

Minutes of February 18, 2021
LYNAS Annual Meeting on Zoom

Board Members and Staff Present: Paul Daggett, Kevin Ehlert, Carrie McCormick, Peter Nussbaum, Mike O'Brien, Clare Padgett, Steve Prentice, Paul Ragozzino, Nancy Selz and Ruth Olson

Guests: Approximately 35 other neighbors and presenters

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Welcome and Board Elections: Peter welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and reviewed the highlights of the past year and plans for 2021, dependent on public health guidelines. Peter recognized retiring Board Members Kevin Ehlert, Victoria Johnson, Carrie McCormick and Jonathan Parke. Due to the virtual nature of the Annual Meeting, elections were held online for 7 days prior to the meeting. Peter welcomed returning Board Members Mike O'Brien, Paul Ragozzino and Andrea Vorachek and new Board Members Beth Ashbrook, Mary Buss-Carroll, Ellen Share and Logan Warren.

Bryant Avenue Reconstruction: Trey Joiner and Bev Warmka of Minneapolis Public Works presented an overview and project goals of the 2.5 mile stretch of Bryant Avenue which will be reconstructed in 2022-2023. They are currently in the Concept Design Phase with a Revised Design Concept expected by March/April 2021. After that, detailed engineering designs will be generated and construction will take place in phases in 2022-2023.

The road has an effective 55 foot Right of Way for them to work with. Their options for design within that space were Bikeways & Transit (keep bike paths and busses on Bryant), Bikeway (leave bike paths, move transit to Lyndale and add green infrastructure) or Transit (move bike paths and leave busses on Bryant.) For several reasons, including meeting city-wide goals and policy, the Bikeway option was chosen.

Several questions were posed about business parking, residential parking, bike paths and accountability (see attachment):

- The recommended reduced parking “right sizes” the need for the area based on traffic counts done in March 2018. Even though these counts were pre-COVID, they feel that they are accurate for future planning. The reduced parking will allow for slower traffic speeds.
- The amount of parking proposed is adequate on Bryant given the availability of additional parking on the side streets.
- The concerns about safety and increased crime is indicative of current factors, they expect this uptick will not continue. The plan is forward thinking and being designed for the foreseeable future, not right now. Residents expressed concern homeowners/visitors to Bryant Ave homes will have to park on side streets and walk up to 200 ft. in the dark.
- The ADA concerns are addressed through a holistic view of the project. The overall plan allows for safer crossings, ample space for walking and snow storage, slower speeds to cross the street, etc. These things are ADA friendly; not every ADA possibility (access to individual property) can be met.
- Bike lanes were considered on either Colfax or Aldrich, but Bryant is the better option due to street widths, lack of one-ways, through street, etc.
- Accountability: They need to meet the project goals, which they feel the proposed plan does. But they will go back and review all of the feedback they have received and consider changes in the Revised Design Concept.
- City Council gives the final approval.

- Residential deliveries (like Amazon) know how to deal with no parking streets. They may park on a side street and work within the limits, but also may at times use the street.
- There are no plans to extend the bike lanes south of 50th St; it is possible they will extend north of Lake Street at some point in the future.
- Moving busses to Lyndale may affect the businesses on Bryant. They will have to look at making some changes on Lyndale to accommodate the bus traffic.
- Resident concern: The proposal of no parking 47th-49th street is not a fair allocation of parking along the entire corridor. Those homes are shouldering the burden of the decreased parking goal more than other blocks.

Additional comments and questions can be directed to Trey (jerome.joiner@minneapolismn.gov and Public Works directly.

Council Member Linea Palmisano:

- Ward 13 Council Member Palmisano acknowledged that the residents of the 4700-4900 blocks of Bryant don't feel heard about their concerns over the lack of proposed parking on their blocks and that this is a valid concern. She would like the process to consider larger alternatives (like one-way traffic) prior to being presented to the City Council. She understands that a slower corridor on Bryant is needed. Assessments for the reconstruction are calculated by a standard formula and property owners are not being charged extra for facilities like green space and bike lanes.
- CM Palmisano attends as many neighborhood meetings as she can and is open to e-mails and calls.
- CM Palmisano introduced the new 5th Precinct Inspector, Katie Blackwell. Inspt. Blackwell has been working in leadership and training within MPD. She has graduate degrees, is a member of the National Guard and has family who lives in the 5th Precinct.

Minneapolis Police Department: Inspt. Blackwell provided a 2021 crime overview. The 5th Precinct has experienced 19% of the violent crime in the city, but Lynnhurst is at 0%. There have been reports of business burglary, theft from motor vehicles, catalytic converter thefts, and car thefts. A lot of these are crimes of opportunity. There has been a general uptick in auto theft- it is important to not leave your car running and to remove any valuables from your car. Operation Safety Net is the plan to keep the community safe during the trial of Derek Chauvin. They expect a lot of people from outside Minneapolis to come for the trial. Peaceful protests will be allowed, but they will not allow unlawful behavior. MPD asks for patience as road closures and other such maneuvers will be used to maintain safe boundaries. They are especially preparing a response for the time around the verdict. Staffing levels are definitely down. They are getting help from outside agencies and officers are working overtime. A training academy class just started this week.

Closing Comments: Peter thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to pay attention to the newsletter, e-news and social media for information on issues that impact Lynnhurst neighborhood.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by LYNAS Board President: _____

Signed: _____

Secretary