

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the regular meeting, March 14, 2006

Present: Doug Kenison, Kathy Urberg, Liz Loney, Debbie Evans, Laurie Foster, John Reinan, Jennifer Yates Borger, Greta Trygstad, Gabe Graber-Mitchell, Felicity Britton, Jack Jaglo, Deb Pierce, Larry LaVercombe

Absent: Tim O'Brien, Bill Idzorek

Also attending: Marc Holtey, Rae Ann Vandeputte, Andrew Gibson, Ben Kolkman

Meeting called to order by co-chair Foster.

Approval of agenda and February minutes. Approved unanimously.

Park director's report. Holtey reviewed upcoming events. Spring registration open. Rec+ open house March 21.

City Council report. No one available from the Councilmember's office for a report.

Housing Remodel Contest. Ben Kolkman, from Great Minneapolis Real Estate, introduced a Home Remodeling Contest that would act as a fundraiser for neighborhoods (Fulton, Lynnhurst, East Harriet and Linden Hills). Neighborhoods would receive 100% of proceeds from sale of House Tour tickets. There were several questions from the board. The board agreed we would participate but would not include Great Minneapolis logo in our newsletter, but would mention their name.

Better Ballot Campaign. LaVercombe made a motion, "LHiNC resolves to endorse the Better Ballot Campaign in Minneapolis and support the movement by public announcement on our website and creating links to their website." The motion was seconded by Britton and passed with 12 Yeas and 1 Abstention (Reinan).

Vote on Opening for the Board. Foster announced that Trygstad was ending her term because she was moving out of the neighborhood. One candidate had applied for the open position. A vote occurred and it was unanimous to appoint Ben Kolkman as new board member; his term will end in October, 2006.

Education and Environment Committee Update. Urberg distributed a Master Plan for Linden Hills Urban Forest and Landscape. She reviewed the plan in detail.

NRP Phase II Strategy Priorities E&E. Urberg stated Phase II priorities for E&E were Maintaining the Urban Forest at \$31,500, Environmental Education at \$1,000 and Improving Water Resources at \$500. This was 63% of E&E funds.

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Coalition. Yates Borger made a motion, "Move that the board supports the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Coalition." The motion was seconded by Evans and approved unanimously. Yates Borger stated the group would begin advertising the organization late spring to early summer.

Coordinator's report. Reviewed (see attached).

Budget & Finance Committee. The February receipts journal was submitted to the secretary.

- Kenison made a motion, "NRP only allows 25% of the Phase II allocation be spent on administration, therefore LHiNC will reallocate \$20,666.60 of Phase I funds into Phase II Plan implementation Strategy to budget for administration costs until 2009 using the following funds: \$18,000 from Boulevard Trees (#32), \$2,550 from Community Markers

(#9), \$111.94 from Historic Photos (#8), \$4.00 from Commercial District Improvement (#20) and \$0.66 from Commercial Grant Program (#19).” The motion was seconded by Britton and approved unanimously.

- NRP placed a 70% spending limit on Phase II strategies within the first 3 years. Committees submitted priorities and met last week to formulate a plan. Kenison will send that schedule to all board members.
- A Scope of Service will be presented in April that includes the newsletter, implementation and Welcome Neighbors for Phase II.
- Linden Hearts Kids Club was the only requestor for the Spring Grant Cycle. Finance will present those distributions in May.
- The audit is complete and was noted as very organized and complete. It will be mailed to board member’s homes soon.

Silent Auction. Evans requested help to donate items for the auction and/or solicit donations from businesses. She noted LHiNC is collecting all proceeds from the silent auction this year since funds have been decreasing from NRP and the cost of administration is maintaining. There was much discussion revolving resources for organizing the silent auction, Evans stated it was important for every board member to get involved and solicit donations.

Festival. Yates Borger stated the next meeting is March 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Park, the meeting will focus on subcommittee work.

Housing. Graber-Mitchell made a motion, “Housing Committee shall have the authority to make decisions regarding parameters of the Phase I Home Revolving Loan program with the goal to increase utilization of the available funds.” Britton seconded the motion but after discussion about ensuring the board had ultimate authority, Graber-Mitchell withdrew his motion. Graber-Mitchell made a motion, “100% of Phase I Home Revolving Loans be made available to Linden Hills residents with a MMI of up to 150%”. Evans seconded the motion and it passed with 12 Yeas and 1 Abstention (Graber-Mitchell).

Zoning. Trygstad reminded the board that all zoning issues should come before the Zoning Committee before going to the city. Andy Gibson, with Donnelly Stucco, presented plans for a variance request at 3832 Richfield Road. The issue was being presented to the board because the Zoning Committee did not have a unanimous vote regarding the recommendation. Reinan made a motion, “We vote not to oppose the zoning request at 3832 Richfield Road”. The motion was seconded by Britton and passed with 11 Yeas, 1 Nay (Kenison) and 1 Abstention (Pierce).

New business. Britton presented a new book “*Between the Lakes: The Poets of Linden Hills*”, featuring Linden Hills Poets. She stated Doug Wilhide, author of the book, would like to create a kids version of the book and is asking that he use LHiNC as the 501(c)(3) applicant for a Starbucks grant of \$5,000. There was much discussion but the group recommended Britton, Wilhide and Kenison discuss the details and present at a later date. The group agreed the book was a great idea but had concerns regarding being a fiscal agent.

Adjournment.

Submitted by LHiNC Coordinator Rae Ann Vandeputte, March 18, 2006.

Board secretary

Date

Board co-chair

Date