consultant to be technically and financially feasible.

In 2014 the City of Minneapolis entered into various Memorandums of Understanding and had an understanding with the Metropolitan Council regarding the basic design of the project. Despite that existing understanding, we are now being told that a substantial barrier wall, not part of prior plans, is being considered for inclusion between the light rail and freight rail in the area between Bryn Mawr Station and Royalston/Farmer's Market Station. We find the proposal for this substantial barrier wall to be a significant and substantial change to the design that was established in 2014.

As elected officials who represent the area of the project in Minneapolis and who represent the proposed

site for the construction of this substantial barrier wall, we are surprised at the lack of information about the proposed barrier wall that has been provided to us. We are also surprised about the lack of a public process and open community engagement about a subject that is important to our residents.

City staff have been in contact with Met Council staff and some questions about the wall have been answered. While the response from your staff implies that many other questions may eventually be answered, that provides no reassurance to our constituents who know that full answers to all these questions should have been provided before, not after, the vote by the Met Council to approve the barrier wall. The Met Council's decision to vote first and provide answers after undermines confidence.

We understand that the FTA will ultimately direct the Met Council as to what questions they believe must be answered. Additionally, the Council is required to comply with state and federal rules on environmental review. More importantly, there is a public obligation on the part of the Council as a state entity to provide timely answers and information to state and local policy makers and the public and to ensure that our City and our environment are protected. We call upon the Met Council to not wait to be instructed and commit on its own accord to promptly prepare a Supplemental EIS regarding the construction and use of the proposed barrier wall and its impacts upon the community and the various users of the corridor.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about provisions in the rail agreement that put the Met Council in the principal position of usurping local authority and

control and requiring the Agency to file lawsuits against its own partners, municipal governments, at the behest of railroad companies -- private, profit motivated entities. Having not been able to read the actual agreement, but only Met Council staff's descriptions of it, we cannot confirm the situation. Again, this provision comes under the cover of secretive negotiations between agency staff and corporate employees, with totally inadequate notice to the citizens of this region, nor their elected representatives.

While nothing can be done to provide information to the public before the Met Council's vote, a Supplemental EIS is the best remaining tool to reassure the public that the right questions will ultimately be answered. This is a public project that requires disclosure of all the information connected with the proposed and substantial barrier wall, arrangements for private preemption of local authority, as well as clear disclosure of the impacts that such a wall and these agreements may have on the surrounding community.

D. Scott Dibble
State Senator, District 61
District 61A

Betsy Hodges
Mayor, City of Minneapolis
City Council, Ward 7

Lisa Goodman
Minneapolis
City Council, Ward 7

Cc: Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit
Fred T. Heywood Office Building and Garage
560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411-4398

Minneapolis Sailing Center Sets Sail with New Name

As the temperatures warm and the ice melts on area lakes, Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC) is ready to embark on a new season with a new name! Formerly known as Lake Calhoun Sailing School, MSC changed its name on March 1, 2018 to reflect its growing membership program and its increased role of community outreach to give sailing access to all. From its start as a small school with 20 students, MSC has evolved into a multigenerational sailing community in the heart of Uptown.

Nestled on the Northeast shores of Bde Maka Ska, Minneapolis Sailing Center introduces students of all ages and abilities to sailing through well organized and safety-conscious courses. Youth summer camps and the high school racing program offer a unique chance for kids to learn responsibility, teamwork, and stewardship of our environment. Adult classes teach everything from leisure sailing with family and friends to competitive yacht racing.

Minneapolis Sailing Center offers a yearly membership program which removes the stress of boat ownership while giving members access to a large fleet of sailboats. Members from all over the Twin Cities are welcome to experience sailing on Bde Maka Ska, to spread the love of sailing, and to gain an appreciation for the City of Lakes.

About us: The Minneapolis Sailing Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. MSC was founded in 1989 by families from the Calhoun Yacht Club who wanted a formal training program for students to learn to sail and to introduce the sport to others in the area. MSC has

Snow Daze

By Madeleine Lowry

Friday the 13th of April started with an apology.

At the morning staff meeting I felt the need to confess. "I'm sorry about the snow in the forecast for the weekend, folks. I've neglected to have my snow tires removed." Sigh. "I have an appointment next Thursday, so that should end the weather shenanigans."

"Oh, is that how that works?" was the reply, though

grown to one of the largest sailing centers in the U.S. with enrollment of more than 1,000 sailors last summer.

The goals of MSC are:

- To ensure easy entry into the world of sailing through affordable classes, need-based scholarships, and outreach opportunities.
- To provide high-quality and engaging programming, while instilling self-reliance, confidence, and cooperation in our students.
- To build relationships within our program, our sailors and our local community.
- To operate sustainably in regards to our environment, community, and facilities.

Members and students at MSC share a passion for sailing that drives them to work hard, sail fast, and have fun! For new and expert sailors alike, the Minneapolis Sailing Center is an engaging and supportive environment. More information can be found at the MSC website - <https://sailmpls.org/>.

Ted Salzman | Director

the majority of my colleagues looked relieved. If you want spring, you have to prepare for it, embrace it, welcome it. Yes, Lowry, get those snow tires off already!

While I doubt it was a prime contributor to our spring weather dying on the vine, I felt enough guilt that I had to 'fess up. Seasonal transitions are a tricky thing and we all have to do our part in a timely fashion.

No sooner than my mea culpa had been issued than I read an article in the newspaper pointing to a larger culprit. Apparently humanity has broken the climate circulation system in the Atlantic Ocean!

What?!

Yes, another one of those fundamental systems on which our climate relies has gone awry. Thanks to global climate change the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) is at its weakest level on record. The AMOC is responsible for redistributing heat from the tropics to the higher latitudes, like Minnesota. Now that the delivery of warm air has slowed down, we can expect more extreme weather in the Northern Hemisphere.

Like blizzards.

Well, that explained a lot. I felt a little better about being behind schedule with snow tire removal, but a little worse about our current predicament. How do you fix a complex system of ocean currents? This is going to take more than a call to the Toyota dealership.

I'm still keeping my appointment, though. It couldn't hurt.

SAVE THE DATE!



Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association ANNUAL MEETING Tuesday, May 16th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

All Lowry Hill Residents are invited and encouraged to attend! Join your LHNA Board and neighbors for a fun and informative evening.

6:00 p.m. Lowry Hill Residents Social Hour

- Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar
- Meet and chat with Lowry Hill neighbors and Board members
- Opportunity to tour the newly renovated Temple Israel

7:00 p.m. LHNA Meeting & Board Update

- Guest speaker Olga Viso, Walker Art Center Executive Director will give an update on the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden
- The Board's annual update on LHNA
- Elect several new members to the LHNA Board

After the meeting, stay to socialize if you like! We'll have appetizers and a cash bar for the Social Hour and again, after the LHNA meeting, until 9:00 p.m.



Suzanne Shaff / Shaff Photography Worldwide

To learn more about LHNA visit us at lowryhillneighborhood.org

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