

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Preliminary Minutes of the regular meeting, April 7, 2009

Present: Tom Bicanich, Casey Collins, Jim Fisher, David Jones, Lesley Lydell, Linea Palmisano, Kathy Urberg, Keiko Veasey, Adam Wiatrowski

Absent: Jon Hoffert, Amy Kane, Kelly Keegan, Juan Carlos Ruisenor, Patrick Sarver and Sam Will

Chair Palmisano called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Approval of Agenda. Motion. Seconded. To approve the proposed agenda with revisions providing more time for the 43rd & Upton update and postponing the NRP strategy discussion. Approved unanimously.

Cloudman Village. Lisa Ferguson and Syd Bean presented a slideshow detailing Native American history at the south end of Lake Calhoun. A village of Dakota people was established near present-day Richfield Road and Lakewood Cemetery in the early 1800's. Ferguson and Bean are direct descendents of Chief Cloudman and participate on a committee to promote the history of the area. The group, initiated by the Mayor, is working to establish historical signage and perhaps art at the Lake Calhoun archery range. More community activities are planned and an annual event will likely take place celebrating this history.

Potential Development @ 43rd & Upton. Mark Dwyer, Linden Hills resident and current president of the Linden Hills Business Association, was in attendance. He is proposing to redevelop the NW corner of 43rd and Upton- the existing Famous Dave's and Edward Jones structures would be replaced by a new, multi-story, mixed-use building. It would likely include underground parking, retail/restaurants on the ground level and residential or office uses on upper floors. The plans, however, are very preliminary with the architectural drawings coming in 45 days. The project wouldn't break ground for at least 1 ½ years.

Veasey noted that LHiNC will organize a more formal input process once more details are available. Dwyer has created a project website at www.ourlindenhills.com and will attend upcoming LHiNC Board meetings to provide updates and answer questions.

Many residents came to hear the update and were able to ask questions. Dwyer responded that:

- The site is approximately 25,000 sq ft, and he expects something like a 3-story structure with about 15,000 sq ft per floor. However, plans are very preliminary.
- At least one level of underground parking is expected, but testing is needed to determine where the water table exists in this location., which affects how deep underground parking can go.
- There is a need in the area for small office space, which will be included in the project.
- Famous Dave's & Edward Jones will likely lease space in the building and a small bank and restaurant are possible tenants. There will be no national chains and retail tenants will compliment other businesses at the node.
- Within the next 45 days Dwyer expects architectural drawings. He pointed to 50th & Xerxes as a type of development that doesn't fit the neighborhood.

Some residents expressed concerns about traffic, building height and whether there was actually a need for redevelopment of the site.

Council Member Betsy Hodges Update. Hodges presented an update:

- The City Council recently approved revisions to historic preservation rules and notification of demolition permits.
- The City is facing major financial issues with 3vclosed pension funds. Hodges is promoting the idea of the State taking over the pension funds.

Finance Committee Update. Lydaell noted that the Finance Committee met to discuss LHiNC Spring Grants. There were funds remaining from the Fall Grant cycle increasing the pool of funds for grants.

Motion, Seconded to approve Spring Grant allocations as recommended by the Finance Committee:

- Linden Hills Park: \$700
- Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra: \$1,000
- MN Streetcar Museum: \$?
- Minneapolis POPS: \$200
- Linden Hills Power & Light: \$425

Approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items. Motion, Seconded to approve 3 consent agenda items:

- Minutes of the March 3 meeting.
- Bruce Manning as LHiNC's representative to the CAC.
- LHiNC will participate in the April 19 NCEC meeting

Approved unanimously.

Environment Committee Budget. Urberg & Veasey presented a document detailing the Environment Committee budget for the year: Motion, Seconded to approve the budget as follows:

- Signage & fundraising: \$3,500
- Elms (treatments): \$5,000
- Buckthorn: \$3,000
- PATH: \$9,400
- Watershed Initiative: \$2,500
- Tree planting on boulevards & parks: \$10,000
- Festival Zero Waste: \$500
- EcoParents: \$2,300
- Total: \$36,200

Approved unanimously.

Festival Planning:

Silent Auction: Lydell noted that a contractor had been secured, but now it may not work out. She distributed a s.a. packet tailored to each Board member & presented details for soliciting s.a. items.

Palmisano noted that she will not be able to coordinate the Festival this year. The group agreed to schedule another Festival planning meeting within the next two weeks to firm up details.

Adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next session is May 5, 2009.

Submitted by Scott Engel

Board Officer

Date

Board Chair

Date