

7/23 LHENA Community Meeting:

In attendance: Scott Melamed (LHENA staff), Alicia Gibson (LHENA Board), Mariah Weitzenkamp (LHENA Board), Bernadette Knaeble (LHENA Board), Jennifer Lindner (PS & RJ lead), Katie Mae Dickinson, Eric Ortiz, Mads, Sean Kelly, Bridget Pooley, Mark Hollock, Madeleine Logeias (NHN lead), Nichole Arlt (note keeper)

What is LHENA

- Dissemination of information for neighbors to get together
- Association is given money to act as a “contractor” to do community work
- Not a city entity, own separate entity. Have bylaws with requirements relating to financial and participant transparency.
- Various items that the whole community votes on.
- Mission is to serve as a forum for the neighborhood to come together. Emphasis on equity. Makes sure the resources are equitably shared. Also emphasis on environment.
- Promote civic leadership
- Money for neighborhood specific projects
 - o Repairing and rebuilding structures
 - o Green loans to do upgrades
 - o Can also apply for money to use for projects

Subcommittees

Mutual Aid Neighbors Helping Neighbors Updates:

- Formed in Feb/March in response to COVID
- Want to be an ongoing fixture in the neighborhood for various things to help out our neighbors; help getting to pharmacy, lawn mowing, babysitting, etc.
- Food share events – will be made monthly for people who are food insecure.
- Work group focused on housing needs for unsheltered groups of people
 - o Sign up link to bring bottles of water to spot on Greenway if anyone is interested.
 - o neighbors@thewedge.org is a way for people to reach out and request help if needed.
 - o Widespread need in the neighborhood, more outreach to do
 - o Received funds to give \$250 to 35 people. Application closed yesterday. 155 people requested. \$30,500 gap that we don't currently have. Starts the framework for something we could fund in the future.
 - o How do we find out who else is housing insecure and how can we help using this info?

Public Safety/Racial Justice

- Trainings : MN Peacebuilding Institute for healing trauma. Broad look at trauma at individual and collective levels. 2 hour training.

- De-escalation training. More information coming on opportunities to spread throughout the community.
- Survey asking people about their feelings about safety. Need to discuss more broadly about what we'd be looking to get out of it and what would be done with the data to get a community level baseline understanding.
- Discussed having meeting outside while we still can; will be discussed next week Thursday
- Conflict – How do we move away from avoiding to embracing. How do we gather feedback and present developers or other orgs that are coming. Way you organize can have a major impact on how things are processed.
- Conflict resolution training- how we can bring that institution wide. What would look like across the community organization?
- People taking calls from neighbors need to have some trauma awareness training.
- Secondary trauma training could be beneficial as well for those fielding calls.
- What is done with the data that is collected on neighbors – have people sign something to make sure they know it's private information and cannot be used for anything else. Talk about what kind of data do we want to collect.. race, rent vs. own, etc.
- Safety – crime reports, asked for it to be put into more context with accurate/correct comparisons TY to LY. Alicia emailed inspector to have crime reports generated every month.
- What are other neighborhoods encountering and how are they dealing with crime?

Socializing

- Could designate region captains
- Encourage people to get together in their regions
- Need someone to lead the charge with the regions to organize social activities
- Start thinking about ideas that you would want to participate and send to Scott.
- Good entry point for people to get introduced to LHENA
- Former volunteer, Alexa, recently moved- she was doing the social media, taking pictures of nice flowers, events in the neighborhood etc. Posted once a day to increase interaction with LHENA. If anyone interested in volunteering to help with social media, contact Scott.
- Gnome scavenger hunt - Does someone want to take over Instagram for the weekend?

Volunteer opportunities to help tend to the wild meadow on the Greenway
 Mark suggested organizing group discussions : choose topic, vote on it and discuss.

Need to come up with the mission statement for the committee.
Katie will be organizing next meeting.