

## 1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

### Linden Hills Neighborhood Council

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact: [Becky Allen](#)

Organization Address: [PO Box 24049](#)

Organization Address 2: [Minneapolis, MN](#)

Organization ZIP: [55424](#)

Organization Email Address: [info@lindenhills.org](mailto:info@lindenhills.org)

Organization Phone Number: [612-926-2906](#)

## 3. ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: [www.lindenhills.org](http://www.lindenhills.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/120088258007502/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/120088258007502/)

Twitter:

Other: [www.instagram.com/linden\\_hills\\_council](https://www.instagram.com/linden_hills_council)

## 4. DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL

Once your board has reviewed this draft annual report, please provide the date of the meeting at which the board approved submission of this report to NCR. Note: Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR.

**03/05/2019**

# Community Participation Program

## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2018?

### 5. MEETINGS (please check all that apply)

- ☒ Held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that are open to all stakeholders
- ☒ Held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to gather input from residents and other stakeholders for a neighborhood specific initiative
- ☒ Hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input - such as a development proposal, transit planning or public works project
- ☒ Conducted one or more focus groups

### 6. DOOR-TO-DOOR (please check all that apply)

Door-Knocking (with goal of face-to-face engagement)

- ☐ At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- ☐ At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- ☐ For more than one issue/outreach effort
- ☐ On a routine basis
- ☐ Conducted primarily by staff members
- ☐ Conducted primarily by volunteers
- ☐ Carried out primarily to increase membership and participation
- ☐ Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

### 7. Approximately how many households did you reach through DOOR-KNOCKING in 2018?

8. **FLYERING** (please check all that apply)

Distributing flyers (dropping literature at doors)

- ☐ At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- ☒ At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- ☒ Carried out primarily to inform and increase membership and participation
- ☒ Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

9. **Approximately how many households did your organization reach through FLYERING in 2018?**

3600

10. **EVENTS** (please check all that apply)

- ☒ Staffed a booth or table at neighborhood event or other community event that included sign-up sheets, surveys or information about your organization
- ☒ Organized one or more issue specific event (such as a safety forum, housing fair, Open Streets, Creative Citymaking, etc.)
- ☒ Organized smaller events for specific outreach to target audiences (e.g., sidewalk tabling to reach renters, lemonade stands, tabling at Farmer's Market, etc.)

11. **COMMUNICATION** (please fill in all that apply)

Print a paper newsletter  
(If so, at what frequency?)

The Line print newsletter is bi-monthly and distributed by hand to each home, apartment/condo building and business.

Number of subscribers to  
your email list

1241

Number of followers on  
Facebook and Twitter Combined

1588 (Facebook) / 147 (Instagram)

12. **OTHER** (please check all that apply)

- ☒ Conducted at least one community-wide survey (such as a random sample or all-household survey)
- ☒ Conducted another form of survey (e.g., intercept survey)
- ☐ Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented

**Other activities** (please describe here):

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

### Minneapolis 2040

Last May, we set up a 2040 information booth at our annual festival, which attracted more than 3000 people. We provided information, large maps, a comment board and graphic illustrator to translate conversations and comments into a visual medium. In connection to this effort, we also collected responses online and, using these comments, drafted a response to 2040, that we shared with the neighborhood, as well as our City Council Member Linea Palmisano and Heather Worthington. Then in October, we worked with Linea Palmisano's office to organize and publicize a public meeting on the second 2040 draft; it attracted more than 100 people. We used this opportunity to gather more feedback via a survey at the event, as well as collected feedback again online. We then organized the feedback, shared it with our council person and used it to draft another 2040 response.

Finally, we shared the 2040 results with our residents via all of our communication modes: website, newsletter, e-news and social media.

### Southwest Area Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

We collaborated with other nearby neighborhood councils/associations to nominate LHiNC board member Jana Griffin to the Southwest Area Master Plan CAC. She has been serving on the CAC for the past year and reporting on its progress. To support MPRB and the CAC's efforts, LHiNC organized and hosted an ice cream social gathering in August at the Linden Hills Park to gather feedback from our neighbors about what ideas of our community park spaces. We are planning another community workshop to review the designs of this project and collect feedback in March 2019.

### Environmental & Sustainability Committee

LHiNC's Environmental & Sustainability Committee built a sub-committee of LHiNC board members, Linden Hills Business Association members and community members to address issues regarding the "pocket park" in downtown Linden Hills, located at the NW corner of 43rd and Upton. Working with all interested parties, including the building owners, they developed a project to create a well-maintained, inviting space for the community. LHiNC funded the project, which includes more seating, umbrellas for shade, a dog-waste station, signage recognizing it as a community space, and a maintenance plan.

LHiNC's Environmental Committee is also collaborating with several neighborhood associations and concerned residents from around Lake Harriet to call attention to and address the milfoil issue in the lake.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### Art Shanty Projects

The Linden Hills Neighborhood Council through funding and general support helped facilitate Art Shanty Projects move from White Bear Lake to Lake Harriet in 2018. In its debut year on Lake Harriet, the frozen art festival, featuring 22 artist-designed shanties and dozens of live performances, attracted more than 40,000 visitors over four weekends out onto Lake Harriet. The LHiNC Board constructed its own Art Shanty for the event; it was displayed by the Bandshell and shared Linden Hills history with attendees. The Art Shanty was unable to return to Lake Harriet in

2019 because of funding issues. LHiNC has continued to work with the group - providing feedback, publicity and financial support - to ensure the return of the festival in 2020.

#### Lake Harriet Kite Festival

The Lake Harriet Kite Festival attracts hundreds every year for a day full of outdoor fun, both on and off the ice, including kite building, kite flying, snow shoeing, naturalist-guided hikes, fat tire biking, ice fishing, music and food. LHiNC collaborates with Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board and East Harriet Neighborhood Association to plan this free family-oriented outdoor event for all ages and abilities. LHiNC participates in all planning sessions, sponsors free s'mores and firepit station, provides the Zero-waste stations and signage, and helps with sponsorship acquisition and publicity.

#### Linden Hills Festival

The annual Linden Hills Festival is an event that allows LHiNC to meet several aspects of its mission: to solicit and represent residents' perspectives regarding community issues; to increase community involvement and promote neighborhood identity; and to promote social, cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities in the area.

On Sunday, May 20th, more than 3000 people came out to celebrate at the annual Linden Hills Festival. Festival-goers were treated to a day full of food, fun and music. As stated earlier, the festival included a large 2040 informational booth to solicit feedback and educate residents about the plan. Also new this year was a Children's Stage featuring a library-sponsored story time, children's yoga, science experiments with the Bakken and Robotics with a SWHS group. The festival also featured a bike parade, local musicians, local food vendors, the new Beer Garden, the arts and vendor marketplace, kids games, crafts & face painting, bounce houses/inflatables, used book sale, and more. LHiNC now also collaborates with the Linden Hills Farmers Market. The market's opening weekend is held at the park in conjunction with the festival.

#### Nice Neighbors Day

Each year, the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council organizes a day of community volunteering to provide residents the opportunity to give back to their neighborhood, while forming connections with their neighbors. This year, LHiNC also used Nice Neighbors Day to partner with the city's Litter Be Gone campaign. On October 6, 2018, more than 2-dozen people participated in four neighborhood projects: constructing a new rain garden in the Trolley Path, care and maintenance of plants along 44th Street business district, organizing books at Linden Hills Library, and pulling invasive plants in William Berry Woods.

#### Taste of Linden Hills

We collaborated with eleven of our neighborhood restaurants to organize our annual Taste of Linden Hills fundraiser - all proceeds benefit LHiNC's neighborhood grants program. On October 2, 2018, more than 175 people came out to support the third annual Taste of Linden Hills hosted by the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) and Rose Street Patisserie. The event raised more than \$8000 for LHiNC's grants program that supports projects and organizations that make Linden Hills a better place to live and work.

#### LHiNC Grants Program

LHiNC continued to award almost \$10,000 in grant money to groups, projects and programs that make Linden Hills a better place. LHiNC raises this money through its annual fundraiser Taste of Linden Hills. This year's recipients included:

## **Fall 2018**

### Prime Time at Southwest High School: \$1000

This grant will provide healthy and nutritious meals to students participating in the after-school Prime Time program at Southwest High School. The mission of Prime Time is to encourage diverse students to fully engage in the SWHS community by participating in after-school activities. The goal is to assist students to connect, achieve, and thrive personally as SWHS and Linden Hills community members.

### SHINE Program – RUBIES Robotics Team, SWHS: \$820

This grant will fund a STEM outreach program created by the RUBIES, an all-girls, Linden Hills-based robotics team. The SHINE program is an initiative to promote access to STEM education for all students regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic background. SHINE accomplishes its mission by engaging students from underrepresented and diverse areas through enriching STEM activities.

### The Southwest Lakes Community Choir: \$960

This grant will fund scholarships for Southwest Minneapolis residents who would like to participate in the choir but cannot afford the registration fee. The Southwest Lakes Community Choir's mission is: 1) to provide choir members with a welcoming environment and an opportunity to develop and improve musical and performance skills, and 2) to enrich the community through choral performance.

## **Spring 2018**

### Lake Harriet Lower and the STEAM program: \$1200

This grant will support the elementary school's library/media classroom in its transition to a "Makerspace model", an approach that allows students to develop skills in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). The grant will specifically go towards games and furniture that support and encourage exploration, discovery and teamwork in those areas.

### Midwest Food Connection: \$800

This grant will support the work of Midwest Food Connection, providing interactive lessons on local and global cuisine to elementary school students in the Linden Hills neighborhood. This group educates students on topics such as nutrition, agriculture and gardening, and the historical and cultural context of food.

### Southwest FTC Robotics: \$1000

Inspired by the RUBIES (the all-female, high school robotics team that we have funded in the past), this group wants to make robotics more broadly available to local middle school students. Through this program, students design, build, and program a robot to compete in a sports-like event. Students gain valuable teamwork experience through real-life applications of science and technology, as well as experience in marketing, public speaking, and community outreach.

### Eric Peterson scholarships: \$2000

Each spring, LHiNC awards a \$1000 scholarship to two SWHS seniors selected by the school for their dedication to community service, in memory of a past board member who dedicated his life to serving others.

Georgia Pharris - Georgia is attending Smith College and is currently undecided on her intended major. Since kindergarten, she has been involved in Girl Scouts and has grown to be a leader for her troop. She has co-led "Encampment," a weekend-long camp for the last 4 years, planning activities and co-facilitating. She has moved into facilitating troop meetings for Daisies and Brownies and, after completing training to be a Girl Scout counselor, Georgia will work at Camp Northwoods this summer.

Spencer Rasmussen - Spencer is attending St. Olaf in the fall and plans to major in biology. In addition to being an excellent student, Spencer has volunteered for a program called Circle of Friends, a program that partners students with another who has developmental disabilities, for the past 4 years. He has found this experience to be extremely rewarding, sharing that he has learned "no good deed is too small."

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

For our annual Linden Hills Festival, LHiNC partnered for a second year in a row with the Linden Hills Farmers Market, holding both events simultaneously at the Linden Hills Park - bringing a larger sense of community to the event. We also table at the Farmers Market for LHiNC events.

LHiNC partnered with the Southwest Alumni Foundation to show support for the transition of principals at the high school - in print and by attending Dr. Favor's Welcome Ceremony.

LHiNC partnered with Council Member Linea Palmisano to hold a Minneapolis 2040 meeting in October 2018.

LHiNC partnered with the Linden Hills Business Association and concerned citizens to organize a community effort to beautify and maintain the Pocket Park in front of Linden43, as well as make it welcoming to neighbors and visitors alike.

LHiNC is continuing to work with the Linden Hills Business Association on a streetscape project, with a goal of updating and beautifying the neighborhood's business district. We also support each other in our events through sponsorship, publicity and volunteers.

LHiNC partners with the larger MPRB for the Lake Harriet Kite Festival and our work with the Southwest Area Master Plan CAC and our local Linden Hills Park to help organize, sponsor and publicize events like: Corn Feed (August), Winter Festival (January).

LHiNC partners with the Linden Hills Library and Friends of Linden Hills Library for our annual festival. Last year, LHiNC invited them to be a featured guest on our Children's stage and provided them with a free booth in our marketplace to publicize summer programming. LHiNC also partners with the Friends of Linden Hills for the Used Book Sale at the festival every year.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

- New Bike Racks at Linden Hills Park, Pershing Park, Southwest High School, Lake Harriet Bandshell and Sheridan and 43rd business district. New bike maintenance stations at Linden Hills Park and Lake Harriet Bandshell.
- Trolley Path Garden maintenance and historic signage.
- Funds to install new gardens surrounding the Minnesota Streetcar Museum • Major sponsorship of the Art Shanty Project's first year at Lake Harriet

- Sponsoring publicity and music for LHBA's first Wine and Stroll event
- Planning, building and setting up the LHiNC Art Shanty on Lake Harriet
- Purchasing more environmentally-friendly pavers (porous vs. concrete) for the pocket park, part of the Linden43 project
- New bench in Roberts Bird Sanctuary

**13. Please provide an estimate of VOLUNTEER HOURS provided to your organization in 2018**

1700

**14. How did your organization reach out to under-represented groups in your neighborhood? (please check all that apply)**

- ☐ Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood
- ☐ Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages
- ☐ Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages
- ☒ Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach renters
- ☒ Targeted tabling at other events or locations (such as farmers markets, cultural events, etc.)
- ☐ Held focus groups or open meeting formats for under-represented communities
- ☐ Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with under-represented constituencies in the neighborhood
- ☐ Included an Americans with Disabilities Act statement on meeting and event notices
- ☒ Reviewed participation activities, and identified new leaders and volunteers for volunteer, committee and board participation
- ☒ Held one-time/pop up events in areas of the neighborhood that don't often have neighborhood meetings

**Other activities** (please describe here):

**15. What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your Stakeholder Involvement? What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?**

LHiNC is working to develop better civic engagement - to solicit feedback from as many residents as possible. We want to make all stakeholders feel part of the process, better connected to their city and neighborhood. This year, that took the form of our 2040 engagement in the



neighborhood (as outlined above), as well as a community meeting around the Southwest Area Master Plan for MPRB. We plan to continue that engagement through a summer door knock and a new renter outreach effort.

LHiNC also involves stakeholders from the community through each of its four main committees: Communications, Environment & Sustainability, Events, and Zoning and Housing. Each committee has non-board members who participate in committee meetings, events and projects. LHiNC also works with hundreds of volunteers each year through events and projects throughout the neighborhood to help bring the community together.

This year, LHiNC has also invested in a new website to facilitate better online outreach, as well as adding an instagram account. This is in addition to our other communications, which include a bimonthly print newsletter, monthly e-newsletter and a Facebook Group.

Finally, as stated above, LHiNC continually meets and partners with Linden Hills groups, businesses, schools and more to collaborate on neighborhood efforts, priorities and events, including:

- For our annual Linden Hills Festival, LHiNC partnered for a second year in a row with the Linden Hills Farmers Market, holding both events simultaneously at the Linden Hills Park - bringing a larger sense of community to the event. We also table at the Farmers Market for LHiNC events.
- LHiNC partnered with the Southwest Alumni Foundation to show support for the transition of principals at the high school - in print and by attending Dr. Favor's Welcome Ceremony.
- LHiNC partnered with Council Member Linea Palmisano to hold a Minneapolis 2040 meeting in October 2018.
- LHiNC collaborated with eleven of our neighborhood restaurants to organize our annual Taste of Linden Hills fundraiser - all proceeds benefit LHiNC's neighborhood grants program.
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# Community Participation Program

## PLEASE DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Consider the following when describing each highlight:

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

### 17. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1

LHiNC is proud of the work it has done around the Minneapolis 2040 engagement effort. Last May, we setup a 2040 information booth at our annual festival, which attracted more than 3000 people. We provided information, large maps, a comment board and graphic illustrator to translate conversations and comments into a visual medium. In connection to this effort, we also collected responses online and, using these comments, drafted a response to 2040, that we shared with the neighborhood, as well as our City Council Member Linea Palmisano and Heather Worthington.

Then in October, we worked with Linea Palmisano's office to organize and publicize a public meeting on the second 2040 draft; it attracted more than 100 people. We used this opportunity to gather more feedback via a survey at the event, as well as collected feedback again online. We then organized the feedback, shared it with our council person and used it to draft another 2040 response.

Finally, we shared the 2040 results with our residents via all of our communication modes: website, newsletter, e-news and social media.

Despite our efforts, the way 2040 was handled made some residents feel like they weren't listened to. We believe it's our job as the group that represents and brings together the neighborhood to keep reaching out and asking people to be part of the process so that we can connect residents to their city and vice versa.

To continue to do this, we are planning more ways to reach out and solicit feedback: another civic-focused informational booth at this year's festival, a community meeting this month to gather opinions about park designs, a door knocking campaign this summer to better understand our neighbors' priorities, and a renter outreach program.

### 18. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

Please see attached sheet (LHiNC Year in Review)