



CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 11, 2012

The January Board meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board Members in attendance: Vice Chair Art Higinbotham, Secretary Ryan Fox, Judy Berge, Ed Ferlauto, Stephen Goltry, David Shirley, Craig Westgate and Mike Wilson. Staff: Monica Smith

Vice Chair Art Higinbotham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Park Siding Park Update

Adam Gordon, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) attended the meeting to discuss the force main sewer project between France Ave and Dean Parkway.

The force main follows Sunset Blvd to Depot St where it crosses the Kenilworth Trail and railroad to W 28th St. The crossing at Kenilworth will be completed by tunneling 27 feet under the active rail operation. This requires the construction of two tunneling pits, one at Depot St and the other at W. 28th St near Dean Court and adjacent to Park Siding Park.

The duration of the heavy construction will be 6-10 weeks during the winter of 2012/13, with restoration in spring 2013.

MCES has met with the Park Board to begin the discussions about the project and is seeking a temporary easement for the work on park property.

CIDNA and the Park Board were planning betterments to Park Siding Park (including installing an irrigation system for the flower beds) in 2012. MCES is requesting delays to some of the betterments. The irrigation systems could be added during the force main construction restoration. The paved areas around the gardens and the city light pole in the first flowerbed could be replaced to a design of the neighborhood's choice. The construction will allow access to the City's water system (the park's current water source is from a well). MCES would pay for these betterments thus allowing the neighborhood to redirect funds toward other projects.

Claire Ruebeck is member of CIDNA's NRP Committee and has been working with the Park Board on planning the betterments to the park. She attended the meeting to discuss the project. Claire is the liaison with Park Siding's volunteer gardeners. She supports delaying the installation of the irrigation system to prevent damage during the construction. Some of the other plans can be implemented this summer in areas that will not be affected by the construction (planting of new magnolia trees and an installation of a permanent ping-pong table).

MCES will return to CIDNA with more information as the project develops.

Council Member Report, Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

- Sidewalks need to be shoveled within 4 hours of snowfall for commercial properties and 24 hours for residential property. Call 311 to report non-compliance.
- Lunch with Lisa will be Jan 25, noon at the University of St. Thomas, Room 446. The topic will be “Downtown 100 Initiative.”
- CM Goodman’s office is tracking the proposed new development for the Weisman property and the proposed sidewalk for Sunset Blvd. If 75% of residents agree to the sidewalk, the City will support it.
- CM Goodman clarified a question about the “Downtown 2025” plan, which is a business plan created by the Downtown Council (not the City).

Sunset Boulevard

Ryan Fox reported on his meeting with Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb regarding the Sunset Boulevard reconstruction and asked for the Park Board’s support for snow removal for pedestrian access. Commissioner Tabb was supportive and needs to get an understanding from the departments involved.

MCES needs a decision from the neighborhood regarding the pedestrian trail. Ryan Fox will draft a survey for Sunset Blvd property owners regarding the placement of a sidewalk.

NRP Committee Report

The NRP Committee will not be meeting in January.

Transportation Committee Report:

In December 2011, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) authorized an additional \$450,000 to add freight rail relocation to St Louis Park and co-location on the Kenilworth Trail to the Southwest LRT DEIS as required by the Federal Transportation Authority in their preliminary approval letter.

Minnesota Department of Transportation has dropped the freight rail re-route Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and will have the issue studied more in-depth as part of the Southwest Light Rail project. As a result, Safety in the Park has dropped their lawsuit. Co-location on the Kenilworth will now be considered as an alternative and restudied, not on an EAW level but on an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) level, which is a far higher standard.

Now that co-location is being considered, Ed Ferlauto is proposing that the CIDNA Board consider a resolution requesting a reassessment of the location of the Southwest LRT. The resolution will be discussed at the February meeting of the CIDNA Board.

Midtown Greenway Coalition Report

- Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ordered Xcel to bury high-voltage power lines under E. 28th St (vs. overhead lines along the Greenway).
- The Coalition is hosting a seminar and Open House on January 21 at their headquarters at Freewheel Midtown Bike Center. The seminars will include winter biking tips and information about the potential streetcar in the Greenway.

- An apartment building is being proposed at Lyndale and 29th. Shadowing of the Greenway is concern.
- Mike Wilson and Ryan Fox to review lighting needs for CIDNA's section of the Greenway.

Weisman Project Update

CIDNA's Land Use & Development Committee had their first meeting (December 19) with the developer regarding the Weisman site (2622 W Lake St). The development will be a rental property with approximately 150 units. The next meeting is January 23.

New Business

A public hearing was held on January 9 for a Conditional Use Permit for Orange Theory Fitness (3253 W. Lake St) for the installation of one shower at the facility. Adding a shower changes the use to "major sports and health facility." Monica Smith to find out if the CUP was granted.

Brownie Lake CAC Report – Martin Richmond

The CAC has held three (of four planned) meetings to discuss the \$1 million improvements to Brownie Lake. Funding sources are Legacy Amendment, federal government and the City of Minneapolis. Needed improvements include bike trails, the sewer pumping station and access road.

Open Houses are planned to review recommendations for the Brownie Lake Area Plan: January 17 to review preliminary plans and February 14 to review the preferred option (meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center, 2101 W Franklin Ave).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, February 8 at Jones-Harrison, 6:00 p.m.

--Submitted by Monica Smith