

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the regular meeting, September 4, 2007

Present: David Jones, Deb Pierce, Debbie Evans, Jennifer Yates Borger, John Reinan, Jon Skibbe, Kathy Urberg, Lesley Lydell, Larry LaVercombe, Linea Palmisano, Tom Bicanich

Absent: Ben Kolkman, Janeen Rosas

Also attending: Rae Ann Vandeputte, Mary O'Regan, Ben Hecker on behalf of Betsy Hodges, Sam Will

Meeting called to order by co-chair Palmisano.

Approval of agenda and August 2007 minutes. Approved unanimously.

Park director's report. New director, Nelson Evenrud, is starting in October.

City Council report. Hecker updated the group regarding the **35W bridge rebuild project**. City provides municipal consent for the design but the state ultimately makes final decision. The city did pass a set of principals of what they would like to see which included light rail.

Almsted's Closing Information. Almsted's Sunnyside Grocery, located in Linden Hills, will be closing on September 15. LHiNC has been contacted by many residents, shocked and outraged. Although LHiNC is disappointed with the closing, this is a private entity and we cannot become involved with private businesses. With that said LHiNC is very aware that a grocery store is a staple business of a neighborhood and feel our role is to be responsive to inquiries, assist with accurate communication within the neighborhood and evaluate whether there is anything else we can do. A letter was drafted (see attached) that outlines the current situation. There was much discussion regarding LHiNC's role during this type of situation and what the letter should include. A *motion* was made by Bicanich, seconded by Lydell, "We use the proposed document, except to highlight the phase "received the following information from Jim Almsted in regards to the closing of his business". Motion did not pass with a 2-8-0 vote; Jones, Pierce, Evans, Yates Borger, Skibbe, Urberg, Lydell and LaVercombe opposing. A *motion* was made by Urberg, seconded by Bicanich, "We approve the letter after minor revisions, changing the tone to make it clear that the information was from Jim and that Lunds reviewed it as well." Motion passed by a 7-3-0 vote; Pierce, Jones and LaVercombe against.

Palmisano suggested LHiNC create and drive a "Go Local Week" to encourage residents to shop locally and support businesses. The week would be September 9-15 coinciding with the Linden Hills Business Association (LHBA) Woofstock and the Morningside Business Associations Block Party on September 15. A *motion* was made by Yates Borger, seconded by Urberg, "LHiNC drive the proposed short-term effort of 'Go Local Week'." Motion approved by a 10-0-0 vote.

In response to the long discussion, Hecker stated Hodges office will be contacting City Zoning to investigate concerns with a vacant building as well as contact the owner regarding future plans.

Coordinator's report. Reviewed (see attached). Sam Will volunteered to be LHiNC's NRP elector and Yates-Borger the alternate. The LHiNC's Articles of Incorporation will be updated and voted on at the October 12 Community Meeting. To help the organization make changes to standard practices and policies as needed, much of the current information located in the Articles of Incorporation will be moved to Bylaws. There are only three changes being proposed:

- **The fiscal year has changed** from January 1- December 31 to July 1-June 30 to better reflect our standard practice of identifying our budget following the May festival (now within Bylaws).
- **The term lengths for board members** has changed from one year to two years (now within Bylaws).
- **Standing committees** have been changed to reflect current active committees (now within Bylaws).

Departing Board Member/Elections Update. Eleven (11) positions need to be filled at the October 12 election. Three current board members will seek re-election. We need to have at least nine (9) members on the board per our Articles and therefore will need at least two (2) applicants in addition to the three seeking re-election.

Community Engagement Task Force. Co-chairs of Linden Hills, Fulton, Lynnhurst and E. Harriet participated in a Ward 13 Community Engagement Summit. The purpose of the summit was to a) implement consensus recommendations for immediate improvements to the Community Engagement (CE) System, b) define roles/funding of neighborhood, community, and cultural organizations as parts of CE System and c) determine the focus, funding, and governance of the NRP Program post-2009. Yates-Borger and Palmisano attended on behalf of LHiNC and provided feedback on characteristics of community organizations they feel should be eligible for City support, expectations LHiNC has and recommendations for promoting cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

Board Format Discussion. Palmisano updated the group as to discussions regarding changing our board format. The first phase is to get LHiNC into compliance with our Articles, which will be voted on October 12. The second phase will be to improve our structure by reviewing our bylaws, which will begin after the October election. The third phase will be to improve our practices to make LHiNC a stronger organization beginning with the November board retreat.

A *motion* was made by Evans, seconded by Yates Borger, "The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws be identified by the words DRAFT, changes and additions be delineated, the Housing Committee get added and clarification regarding election of officers occur the following board meeting after an election." The motion passed unanimously.

Budget & Finance Committee. The August receipts journal was submitted to the secretary. A *motion* was made by Yates-Borger, seconded by Urberg, “The Finance Committee recommends to approve the following Fall grants: Lake Harriet Community School (LHCS) for \$800 the Joyce Food Shelf at \$250 and the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra at \$825.” There was discussion regarding holding off on distributing Fall Grant funds until the NRP Phase II Priorities were identified. The motion passed with a 9-1-0 vote, Evans against.

NRP Funding Allocation Vote. Yates Borger stated the Finance Committee is discussing Phase II NRP Priorities, but will wait for an expected communication from Bob Miller regarding the neighborhood’s responsibilities. The Finance Committee will continue to discuss during the end of September, date to be announced.

New Business. Palmisano stated Janeen Rosas works with a group that deals with foreclosing properties within the city and would like to look into how LHiNC can get involved with turning some homes into low-income housing. Palmisano forwarded an email to all and encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on September 6.

Adjournment.

Submitted by LHiNC Coordinator Rae Ann Vandeputte, September 4, 2007.

Board secretary

Date

Board co-chair

Date