

**LINDEN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Preliminary Minutes of the regular meeting, March 3, 2009**

**Present:** Tom Bicanich, Casey Collins, Jim Fisher, David Jones, Kelly Keegan, Lesley Lydell, Linea Palmisano, Juan Carlos Ruisenor, Patrick Sarver, Kathy Urberg, Keiko Veasey

**Absent:** Jon Hoffert, Amy Kane, Adam Wiatrowski and Sam Will

*Chair Palmisano called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.*

**Approval of Agenda & Minutes.** Motion. Seconded. To approve the proposed agenda and minutes from the February 3 meeting with changes: Approved unanimously.

**Potential Development @ 43<sup>rd</sup> & 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 architect still to be hired.

The proposed project is being developed through dialogue with the neighborhood. The first informal community discussion with about 25-30 local residents and business owners took place on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward, a more formal process organized by the LHiNC will take place as plans get further developed. Over the past month, LHiNC provided Dwyer a list of key stakeholders to the project including block leaders, local property owners and users for his informal sessions and will publicize his contact information. Dwyer has created a project website at [www.ourlinden hills.com](http://www.ourlinden hills.com) and will attend upcoming LHiNC Board meetings, including the one scheduled for April 7, to provide updates and answer questions. Currently this is the forum that LHiNC will use to promote dialogue- the monthly board sessions.

**Tosca Restaurant.** Harvey McClain, owner of Turtle Bread, was in attendance to talk about his restaurant called Tosca opening in the same building. Tosca is an Italian restaurant that will include beer and wine. The liquor license is expected to be approved by the City soon. Tosca will stay open until 10pm.

**Construction on 44<sup>th</sup> Street & Xerxes.** Larry Matsimoto from Minneapolis Public Works attended the meeting to update the group about planned road construction this summer. Xerxes Avenue (between L. Calhoun Parkway and 50<sup>th</sup> Street) and 44<sup>th</sup> Street (between France and Upton Avenues) will be "resurfaced" starting in July. Resurfacing grinds down the top layer of asphalt and adds a new layer extending the life of the roadway an additional 10 years. The project is a less-intrusive method of road maintenance, and it is expected to last under two weeks.

Property owners along these streets will be assessed for a portion of the project cost and the City will send letters with more info to each owner. A project community meeting will be scheduled by the City in early June where City officials will answer questions and hear feedback.

**NCEC Meeting Organized by NRP.** Palmisano attended this meeting on February 21 where the process to choose members to the future Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) was supposed to be identified. She noted that it was not well organized and didn't accomplish its original perceived intent. Palmisano did not cast a vote as a Linden Hills representative in the process at the end of the session, and suggested that LHiNC only send a representative to future meetings for NCEC formation if the agenda, process and goals are more clearly defined and LHiNC receives information ahead of time.

**Park Update:** Nelson Evenrud, Park Director, presented updates:

- The Spring Egg Hunt is April 11.
- Earth Day is scheduled at the park on April 18.
- Movies in the park are scheduled this summer including on National Night Out. Evenrud will submit a LHiNC spring grant to support the costs associated with this activity.

**Lake Harriet Band shell:** The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is likely forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to make recommendations about any new buildings and vendors at Lake Harriet. LHiNC and East Harriet are likely to have one appointment apiece to this CAC. However, the CAC details, including its scope, have not yet been identified.

**Finance Update:** Lydell noted that the Finance Committee will meet on April 2 to discuss LHiNC spring grants. She will work to structure a contract with a Festival silent auction contractor.

Festival Planning:

**Coordination with Business Association:** Lauren Crandle, a contractor hired by LHBA to coordinate festival activities, was in attendance. Everyone agreed that making connections between the park and business node was a goal since all events occur on the same day. The idea of having the parade start at 43<sup>rd</sup> & Upton was discussed.

**Silent Auction:** The group agreed that a "blended" structure for organizing the silent auction was desired. This means LHiNC will hire a contractor to organize the s.a. with volunteers supporting by seeking donations and implementing the day of the event.

Entertainment: Ruisenor volunteered to organize this component.

*Adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next session is April 7, 2009.*

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Submitted by Scott Engel

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Board Officer

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Date

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Board Chair

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Date