

LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the regular meeting, June 2, 2009

Present: Tom Bicanich, Casey Collins, Juan Carlos Ruisenor, Lesley Lydell, Kelly Keegan, Linea Palmisano, Kathy Urberg, Keiko Veasey, Adam Wiatrowski

Absent: Jim Fisher, David Jones, Patrick Sarver

Chair Palmisano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda, Minutes & Consent Items. Motion. Seconded. To approve the proposed agenda, minutes from May 5, 2009 LHiNC Board meeting, and appoint Patrick Sarver and Linea Palmisano as Linden Hills electors for the NCEC district representative. Approved unanimously.

Update on potential development at 43rd & Upton. Mark Dwyer provided another regular update on the potential redevelopment of the NW corner of 43rd & Upton. Dwyer stated that he continues to meet with individuals and reach out through the Southwest Journal and his website (www.ourlinden hills.com), and that he is still in an information gathering point of the process. Some drilling has been done at the site and trace contamination was found, but nothing unexpected given the history of the site. Dwyer stated that any redevelopment would include appropriate remediation. Currently, the plan is still a development with retail/restaurant on 1st level with residential on the 2nd & 3rd levels. Dwyer noted that current zoning permits 3 stories with a perimeter up to the sidewalk, but he wasn't able to present options to neighbors to discuss potential tradeoffs in design options yet. Dwyer stated that he wants any development to contribute to the energy of the neighborhood and to existing business district. Dwyer stated that he thinks there are unanswered residential opportunities for Linden Hills that this development might address, as well as his desire to look at the bigger picture for the neighborhood and not focus on any one specific issue.

LHBA Festival Recap. Mark Dwyer, current president of LHBA, shared thoughts about the recent LHBA festival, which was held on the same day as the Linden Hills Festival this year. Dwyer thought it was a successful event, but shared that some business owners felt the LHBA festival was in competition with the Linden Hills Festival sponsored by LHiNC. Dwyer felt there was no consensus, but that businesses would like to keep their event on a Saturday, with a slight preference for the Linden Hills Festival to be held on a different day. Dwyer stated that LHBA wants to continue to work with LHiNC and continue to build good energy around neighborhood events.

Council Member Betsy Hodges Update. Hodges presented an update, including:

- The next ward breakfast is June 17 at Pearson's Restaurant.
- National Night Out planning week is June 15-21. Blocks that register for NNO early (online or through 311) are more likely to get police or fire truck visits, as well as free items for giveaways.
- The hearing for the resurfacing of 44th street was held. No testimony was given. Hodges stated that there are some residents upset with assessments related to the resurfacing of Xerxes Ave from Lake Calhoun to Hwy 62.
- Hodges stated that the legislative session has concluded and that the city of Minneapolis may face a potential 40% cut to the general fund, depending on unallotment decisions. Hodges stated that so far, the city has been able to absorb past cuts without an impact on public safety, but that might be unavoidable in the future. Hodges also reported that no action was taken regarding pension funds-related challenges this session, so that on top of

the pension obligations, the potential cuts could be severe, but that city officials are working on a plan and are prepared to handle it.

Parks Update & Festival Recap. Nelson Evenrud, director of Linden Hills Park, commented that he thought the recent Linden Hills Festival went well, with very few issues. Evenrud reported that a complete inventory of LHiNC materials stored at the park building was done by volunteers. Evenrud stated that summer park activities are in full swing, including summer staff hires and summer camps, etc... Movie nights at the park are scheduled for July 13 and August 4 (National Night Out), with support from LHiNC sponsorship.

Festival Recap.

- **Finance:** Finance Committee chair Lesley Lydell reported that the gross deposit for the Festival (not including any expenses) was \$15,360, with approximately \$3,000 from silent auction (excluding credit card transactions), \$1,648 from art fair & garage sale, \$6,007 from Food, \$298 from mini doughnuts, \$140 from Jamba Juice, \$1,740 from games, \$1,475 from ponies, \$356 from moonwalk, and \$295 from t-shirts. Lydell stated that this is down a bit from last year and that expenses and a few lingering revenues are not included in the above numbers. The book sale raised over \$1,000 for the Linden Hills Library. A finance committee meeting is scheduled for June 25.
- **Treasure Hunt:** Bicanich reported that he thought there were fewer teens and more younger kids at the Festival this year. He made the treasure hunt clues easier this year. Palmisano stated that there was some concern about the appropriateness of some of the treasure hunt prizes for young children.
- **Entertainment:** Ruisenor reported that the performers were pleased with their experiences and that all went well. The Red Hot Peppers group wants to come back. Perhaps next year, the Southwest choir could be contacted about performing. Many liked the parade with the band coming from the business district, although the business owners felt like it drew people away from their businesses and activities at the biz district.
- **Zero Waste:** Veasey reported that less than ½ of a bag of trash was produced at the Festival, with the help of volunteers. It was suggested that attention be paid to inside the park building in future years, and Veasey reported that would require additional volunteers.
- **Garage Sale:** Urberg reported that there were 94 registered garage sales, which was an increase from recent years. Urberg believes LHiNC may have come out ahead on revenue this year. She recommended that in future years, there should be a higher rate for multi-family sales. The feedback she heard was an overwhelming preference to have the Festival on a different day than the garage sales.
- **Publicity:** Keegan reported that 14 t-shirts were sold, and that people signed up for e-news and volunteering. Festival-goers were very involved in the logo voting, and there was an overwhelming winner, which was the same logo that won the fall vote.
- Additional feedback was provided in written form, including book sale, volunteers, general, and chess.

Environment Committee Report. Urberg reported that a BMX bike group has created a bike jump in Thoreau Woods area and proposed a resolution stating that LHiNC will work to protect that urban green space in Linden Hills.

Whereas, the wooded area known as Thoreau's Woods (bounded by William Berry Parkway, Richfield Road, and Linden Hills Boulevard) has historical and botanical significance. It contains native wildflowers and was visited by Henry David Thoreau. Linden Hills residents

have long recognized the beauty and value of this area and sponsored events in order to preserve and protect the area. Be it resolved that:

- LHiNC seeks to preserve and protect the beauty of this area for current and future residents.
- LHiNC seeks to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to protect this green space as a nature preserve.
- LHiNC will support events to protect and restore the area, such as buckthorn and garlic mustard removal events.

Motion. Seconded. To adopt the above stated as a LHiNC board resolution. Passed Unanimously. Urberg will work with the park on plans and activities to restore and protect that area. Wiatrowski offered to make a “no biking” sign for Thoreau’s Woods, after approval from the park.

Urberg also reported that Robert’s Bird Sanctuary has glassy buckthorn and mature buckthorn. The Audubon Society would like to partner with LH Environment Committee to support buckthorn removal. Urberg noted that the environment committee may ask for financial support, perhaps through the LHiNC grant process, for such an initiative.

Wiatrowski reported that he has prepared a draft of revisions of NRP strategy relevant to environment committee’s initiatives. He will continue to work with the committee on that.

NCEC Update. Palmisano stated that there will be an update on NCEC-related information at the next board meeting.

New Business. The following items were on the agenda as new business items, but not discussed further due to time constraints.

- Palmisano meets Bob Olson on 6/5/09 to discuss future plans for his business property. Will share information as available and send to Communications committee for news items.
- Propose we spend 30 minutes of each of the next three board sessions on understanding and refining the unwritten contracts of NRP Phase II dollars (just one each session), and ensure this is still the strategy our neighborhood should keep these funds within.
- Propose we commit to efforts on by-law updates and share at July board session, with goal of finishing by October. Kelly Keegan and Jim Fisher have offered their leadership here.

Adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next session is July 7, 2009.

Submitted by Scott Engel

Board Officer

Date

Board Chair

Date