



**LGA Board of Directors Meeting**  
June 10, 2020, 5:00 PM, via Zoom

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

**Guest** – Maureen Meier, resident of Loring Green East

**Call to Order** – Nick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Election** – It was MOVED and SECONDED that Maureen Meier be elected to the board as an at-large member. Motion CARRIED.

**Business Conducted via Email** – Since our last in-person meeting in February, the following business was conducted via email:

- The Executive Committee approved an annual contract with Betsy O’Berry, CPA at Sannerud, Savarese & Associates, P.A., for accounting and tax-filing services.
- It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 2019 financial reports prepared for the LGA by Sara Lassila, CPA, be approved. Motion CARRIED.
- It was MOVED and SECONDED that Nick sign and send a letter (see Appendix) to Council Member Lisa Goodman on behalf of the LGA Board of Directors to request help addressing the unsafe activity and property damage being done on the Loring Greenway by skateboarders. Motion CARRIED.
- It was MOVED and SECONDED that the LGA Safety Committee evaluate all options to prevent skateboarders from inappropriate use of skateboards on the fragile pyramids and tiles near the areas of the Hyatt Hotel and the Nicollet Mall. Alternatives will be measured against the following criteria: cost, design, integration with existing structures, timely installation and permanency. Some of the options to be considered will include railings, moveable components such as planters, and products that can be attached directly to the tile surfaces. Key contacts will be Mark Clark and Andrew Carlson in the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department and trade/craftsmen who will be responsible for installation of permanent components. Recommendations will be made directly to the LGA Executive Committee, who will act on behalf of the LGA Board to expedite decision-making and speed up activation of whatever option(s) are approved. Motion CARRIED.
- It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following revisions be made to the proposed five-year greening agreement with the City of Minneapolis:
  - that the term of the agreement be in effect through December 31, 2024 (instead of ending mid-summer), and
  - that under section 11 Cancellation, Default and Remedies, the agreement read "Both the City and the LGA may cancel this Agreement with or without cause upon providing thirty (30) days’ notice." (This is in lieu of the current language, "The City may cancel this Agreement with or without cause upon providing thirty (30) days’ notice to the licensee.")

Motion CARRIED.

**Last Meetings' Minutes** – It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the January and February 2020 meetings be approved. Motion CARRIED.

**Treasurer's Report** – It was MOVED and SECONDED to approve the financial report. Motion CARRIED.

**Committee Reports –**

*Fundraising* – Laura and Linda are entering donations into Little Green Light as they come in. The solicitation letter to the building associations will go out this summer.

*Gardening* – Volunteer work continues with social distancing, masks, a checkout system for shared tools and other precautions. The Adopt-a-Garden program is functioning well, with all sections of the Loring Greenway covered. There have been three plantings of annuals; perennials will be planted next week. Pruning, composting, mulching and placement of boulders have been contracted out. At least 83 annuals (~\$500 worth) have been systematically stolen so far this year; the culprits seem to have an eye for design and are discriminating about the type and quantity of each item that they are stealing. The thefts have been reported to the police. Similar thefts are happening in Loring Park.

*Trees* – Per Lee's recommendation, we are doing only Emerald Ash Borer treatment this year, no fertilization.

*Infrastructure* – The greening agreement with the City is up for renewal in July; John has sent our proposed revisions to Public Works. Three accessible route signs are now in place on the Loring Greenway! There are many ideas under consideration for making the tile berm near Nicollet Mall unattractive to skateboarders. John will convene a Zoom meeting of the Infrastructure and Safety Committees to evaluate the options; Maureen suggested we get input from skateboarders before deciding and find out whether the brightly colored "no skateboarding" signage on Peavey Plaza (managed by Green Minneapolis) has been effective. The fence behind the shed was recently painted by Public Works and they will be painting the trash receptacles soon. Given recent and current events, the spring walk-through with Public Works hasn't been scheduled.

*Safety* – Hennepin County is exploring hotel options for homeless shelters, and the Millennium Hotel is currently providing such housing. Larry is trying to get up to speed on what is planned short- and long-term. Skateboarders continue to be a risk to pedestrian safety.

**Other Business –**

Laura agreed to publish, with Linda's help as editor, a monthly newsletter that positively reflects the work of the LGA, provided that other board members provide enough content for each issue.

The table and chairs near the gardening shed have been relocated per an adjacent resident's request. Mary has the furniture touch-up paint at her place. Larry will check with Loring Green West and the Hyatt Hotel to discuss storage options for both the furniture and the paint.

Merry and Larry will meet to discuss ways LGA might be able to work with Green Minneapolis.

Lee is discontinuing his coordination of the LGA memorial plaque program. Pat, Maureen and Lee volunteered to develop a draft policy/program for how donors of large sums, and for those desiring to make memorial donations, should be recognized.

Board members need to recruit new board members and volunteer for the 2021 officer positions.

Ameriprise made a large donation to the LGA via Green Minneapolis. Merry is looking for volunteers to help her identify projects for the Loring Greenway that might be good uses for the funds.

**Adjournment** – 7:05 PM

**Next Board Meeting** – Wednesday, July 8, 2020, via Zoom

## APPENDIX



May 1, 2020

Council Member Lisa Goodman  
Minneapolis City Council, Ward 7  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Council Member Goodman:

The Loring Greenway Association (LGA) is alarmed about the escalating problem of skateboarders congregating on the Nicollet Avenue side of the Loring Greenway adjacent to the fountain. Groups of skateboarders are using the pyramids and fragile tile structures for activities that are not only causing significant damage to City property but also threatening the safety of pedestrians, many who are older and susceptible to significant bodily injury. We expect the problem to worsen when the Park Board closes neighboring skate-board parks.

As you know, the LGA works closely with the City Department of Public Works as established under contract, to maintain garden and greenspaces along the Greenway. We also have a vested interest in preserving architecture of the Greenway tilework, which due to its age, is very expensive to repair when damage occurs. We believe that Public Works shares our vision of preservation of the Greenway based on their commitment to maintenance and repairs.

Because of our concerns regarding both public safety and preserving important City property, we need your help to increase police observation and contact with skateboarders to urge their compliance with the current prohibition of using the Greenway for skateboarding activities. We hope that police contact would also lessen activity in other locations proximate to the Greenway where potential for property damage and pedestrian injury is high.

Our request would be based on police availability during the stay-at-home decrees established by both the Governor and Mayor Frey, with the understanding that police presence would likely diminish when businesses and other entities located in the First Precinct resume operations.

We sincerely hope that you will give close consideration to our request and endorse the idea with the Minneapolis Police Department. Having a window of intervention would allow various stakeholders of the Greenway sufficient time to create and implement more permanent measures to protect pedestrians and preserve valuable City assets.

Loring Greenway Association  
P.O. Box 582031, Minneapolis, MN 55458-2031  
[www.loringgreenway.org](http://www.loringgreenway.org)

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If you have questions or would like to engage in further discussion, please contact Larry Clausen, Chairperson of the LGA Safety Committee. He can be reached at [clausenlsc@yahoo.com](mailto:clausenlsc@yahoo.com) or at 602/592-3343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick / D" followed by a flourish.

Nicholas Deacon, President  
Loring Greenway Association

CC: Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis  
Lieutenant Mark Klukow, Minneapolis Police Department, First Precinct  
Renee Allen, Minneapolis Police Department, First Precinct  
Robin Hutcheson, Director, Minneapolis Public Works  
Jana Metge, Nicollet Avenue Safety Coalition  
Chad Preese, Director of Safety & Security, Hyatt Hotel, Downtown  
P.J. Eichten, Director of Facilities, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Shane Zahn, Downtown Improvement District