



## **LGA Board of Directors Meeting**

February 22, 2020

110 W. Grant, Community Room

**Board Members Present** – Richard Anderson, Larry Clausen, Pat Davies, Nicholas Deacon, Lee Frelich, Linda Luksan, Mary Maier, Laura Mattson, Margy Troje-Meade, John Van Heel

**Call to Order** – Nick called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

**Strategic Planning Discussion** – The LGA is a 510(c)(3) organization with a contract with the City of Minneapolis to “provide greening services in the non-traveled portion of the Greenway.” The contract is up for renewal July 1, 2020, and spells out in broad terms three areas of activities that the LGA is licensed to perform: 1) Plants, 2) Trees, and 3) Activities/Programs.

John had a recent conversation about the contract renewal process with Andrew Carlson of Public Works. Andrew recommended that LGA formally submit any proposed changes to the contract by May 1 to give the City two months for its approval process. Laura suggested that we explore two changes: 1) when the contract renews to a different time of year and 2) making the license exclusive to LGA. It was also suggested that mention of the banner program be added to the contract and that language regarding LGA’s right to cancel the agreement with 30 days’ notice, akin to the City’s right, be added to Section 11.

Green Minneapolis has a \$750K contract with the City of Minneapolis to manage four properties that are part of the Downtown Assets Fund; Loring Greenway is not one of those properties. The Loring Greenway is also not part of the Downtown Improvement District, whose Ambassadors provide safety patrols, among other services.

The board discussed how much the LGA accomplishes via volunteer efforts and that, while the need for energetic volunteers is not a new issue, a steady stream of new residents in the neighborhood has helped the LGA replace volunteers who have aged out or otherwise discontinued their volunteer work on its behalf. The consensus is that the LGA can continue with its volunteer model rather than seek significant increases in donations to pay for contracting the work currently done by volunteers. There was little support for redeploying its resources from gardening towards significantly expanded fundraising and lobbying efforts.

Included in its bylaws is the following summary of the support and services that LGA provides:

- maintaining and nurturing the Loring Greenway trees, plants, shrubs, groundcover and flowers;
- improving the Greenway’s physical environment by adding attractive lighting, seating, location signs, attractive art and other enhancements;
- encouraging the renewal of Berger Fountain, integrating the Greenway and Loring Park;
- improving security on the Greenway;
- programming events and activities for the Greenway.

**Safety** – Ideas for improving safety on the Loring Greenway include the following:

- participating in meetings of the newly formed Hennepin Avenue Safety Committee and Nicollet Avenue Safety Coalition, both of which Larry attends;
- contracting for security services through Green Minneapolis, through the Downtown Improvement District (although the latter may pose a conflict with the services provided by the Public Works employee assigned to the Loring Greenway), or through another party;

- installing security cameras along the Loring Greenway;
- encouraging Greenway users to report illegal or threatening activity.

LGA does not currently budget to fund security services and needs to understand the associated costs of doing so. Pat will check with Beth Shogren of Green Minneapolis regarding the estimated cost of security services for the Loring Greenway.

**Volunteers** – It was MOVED and SECONDED that a Volunteer Recruitment Task Force be formed to develop a plan for bolstering the volunteer function of the LGA. One of the questions they would explore is whether we need a volunteer coordinator. Mary brought a draft of a role description for a Gardening Coordinator who would be engaged as an Independent Contractor to coordinate volunteer gardening efforts. Nick will ask Steve Cooper whether LGA could engage him to provide a legal review of the role description. After discussion, the task force motion was WITHDRAWN.

**Fundraising** – Laura coordinated a meeting with Millennium Hotel staff to discuss ways they might support the LGA. They are open to ideas such as hosting LGA events or providing refreshments for Saturday gardening days, which in turn would help to raise neighborhood awareness and use of their facilities. In his follow-up to them, Nick will include a request for a cash donation.

With Greg Gaut’s resignation from the board, the Fundraising Committee chair is open. Laura agreed to take on that role instead of chairing the Communications Committee. She distributed a summary of the \$58,682 in donations received in 2019. The board thanked Laura for her terrific efforts in 2019 in the fundraising role.

**Committees** – The Communications Committee will disband as a formal committee for the remainder of 2020. Laura and Linda will continue to provide communication support via Facebook, email blasts and website updates. The updated 2020 committee rosters are as follow:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Committee Members Who Are Also Directors*</b>
Communications	<i>Inactive</i> -----	
Events	<i>Inactive</i> -----	
Executive	Nick	Claire, Linda, Richard
Finance	Richard	Claire, Linda, Nick
Fundraising	Laura	Building reps (Claire, Larry, Margy, Pat, Richard, +1 TBD) and John
Gardening	Mary	Claire, Lee, Nick, Richard
Infrastructure	John	Laura, Larry, Linda, Margy, Mary, Merry
Safety	Larry	John, Mary, Richard
Trees	Lee	Mary

\*Some committees have additional members who are not on the LGA Board of Directors.

**Accounting Services** – We will not be renewing the contract with Sara Lassila, CPA, Inc. She will complete the financial reports for 2019. Richard recommended that we engage the excellent accountant used by Friends of Loring Park. It was MOVED and SECONDED that we engage Sannerud, Savarese & Associates, P.A. (SSA), for our accounting and tax-filing needs. Motion CARRIED. The Executive Committee and Pat will meet with SSA to discuss the scope of work and the associated contract for those services. In the meantime, Richard will provide any financial reports that the board needs to conduct its financial oversight. The next fundraising letter will not go out until the new accountant is up and running.

**Adjournment** – 11:40 AM

**Next Board Meeting** – Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 110 W. Grant, Community Room.

**NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MARCH MEETING!**