

August 6, 2007

Amanda Arnold
Room 200, City Hall
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Ms. Arnold:

In July 2002, four neighborhoods came together, agreed to a core set of values, and worked together to engage the community to articulate a vision for South Lyndale. These four neighborhoods: Windom, Kenny, Lynnhurst, and Tangletown adopted a vision statement created by the Lyndale Avenue South Renewal – Creek to Crosstown (LASR-CC) committee.

LASR-CC Vision Statement: We envision a Lyndale Avenue South that...

1. blends the area's natural beauty, existing resources and future development to create attractive well maintained spaces with a distinct sense of place;
2. encourages a neighborhood friendly transportation environment that emphasizes pedestrian activities while accommodating vehicles;
3. fosters neighborhood focused businesses and a development climate that meets the needs of all residents.

Since the adoption of the vision statement, other projects have taken place and each project began with the vision statement. These projects include a streetscape design, development workshops, master plan, and rezoning of South Lyndale. All were open to the community through public meetings, neighborhood boards, and business representation.

LASR-CC and the Council Members office used various venues to communicate the progress of our mission. Notices were posted in neighborhood newsletters, public web sites, and a group service on the Internet. LASR-CC also used posters and flyers at neighborhood festivals to inform the public of our progress. A pivotal event occurred when LASR-CC's efforts were broadcast on public television for its clean-up event and community notification.

With the adoption of the master plan, city staff and LASR-CC began their efforts to rezone the area. Staff reviewed each parcel and aligned it with the master plan using appropriate zoning and a pedestrian overly district. The plan clearly identifies two neighborhood commercial nodes (54th and 58th Street) and the reduction in density away from the nodes. The plan was then presented to LASR-CC, neighborhood boards, and the four communities as a whole.

Ongoing progress will continue to take place as development projects come forward and the realignment of TH121 frees up real estate for redevelopment. Residents and businesses are concerned about the impact to their properties when new developments are proposed. It is our intention to partner with developers and property owners before a land use application is submitted to the city. We think that LASR-CC can play an important part in facilitating the development of a project design that best meets the functional and aesthetic needs of all who are involved. After all, the vision statement is for the community as a whole not just one development.

LASR-CC supports the rezoning study and believes city staff stayed in alignment of the vision statement and master plan. The study is another step closer to achieving the vision statement for South Lyndale. We respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support the rezoning study.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

LASR-CC Representatives:

Windom Neighborhood

Mary Ubl
Mary Petersen
Jacob Berning

Kenny Neighborhood

Glen Sprague
Bob Engstrom
Karen Gabler

Lynnhurst Neighborhood

Bud Rosenfield
Paul Lohman
Barbara Gabler
Taaron Iverson

Tangeltown Neighborhood

Suzanne Rhees
Erik Ericson

Business Representatives

Lee Bachman
Vikki Johnson