



South Uptown Neighborhood Association (SUNA) November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- ★ Jenna Egan, Phil Qualy, Rachel Starcher, Joel Chechik, Katy Briggs, Gretchen Sieger

Agenda / Meeting Notes

Introductions/ Announcements, Katy Briggs

- No announcements

Approve Agenda & 10/18 Minutes, Katy Briggs (Vote)

- Motion to approve agenda
 - Approved
- Motion to approve minutes
 - Approved

Bryant Square Park, Jason Green (Update)

- Transitional season- changing from Fall to Winter and Spring activities
- Hockey boards are up
- 2 full co-ed Volleyball teams; Jason got to sub for coaching recently
- 1 more group reached out to play next year
- Concert series- extended invitation to book slots
 - Secured Wookiefoot for free last year (usually costs \$15K to book) = win!
- Lights on in the park - they come on at 4:30-4:45; off by 8:45
- Bus stop on 31st and Bryant- is someone planning on reaching out to MTC to remove the bus shelter
 - Scott reached out and MPRB said it is MTC who said it is the City
 - They will take out the bus shelter next year

- January 21, 2023 is the Luminary skating event
- Phil Qualy offered to give free skating lessons to kids and adults

Lyn-Lake Business Association, Morgan Luzier (Update)

- Lyn-Lake Street Art Festival event will take place the third weekend in July
- Efforts to strengthen the business corridor, including organizing the LynLake Street Art Festival, for which LLBA is seeking City Great Street Grant funds
- SUNA President has drafted a letter of support for the grant
- LLBA- overview:
 - They are pretty loose; with COVID and George Floyd disruptions, they stopped asking for membership dollars
 - Trying just to keep communication open, forward grant opportunities, bring awareness to grant opportunities
 - They put on one event each year- this is the sixth year!
 - SUNA was generous last year and gave money
 - They pay the artists and work with small businesses to identify sites for murals (privately owned); hire skilled laborers to paint and buffer/prepare the walls for the murals
- Are there volunteer jobs or opportunities for the Street Art festival or LLBA in general?
 - Best thing is to show up, refer friends, encourage foot traffic and spend money at the local businesses
 - They are always looking for skills (community building)- writing newsletters, managing communications
 - It is important to find ways to bring small businesses together
- Phil got some feedback from local coffee shops about individuals who are lingering on the street and appear to be in poor health
 - If there are ever funds/resources available from a community health perspective we should look for those opportunities
 - Commercial nodes are definitely feeling the impact
 - Could apply for funds (Great Street grant) and redirect them to neighborhood security and outreach
- Motion to approve the Letter of Support for the Great Street grant
 - Approved

Lyndale Ave 4 to 3-Lane Pilot, Josh Potter (Presentation)

- Last summer, Hennepin County reconfigured the roadway, between Franklin and 31st St., from four traffic lanes to three in order to improve safety for walkers, bicyclists and motorists. Now the County wants to hear more input and talk about how the project has gone.
- Complete this [survey](#) to give input on the project.

- Hennepin County is piloting 3 lanes to measure impact on safety for all users
- Seeking feedback from everyone (pedestrians, drivers, businesses)
 - Collecting data through Feb 2023 (six month time frame- to include winter as well)
 - Upcoming Timeline
 - Late Summer to early Fall 2022 - collect feedback, measure and evaluate impact
 - Late Winter 2023 - Share results
 - Late Winter to Spring 2023 - Share outcome of pilot
- Interactive Map - bit.ly/PinLyndale
- Project Website - hennepin.us/Lyndale-avenue-safety
- Feedback received so far
 - People want a safe place to stroll and a road that slows down drivers and is safer to drive
 - People like the crossing improvements at 25th and 27th street intersections
 - People have concerns about general parking and the impact on businesses and potentially increased drive times
- Anecdotal (Katy) crossing Franklin going south, where one lane ends abruptly is tricky to see and navigate
 - A merge signs was added
- John has been driving on Lyndale- lanes are now wider and speeds seem to have increased
 - Is there speed data from before the restriping;
 - They are still in the process of analyzing that data
 - What is the plan for the bike lanes?
 - There are 2 white painted lines near the parking lane is not meant to be a bike lane
 - Mid-2023 they will look at a rebuild of Lyndale Ave from the Greenway to Franklin and will look at bike lanes then; current focus was just to reduce 4 lanes to 3
 - How does the county receive the 40 year event horizon?
 - It is hard to anticipate needs 50 years ahead. There is past history to look at, as well as, the current data they are collecting
 - Micromobility, microtransit, rideshares.. There are a lot of dynamics for the vision into the future
 - Why aren't the pedestrian islands protected by bollards?
 - Crossing improvements did not include bollards because the safety improvements were already prioritized. They aim to make improvements for safety, but not to include the bollards
 - Scott- Back in 2007-2008 was told that they needed to narrow the sidewalks at Lake/Lyndale
 - Plans to fix past mistakes? Improvements wouldn't necessarily rebuild the infrastructure. City is looking at changes to Lake Street

- Huge challenge at Lake and Lyndale as far as pedestrian safety- people want to turn left from Lake onto Lyndale- reducing pressure to be able to make a turn by having a dedicated lane/turn signal
 - Corners are very rounded on 31st, presumably to accommodate buses, however buses no longer make turns there
- Coming off of 94 going south- could use a right turn lane only
- Going north, people abuse the turn lanes and use them as additional lanes
- Lots of input from community members that it feels much calmer
- Lyndale at 49th- pedestrian island is at an apex, visibility is an issue; should ensure there is proper visibility for these on Lyndale
- Now that buses are on Lyndale- is there any way to train the MTC to stop more parallel to the curb so that cars can continue to pass (back end of bus is hanging out into the traffic lane)?
- Collecting data on car crashes / fender benders
 - Relies on an accident report, or emergency responders
 - Only have data before the change, not after (yet)
- Type of data being collected: Intersection counts (users- walking, biking), speed, crash / safety, MTC ridership and travel times, travel times for vehicles
 - Side streets - Aldrich, Bryant impact
 - Adjacent arterial street impact
 - Looking at 35W data as well
 - Collecting data throughout the day, multiple time frames, multiple days of the week

Board of Directors Next Steps, Katy Briggs (Discussion)

- Rachel is transitioning to the DEI Officer position
- In 2022 South Uptown hired a consultant who provided an action plan
 - Sort those recommendations into priorities (high/low)
 - As an organization, we need to do the work- the recommendations are not prescriptive
- Top priority- release a statement that demonstrates where we stand on DEI issues
- Katy will send the action plan to all Board Members (high/med/low priority)
- Rachel and Katy will work offline and present at the upcoming Board of Directors retreat in December
- \$1500 in the budget this year for DEI training
- Jenna's organization does DEI training (e.g., microaggressions) if it is not a conflict of interest
- Board Retreat - share a meal? Could happen at the Center of Belonging or BSP
 - Scott will send a Doodle Poll for availability

Treasurer's Report, Joel Chechik

- Proposed NRP Plan Modification reallocates about \$8,100. The funds come from a dormant "Improve Pedestrian Routes" fund and go into 3 projects managed by the Livability Committee that are running out of money.
 - Boulevard tree fund (\$1500)- treat the Ash trees at BSP to prevent Emerald Ash Borer disease
 - Clean neighborhood fund- Earth Day cleanup; dog poop stations, etc
 - Livability Committee would get the remaining ~5,000 for community building events
 - Must give 21 days notice; will vote on it during the January SUNA meeting (no meeting in December)
 - NRP SUNA participates since 2000; there continues to be a pool of funds available for very specific projects, but public works isn't a willing partner because it is such a small amount (\$8K)
- October financials - \$8925 expenditures
 - Only change in revenue was a small amount of fundraising
 - Not a lot of activity besides monthly recurring expenses (rent etc.)
- Balances- running \$32,326 (both TruStone accounts)
- Net increase after GTM Day will hopefully be better
- Home improvement loan program (operating for 13 years)-
 - Last year there were 2 major loans approved - low interest rate
 - Program is expiring at the end of the year
 - 3 loans in process
 - \$137K in program income available because loans were paid off
- The 1-year contract with the Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) to administer South Uptown's home loan programs will expire on December 31. The Board will need to approve another 1-year contract with a fee of \$2,500. The loan pool is down to around \$45,000, but there is more than \$135,000 in loan repayments that can be put into the pool to fund more loans.
- Scott recommends to vote to extend the contract and to reallocate funds
 - Recently reallocated \$190K
- Motion to extend
 - Approved
- Motion to reallocate funds
 - Approved
- SUDS fundraiser with LynLake Brewery
 - Not sure what our payout will be yet, but it was a full house and looked like a success
- GTTM Day is this Thursday
 - \$500 matching fund from KRC - done!
 - Board needs to participate by direct contribution, encouraging with friends and family, spreading the word
 - Development committee worked with local businesses to secure some prizes

- e.g., Gigi's cafe gift card
- Funds continue to dwindle from the City, so this is very important for us as neighbors to contribute and help make our neighborhood a great place to live and work

Adjourn (vote)

- Motion to adjourn
 - Approved

Action items

- Scott to send poll for scheduling Board Retreat
- Katy to send the DEI action plan (high/med/low priority) to all Board Members

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events

- Land Use & Transportation Committee: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 7:00PM
 - Livability & Engagement: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:30PM
 - South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 7:00PM
 - Development Committee TBD
-