

Lincoln Park Small Area Plan (LP / SAP)

Small Area Plan & HIA Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

5:30 pm

Police Sub-Station 2012 West Superior St.

I. Welcome, Introduction and Updates – Judd

Attendees: Gary Eckenberg (resident, past City Council, Deputy County Administrator St Louis County), Rick Ball (Executive Director, HRA), Amy Blakesly (St. Louis County Public Health), Mike Erickson (Lincoln Park Community Officer), Judy Gibbs (Park & Rec), Josh Gorham (St Louis County Public Health), Heath Hickok (Duluth Transit Authority), John Judd (Planning), Pam Kleinschmidt (resident, business owner, Citizens Patrol), Pam Kramer (Duluth LISC), Ross Lovey (Duluth Business & Economic Development), Tammie Marotta (resident, Fair Food Access Committee), Kelly Muellman (MDH), Jodi Slick (Ecolibrium 3), Heidi Timm-Bijold (Duluth Business & Economic Development), Tom Vaughn (Heritage Preservation Commission), Josh _____ (Police intern), Ethan Lang (Planning intern)

There was a short discussion about the meeting time. The date will not change (4th Wednesday of the month), but the time may be shifted to 5pm. John will notify participants.

Other announcements included an update on the Lincoln Park survey – there was a glitch with downloading the surveys completed at the Our Lincoln Park event. The Survey Monkey will be kept open longer to gather more input.

Lincoln Park SAP and HIA public meetings will be held in August and November (tentatively).

II. Review of 1 Roof Lincoln Park Neighborhood Survey, 2013 – Judd

John reviewed the results of the 1 Roof survey conducted in Lincoln Park in 2013. The survey was done in a specific target area, not the entire neighborhood. The target area included the neighborhood west of Lincoln Park (N 26th Ave W). The survey included questions on satisfaction with the neighborhood, whether residents would recommend living in the neighborhood, the length of residence in Lincoln Park, whether residents participate in activities, if neighbors can be relied on for help, what services are accessible, satisfaction with services, rating of public services, and questions about sense of safety for children and the community overall. The responses were mostly positive overall; and the relative access to goods and services was surprising for some Advisory Committee members. Food shopping was the least accessible, but was still accessible for over 50% of respondents. It was noted that Quick Trip will be coming to Lincoln Park and is known for offering more fresh food options than the Little Store. Survey respondents were less satisfied with the condition of city streets. The most telling response for safety issues was feeling unsafe when walking in the community at night.

Heath offered the ability of the DTA to conduct a ridership analysis of on-boarding and off-boarding at bus stops to see where riders are coming and going. The DTA routes 1, 2, and 3 have the highest ridership and provide access to lots of medical services and pharmacies.

Judy said that Parks and Rec will be doing bike and pedestrian counts in July and September. St. Louis County also has some ped/bike counts available.

Before moving into the review of the 2012 NRP, there was some general discussion around wayfinding for the neighborhood. A suggestion was made for an SAP recommendation for a sign off of I-35 for the developing sports corridor. Josh mentioned that St. Louis County Public Health has some grant money through Parks and Rec for wayfinding. Parks and Rec has a new staff person starting July 7 to work on City-wide wayfinding issues. Additionally, MnDOT is working on revising the policy on limited attraction signage; it was suggested that the group makes sure it is at the table for these discussions.

III. Review of Priorities of Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, 2010 – Judd

Jodi Slick mentioned that Ecolibrium3 is reviewing progress on the goals and priorities identified in the 2012 NRP.

The forthcoming Duluth Housing Plan identifies the need for 4,400 new housing units across the city. The Advisory Committee noted that it would be remiss of the City to not locate some of that new housing in Lincoln Park.

Pam Kleinschmidt noted that in number of years she has been a resident in Lincoln Park there has been a lot of revitalization. Blight has improved and the neighborhood seems to be improving. She would like to see the revitalization increase home values. One area that needs to be addressed is the rhetoric – how Lincoln Park is talked about throughout the City, especially by realtors. Zillow real estate website shows significantly different statistics if you look at East Duluth versus West Duluth (school performance, housing, etc.). Realtors are telling buyers to avoid Lincoln Park if you want a return on their investment. There is a need to sit down with Duluth Realtors Association to discuss this issue and possibly create a strategic communication plan with positive messaging (this happened in a community in St. Paul).

Overall, new messaging is needed on the Western end of the City. This is/can be incorporated into the St. Louis River Corridor Coalition/project. There was also some discussion on the recent legislation that provides funding for the St. Louis River Corridor Coalition/project. The legislation was mistakenly written to exclude Lincoln Park from the new source of funding; the receiving area stops at Wade Stadium/Ore docks and extends to the West. The Advisory Committee suggested a recommendation to find other funding or clean up the legislative language to enable Lincoln Park to benefit.

In respect of time, John only reviewed the first sections of the NRP priorities and the implementation process of the SAP. The review of the specific recommendations was tabled for the next meeting. A copy of the presentation will be sent to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

IV. Lincoln Park Baseline Data , Health Impact Assessment - Muellman

Kelly briefly reviewed the extent of data included in the baseline data document that was sent out to Advisory Committee members. The Advisory Committee recommended that the demographic and socioeconomic data be broken down by the Lincoln Park *neighborhood* in addition to the Small Area Plan study area, City and State comparisons that exist now.

Regarding the crime data, it was suggested to compare calls for service related to disturbances (disturbing the peace) with how the service calls were dealt with and whether there were effective interventions

made with the property owners or tenants that have reduced subsequent calls. (A large proportion of the crimes in the neighborhood were for disturbing the peace.)

Housing issues came up again. It was noted that owner-occupied small rental housing is a new initiative in Duluth.

It was asked if the baseline data looked at the EPA Environmental Justice tool. It did not, but that will be looked into.

V. Lincoln Park SAP / HIA Stakeholder Engagement Plan – Muellman

Kelly asked Advisory Committee members to review the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan and particularly to comment on their level of interest and power in the HIA. This document can be either a public or internal document, depending on the preference of the Advisory Committee.

VI. HIA Pathway diagram – Muellman

There wasn't enough time to start talking about connecting the policies in the Small Area Plan to health outcomes. This will be featured at the HIA Training on July 16. The Advisory Committee is highly encouraged to attend the training. To RSVP, email [John Judd](mailto:John.Judd@state.mn.us), [Kelly Muellman](mailto:Kelly.Muellman@state.mn.us) or health.hia@state.mn.us.

VII. Next Meet and Adjournment - Judd

The next Lincoln Park SAP meeting will be Wednesday, July 23 at the Police Substation.