



Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
6:30pm-8:30pm
Virtual

Board Members:

Pete Boisclair
Katie Dickinson
Manny Minter
Kevin O'Hara
Eric Ortiz
Jordan Peacock
Bridget Pooley
Mariah Weitzenkamp
Janet Wigfield
Dave Whorton

Staff:

Paul Shanafelt

Guests:

Lisa Bender - Minneapolis City Council President

Members:

Dane Skaar
Sophie Dolan
Steve Lelchuk
Rachel Usher

Meeting Agenda:

- Call to Order & Welcome - *Katie Dickinson*
 - Welcoming statements
 - Meeting expectations
 - Ice breaker

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes - *Katie Mae Dickinson*
- Approval of Agenda and Rules of Order - *Katie Mae Dickinson*
- Ward 10 Update - *Council President Bender*
 - **Charter Questions (5)**
 - *Charter Commission Question: Empower mayor, and limit city council ability to direct staff.*
 - *Large culture shift, and counter to direction of existing pressures, creates a bottleneck with the mayor's office.*
 - *City Council Question: Allow city in future to consider rent stabilization or rent control ordinance.*
 - *Considering precedents in Washington and California.*
 - *Does not produce rent stabilization, just makes it legal to consider for future.*
 - *Power of city petition to propose future rent control policies.*
 - *Would require a petition that is signed by a certain percentage of the voters*
 - *Is allowed in St. Paul but not Minneapolis at present.*
 - *Only allows for this type of question, not for general policy.*
 - *City Council: Create a new Department of Safety, which would include Law Enforcement, Traffic Safety, and Office of Violence Prevention, and replace the Police Department.*
 - *Comparable to what was just adopted in Brooklyn Center.*
 - *Basically what was blocked by Charter Commission last year.*
 - *Yes for Minneapolis: Create a new Department of Public Safety.*
 - *Should this one succeed, the council would withdraw their proposal so that there are not two near-identical questions on the final ballot.*

City seem get sued when you attempt to do something that helps the underprivileged; successfully defended these decisions in the past, but with rent control they expect to have to fight off a lawsuit again, so the care is to make the process as defensible as possible.

City Council version of the amendment is explicit that law enforcement will be a part of a Department of Safety, the Yes for Minneapolis is a little more ambiguous.

Required by state law to have law enforcement to respond to some things.

Eric Ortiz: Frey's conference, Cunningham & Ellison's conference. Someone said that they wanted to see the city council and the mayor put aside differences to

address uptick in violence. Are there any plans?

Bender: Sad, there has been a lot of energy spent trying to bridge divides, and with the election season some folks seem unwilling to attempt to bridge divides. The mayor had a conference and did not invite the council members who represented the areas and did not tell them where it would be; they invited him to theirs. Usually through disagreement there is at least an acknowledgement of those who are elected. The community is going through a lot. Cunningham & Ellison meet with a group of pastors regularly. Council had unanimously approved a plan last year on this effect. City seems frozen on these key decisions. The council approved 1/3 of the general fund for the police department. The entire health depart is \$20m, the police department is \$170m. Approved 3 recruit classes. Shifted some work out of the police department to NCR to do crime prevention proactively with neighborhood organizations. Shifted some calls to 311, some mental health work out of the police department.

The mayor wants to increase overtime budget and use American Rescue Plan to increase recruit classes, but is using this as leverage to refuse decisions on the immediate issues. The city needs the police department to be a partner. We have a giant amount of resources that are not being used strategically or effectively. None of the mayor's proposals would even get in front of the council until fall-winter. Does not accept that the resources we have, now, cannot be used to address the crisis we have, now.

○ **Infrastructure**

■ **Franklin (Hennepin-Lyndale)**

- Proposed for reconstruction; summer-fall vote.
- [Project page](#)

■ **[Bryant Ave Reconstruction](#)**

- Public engagement
- [Survey](#)
- Summer-fall vote

■ **[Hennepin Ave S](#)**

- Delayed until 2024, was originally 2023
- Design will likely be this year.
- More than 50% of the people in transit on the Hennepin corridor are using metro transit services.
- Manny Minter: Concern that loss of parking on Hennepin limits deliveries, well-lit parking options for potential clients. Turns lights could limit accidents on places like 24th & Hennepin. Concerns of loss of businesses in the area.
- Kevin O'Hara: Hennepin will be a transit corridor. What are the reasons for the delays?

- Federally funded, so it can't be delayed beyond 2024. Construction has impacts on businesses. Reasons for delay was primarily from near-term business impact.
 - The policy for the direction for the design has been set.
- Considering things as whole systems, and working to convey that attitude to constituents.
- Kevin O'Hara: Thank you for discussion regarding Lyndale and coordination with the county, request for future discussions.
 - Nervous about the designs, that negating left turns won't reduce pedestrian risk.
 - Kevin: Considering a 4 to 3 conversion.
- Nicollet Avenue
 - Still in process of being re-opened; hoping by end of year that something will be brought through the council for what to do.
 - Minneapolis 2040 and Transit Action plans will provide guidance.
 - Ward 10 will **have** to advocate for it to happen if it is going to.
 - 3 council elections in 6 years, so having other people in the ward to support the projects is helpful.
- Rachel Usher: do we have any data [o]n the increase in traffic on Lyndale and Hennepin since the 35W construction?
 - Yes, although we don't have good numbers and don't know what the long-term impacts of COVID will be on transportation; flexible work hours, or partially working from home.
 - In Minneapolis, a lot of streets are designed around the PM peak load.
- Jordan Peacock: Is there a possibility to incentivize employers to offset work hours to reduce peak PM spikes?
- **Housing/Renters**
 - 80% of Ward 10 are renters.
 - Terrified about what will happen after the eviction moratorium.
 - 2040 plan addresses some of this, along with climate changes, etc.
 - Adopted parking reform. A version of it was done by Bender in 2014. This eliminated parking requirements. 0.75 parking spaces/unit is pretty standard in Uptown.
 - Allows for smaller developments on smaller sites; not just giant, block-long properties. In-fill sites, and options open up for housing variety.
 - Parking drives so much of the design of buildings, so this makes that more flexibility.
 - Transportation Demand Management Plan, incentives are added (such as adding a transit plan for residents).
 - Fair Notice of Eviction for Tenants is in discussion. Minnesota is one of 7 states that does not require any notice.

- *Sometimes evictions have been filed that people didn't even know, because it had been filed and then they paid, and it was never rescinded.*
 - *Would give renters 14-30 days notice, and would need to be written.*
 - *There are millions of dollars available in emergency assistance.*
 - *Tenants didn't have time to access the Hennepin emergency support, and they didn't have proof since landlords weren't required to put it in writing.*
 - *Average request was \$4000, not \$300; obviously affecting renters and landlords.*
 - *Will likely have to fight it in court, as state law is not clear that this is within the purview of city government.*
 - *Tenant Opportunity to Purchase proposal is still being worked on. City Planning & Economic Development doesn't think they'll be able to complete it this year. It's been ~4 years in development. Would require building owners to offer sale of the building to tenants first.*
 - *Tenants would likely need financing, legal support opportunities.*
 - *Dane Skaar: I [read a story](#) about tenants actually collectively purchasing their apartment building in the Concoran neighborhood in Minneapolis from their landlord through a lawsuit against the property owner. It would be exciting to see a pathway put in place for more tenants possibly in the case of landlords that don't comply with housing law.*
 - *The city has money to support affordable housing, and tried to buy ~200 units in Whittier but was outbid/struggles to move quickly enough.*
 - *TOPA in DC is distinct from San Francisco, in that buyers can resell at a profit. Not a judgment.*
- **American Rescue Plan**
 - *\$271m to Minneapolis, available for 3 years.*
 - *Federal government has provided guidance for how it can be spent.*
 - *Mayor will propose his budget June 17th.*
 - *Cities are doing different tranches of funding. 50-70 is expected for this year, particularly for community supports, housing assistance, safety, etc.*
 - *Does not think the mayor is offering stakeholder meetings.*
 - *Council is trying to get a hearing for public comment before reviewing.*
 - *Committee of the Whole: Jeremiah Ellison has been hosting panels to inform the public on how to think about the American Rescue Plan dollars.*

- *Previously, mayors from other cities.*
 - *Then community & academic experts on the effects of the pandemic on our community.*
 - *The rest will likely be rolled into the traditional budgeting process.*
 - *The school district is getting \$250m as well, and the county and the state are getting their own funding as well.*
- Election of LHENA Board Officers - *Paul Shanafelt*
 - **President**
 - *Eric Ortiz was nominated and elected.*
 - **Vice-President**
 - *Katie-Mae Dickinson was nominated and elected.*
 - **Secretary**
 - *Jordan Peacock was nominated and elected.*
 - **Treasurer**
 - *Kevin O'Hara was nominated and elected.*
- Executive Director's Report - *Paul Shanafelt*
 - Q&A
 - New staff introduction - *Nassise Geleta*
 - Update on Covid-19 guidelines/restrictions for LHENA
 - City is not opening things up until after Labor Day
 - We could poll the community on best practices.
 - Katie-Mae: Having a virtual meeting supports accessibility, but keeping some ability to attend virtually could have its benefits.
 - Dane Skaar: Facebook Live option, video conferencing, but may require dedicated personnel.
 - Bridget Pooley (+1 for hybrid)
 - Mariah: Decision for every meeting, for each committee?
 - Paul: Our board would need to lift the policy to allow in-person meetings, but could empower committees to decide to go either way.
 - Rachel Usher: what are the technology options at scout for video conferencing (for meeting in person and being accessible virtually)?
 - Paul: It exists, although how well it will work is unknown until we attempt it.
 - Kevin: Really wants to meet in person, but finds the chat option is great, particularly for less extroverted.
 - Pete: Encourages planning outdoor gatherings, recommend holding off on officially moving in-person for another month or two. Ability to engage even when out of town via hybrid.
 - Bridget: Used to broadcast on Youtube, and people could type in comments/monitor comments.

- *New developments*
 - *Expansion of Rex26. Would demolish 1 multi-residential structure.*
 - *2003 Aldritch is back; resubmitted for land use application. It's now a 5-story structure, will be at the June Z&P meeting.*
 - *Board discussion: assessing public safety & racial justice group - Eric Ortiz*
 - *Subcommittee created last June. Had less participation in monthly meetings. Wanted to get a sense from the neighborhood and the board as to whether it should continue, and in what form?*
 - *General feedback: there *is* a role, if only for education and resource coordination.*
 - *Next steps will be to solicit feedback from the community, and then restructure as needed.*
 - *Replacing the Southwest Journal*
 - *Eric: Formalizing a model for a pilot project for having an organization that is a news service that provides stories/details to other publications.*
 - *Volunteer Needs*
 - *Updates/Q&A*
- *New Business & Announcements*
- *Adjourn*