

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Preliminary Minutes of the regular meeting, September 2, 2008

Present: Tom Bicanich, Juan Carlos Ruisnor, Casey Collins, Debbie Evans, Jim Fisher, David Jones, Lesley Lydell, Linea Palmisano, Kathy Urberg, Keiko Veasey, Sam Will

Absent: Kelly Keegan

Meeting was called to order by Chair Palmisano at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda. Motion by Evans. Seconded by Veasey. Unanimously approved.

City Council Update. Councilmember Hodges was not present. Ruisenor agreed to contact Councilmember Hodges regarding resident concern about sidewalks.

Park Update. Park Director Evenrud was unable to attend the meeting and there were no new update since last month's written update.

Board Elections. Ruisenor offered to take statements and pictures for newsletter, to feature members who are not up for re-election. There was a question and clarification about Jones' term. Jones current term is up in October 2008. Palmisano noted that every current board member is on a 2-year term, so there are eight 2-year terms open this fall. Palmisano, Evans and Jones are existing board members whose term is up, plus five other open slots (currently unfilled). Palmisano communicated upcoming schedule (Oct 7 Board mtg, Oct 17 is bonfire and elections), and reminded that the October Board meeting is the final meeting of the current board, so the board should plan to tie up any loose ends at October meeting. Palmisano will send email to inquire about 2009 Planning retreat date, likely either Nov 1 or Nov 8.

Finance Report. Lydell reported that the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve grant application from the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra for \$430 for sheet music. Lydell also distributed copies of LHiNC budget and talked about shifts in park-related activities, shifting monies from WinterFest into KiteFest (to be a collaboration with EHFA), and shifting monies from Mother's Day Tea to Halloween. Want to do more publicity for spring grant cycle. Lydell reported that the finance committee proposed adding a 'miscellaneous' line of approximately \$200 to the overall budget. There was discussion about adjusting scholarships with the 'extra' monies. Evans shared that in years past, the scholarship amount was sometimes increased after the Festival, if it's a particularly good year. Jones suggested designating a specific event at the Festival to the scholarships. Lydell suggested that at the Festival, LHiNC should outline and publicize exactly all the various contributions that LHiNC makes to the community. Motion to approve FY09 Festival-related budget made by Evans, seconded by Urberg. Passed unanimously.

Environment Committee Report.

- **Lakes District Council update.** Urberg reported that at recent LDC meeting, there was talk about communication between the park board and the neighborhood. Planner also talked about a plan for regional planning for the parks, such that not every park offers every amenity (e.g., ice rinks, tennis courts, etc...) b/c it is too expensive to maintain all amenities at all parks. There will be opportunities for neighborhood input regarding what amenities are at each park.
- **Environment Committee Intern.** Urberg reported that Grace got a lot accomplished on behalf of the environment committee, and has returned to school. The internship was a great idea.

- **Watershed Issues Launch.** Urberg reported that the ice cream social to discuss and plan for watershed issues was postponed for multiple reasons. Jones stated that the grant for the watershed event was just received. Urberg stated that the committee will come up with another event to kick off watershed efforts and will communicate as appropriate to the grantors.
- **Environment Committee Fundraising.** Urberg reported that the Hendry Family Foundation has generously agreed to again match contributions raised by the environment committee up to \$12,000. Urberg requested approval to spend up to \$2,000 on fundraising costs including a possible event, postage, printing, supplies, etc...) to execute the committee's fundraising plans. Urberg doesn't anticipate using the total amount. Will asked about doing an email blast instead of a mailing. Urberg clarified that the mailing is not to the entire community, but rather a targeted mailing to individuals who have participated in environment committee initiative (e.g., DED treatment, buckthorn), received a boulevard tree, or contributed in the past. The environment committee report will also be included in the September Linden Hills Line (printing paid from EC funds). Lydell asked for a budget for fundraising. Motion made by Bicanich to approve up to \$2,000 from "Environment Committee Neighborhood Contributions" funds to be used towards the goals of fundraising, with an understanding that a detailed fundraising budget will be presented to the Board at the October board meeting. Veasey seconded. 8 approved, 1 (Will) abstention.
- **Pool shade and chess tables.** Urberg reported that there was \$7,000 in Phase I NRP funds allocated for pool shade and chess tables. In previous efforts, Deb Pierce concluded that chess tables were too expensive. Urberg reported that her research indicates that a semi-permanent shade structure (i.e., permanent structure with removable shade piece) would cost approximately \$15,000. Urberg suggested that at a later meeting, the group should discuss whether we do something on this stated priority or give up. Palmisano stated that it might be a discussion for the board retreat.

October Town Hall Planning. Palmisano stated that much of the planning can wait until the next meeting, but asked if anyone had any ideas or suggestions. She reminded about past events and there was discussion about hosting a community information fair.

New Business.

- Palmisano reported that she will be conducting the annual performance review for LHiNC coordinator, Scott Engel, and requested feedback regarding Scott's performance, to assist her in preparing the review.
- Palmisano and Lydell reported that they met with EHFA about jointly hosting KiteFest, and indicated they will be asking for 2 volunteers to help plan on LHiNC's behalf, and in collaboration with Linden Hills park director. After discussion it was agreed that LHiNC will be putting resources toward KiteFest instead of the Linden Hills-only WinterFest this year.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next session is October 7, 2008.

Submitted by LHiNC Vice-Chair Keiko Veasey, Sept 22, 2008.

Board Officer

Date

Board Chair

Date