

Linden Hills Neighborhood Council Board of Directors
Minutes of Regular Meeting April 4, 2006

Present: Felicity Britton, Debbie Evans, Laurie Foster, Larry La Vercombe, Liz Loney, Gabe Graber-Mitchell, Bill Idzorek, Jack Jaglo, Doug Kenison, Ben Kolkman, Deb Pierce, Tim O'Brien, John Reinan, Kathy Urberg, Jennifer Yates Borger.

Absent: none

Also Attending: Marc Holtey, Betsy Hodges, Bill Graham, Mike Elson

Meeting called to order by Co-chair Foster

Approval of agenda and March Minutes. Approved unanimously.

Park Directors Report. Summer programs are now online and available as counter copies. Registration starts at 9am April 22nd, online and at the park. Spring Fling Egg hunt is on Saturday 15th April. Marc is working on permits for the festival. The park experienced some graffiti and went through the normal channels of calling 311 to report. Jack Jaglo commented that the removal process had been slow (approx 3 days), and could LHiNC funds or support help speed up the process. Mark to explore whether the response time was an aberration or normal and what options are available to hasten the removal time.

City Council Report: Hodges informed the Board that Graffiti removal has been slow due to a huge backlog and work load. The city has just voted for one time dollars to jump start a program that aims to get graffiti removed quickly from private property. If the property owner does not remove it quickly, the city will do it and assess the homeowner the cost. There are upcoming meetings on the Community Benefits Agreement for the City's Wifi plans. Thursday April 20 from 6-8pm at Eastside Neighborhood Services (1700 2nd Street NE, Mpls); and May 3 from 6-8pm at Waite House (2529 13th Avenue South, Mpls). You can also voice your opinion through an online survey at www.digitalaccess.org.

The City Assessor is available to hear questions and complaints about your home assessment and tax credits on Thursday from 4.30-6.30pm at the Board of Adjustments. As of 4/4/06, there were still trees available through the City's Tree Program.

Instant Run-Off Voting Update: The City has a taskforce looking at the practical implications – eg costs of new machines, etc. Hodges is on this committee.

City has issued their Global Warming/Sustainability goals which can be found on the city website. <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060331/HEE20060320agenda.asp>

Streetcar Plans Bill Graham from the Streetcar Museum presented a brochure on the Museum's and Park Board proposal to recreate the Chalet Station at Lake Harriet. The Chalet Station would replace the existing small structure and contain an expanded museum. The Chalet was torn down in 1954 after the street cars were discontinued. Yates-Borger advised that she would mention it to the Parks Coalition, Kenison advised the grant cycles. Graham updated the Board on the interpretive signs that LHiNC had donated funds to last year; they should be up in Spring.

NRP Phase II Spending. Kenison gave an overview of the 70% restriction placed on NRP spending, and the meeting held by committee chairs where priorities were reviewed and numbers were modified slightly (ie youth grants decreased slightly) to meet the 70% restriction. Doug reported that during the meeting with Bob Cooper and Bob Miller of NRP, he was informed that receiving the additional 30% of funds was very, very unlikely. Even the 70% is not guaranteed, so they had recommended getting as much under contract as soon as possible.

Deb Pierce and Liz Loney presented a Statement of Intent regarding Global Warming and energy conservation. In compliance with NRP rules, they gave the 30 day notice required for a potential Plan modification, and reported that further information for review and discussion will be provided in the next few months.

Debbie Evans presented a three page document to the board regarding the proposed allocation of NRP funds. As the current proposal stands, there is \$52,860 of Home Improvement revolving loans allocated to Years 3,4 (part of the 30% that is very unlikely to be awarded to LHINC in the future). Evans noted that as this money generates revenue, and once it has “revolved” once it becomes program income, that it would be prudent to bring that \$52,860 forward into years 1-3. She proposed funding the move by decreasing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) by \$52,860.

Gabe Graber Mitchell reviewed the reasoning why Evan’s request had been outvoted in the housing committee, stating that the Housing Committee had spent months on carefully formulating the figures and that they felt the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was of equal importance as the Home Improvement Loan and that both were to be funded equally. Providing money to the AHTF was seen as providing a good example and leadership in this area to other neighborhoods. Foster reviewed the reasons why the meeting of NRP committee heads had also voted to leave the plan as it was presented. There was much discussion and clarification; both proposals had merit and benefits.

Motion by La Vercombe, 2nd Loney that LHINC increase the Home Improvement Loans from \$75,000 to \$100,000; and decrease the Affordable Housing Trust Fund from \$75,000 to \$50,000. For 7, against 8. Motion not passed.

Motion by Idzorek; 2nd Kolkman to increase the Home Improvement loan to \$125,000, and decrease the AHTF to \$25,000. For: 6; Against 8. Motion not passed.

Motion by Graber-Mitchell, 2nd Pierce to approve the plan as written. For 8, Against 5, 1 abstention (La Vercombe). Motion passed.

Scope of Service *Motion* by Kenison “I move that a scope of Service for neighborhood implementation of Phase II be submitted to NRP for three strategies:

- 1) the newsletter (B.1) strategy for \$52,200.50 (5 years)
- 2) the NRP Plan Implementation (B.3) strategy for \$22,760 (1 yr)
- 3) and the Welcoming Neighbors (b.6) strategy for \$5000 (5 years)” 2nd Reinan. Motion passed unanimously.

Sailing Club. Mike Elson representing the Calhoun Yacht Club, requested that LHINC revisit the resolution passed on June 7, 2005 reading “Be it resolved that LHINC strongly objects to development along the shore of Lake Calhoun and specifically to the Lake Calhoun Yacht Club

proposal on the southeast shore, or any similar developments. We feel that the lakeshore should be kept as natural as possible.” In light of the community meeting of January 26th, where the community voted highly “Yes to sailing club, no to retail and event center” Elson requested LHiNC re-look at the resolution. Yates Borger stated there was a Chain of Lake Coalition meeting on Sunday, where she would bring the matter up, and then bring comments back to the May board meeting.

Zoning Issues. La Vercombe had emailed April 2 of a few zoning issues.

Bickos. Tom Bikanich from Cafe Bicko appeared to inform the committee of his plans a) to upgrade his restaurant with approximately \$125,000 worth of interior construction work + putting a rain-roof on his patio, and b) to upgrade his license to a full service restaurant with live music. He claimed he did not need any zoning variances, but rather, he wished simply to keep the board/public informed of the changes he is planning.

3815 Washburn Ave S. A variance was twice denied, and then approved after the fact, once the work was completed. *Motion* La Vercombe, 2nd Evans, that LHiNC send official communication to Betsy Hodges, the Board of Adjustment, the Minneapolis Zoning and Planning Committee and the Minneapolis City Council: “The LHiNC Board officially supports the position of Ms Ainsworth and her neighbors in appealing the variance recently granted to the builders of 3815 Washburn Ave S. We believe that as a rule, builders should comply with city setback requirements, and we do not believe that it is appropriate for builders to disregard setback requirements in the hopes or expectation that their encroachments will be allowed if the work has already been completed.” Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Lavercombe, 2nd Graber Mitchell to present an official communication to Betsy Hodges, the Board of Adjustment, the Minneapolis Zoning and Planning Committee and the Minneapolis City Council: “The LHiNC Board would like to reiterate that it is our expectation that neighborhood variance requests be presented to the LHiNC Zoning Committee in advance of approaching the Board of Adjustment. We believe we are the first step for creating dialogue among neighbors and the first chance for the public at large to have input into building and zoning variance requests in our neighborhood. We do not like to see people skirting the committee as a way of avoiding conflict or subverting the process, and we request the Board of Adjustment refuse to review any Linden Hills zoning variance requests that have not gone before the LHiNC Zoning Committee.”. Motion passed unanimously.

Festival Update. Yates Borger urged everyone to move ahead with Silent Auction collection, and stressed a sense of urgency to meet the April 20 deadline.

adjournment

Submitted by Felicity Britton, April 13, 2006.

Board secretary

Date

Board co-chair

Date