Minutes of the CIDNA Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2004 @ 6:00 p.m.
Jones-Harrison Residence
3700 Cedar Lake Avenue

Kathy Hendricks, Vice-President, called the meeting of the CIDNA board to order at 6:02 PM on Tuesday, December 07, 2004.

The following directors were in attendance: David Shirley, Tom Buck, Bengt Sohlen, Charlie Elowson, Judy Berge, Bob Corrick, Ed Bell, Kathy Hendricks, Carla Egerman, Steve Gove. Excused Absences: Chad Larsen, Ken Moritz, Cherrie Zitzlsperger.

The following guests were present: Vivian Mason, Park Board Commissioner; Lisa Goodman, City Council; Debbie Evans, Linden Hills; Ruth Jones, Cedar Lake Park Association and Environmental Committee; Lara Norkus-Crampton, ECCO Zoning Committee; Al Anderson, ECCO Zoning Committee; Rodgers Adams, Lake Point Newsletter; Rosita Acosta, East Isles; Linda Schutz, East Isles; David Anson, CIDNA; Kay Anderson, ECCO.

David Cahill, representing the Nordic Ski Foundation, outlined some of the features of the upcoming City of Lakes Loppet. It will take place on Saturday and Sunday, February 5th and 6th. Events include a 35k ski race starting in Wirth Park and ending at Lake and Hennepin, sprints in Uptown and at Wirth Chalet, a 10 k non-competitive tour. Many of the trails being groomed for this event will remain groomed throughout the winter. One can participate as a skier or as a volunteer. Vivian Mason reported happy experiences in prior years, and hopes many will come out to take part. Information is available at the website CityOfLakesLoppet.com and through their mail address: City of Lakes Loppet, P.O. Box 50304, Minneapolis, MN 55405. The Nordic Ski Foundation also welcomes donations of ski equipment to support their programs offering ski instruction to schoolchildren.

Vivian Mason reported that the Park Board selects the new Superintendent tomorrow night. Both candidates, Christopher Gears and John Gurban have been thoroughly interviewed by the board and answered questions from the public. Vivian feels the vote will go with Gurban, not her vote however. There are issues in the public record surrounding Gurban's appointment as interim Superintendent that make her uncomfortable. She also feels that he has moved forward on projects requiring significant expenditure without keeping all members of the Park Board informed. These projects include preliminary drawings for a sports complex at Bryn Mawr meadows, preliminary planning for moving the Park Police to the Park Board Headquarters, and work on the Headquarters building to support that move. In addition, she feels more discussion of budget issues should take place before the full board and not just before the Administration and Finance Committee. Vivian believes that some commissioners have been frozen out of the budget approval process. She is at odds with a proposal to pay off the current debt on Headquarters reconstruction work at a time when private individuals are banding together to provide funds to keep park facilities, such as fountains, in operation. She encourages voters to track actions and positions of commissioners. She feels the park board should remain independent of the city council, as it has been. Again, she reminded us that Park Board meetings are now televised on meeting days, typically Wednesdays throughout the month. The private Park Watch group puts minutes of board meetings up right away, while the official minutes do not come out for several months. She is not opposed to some building being provided for the Calhoun Yacht Club. The sailing school that they run is a valuable service. She is opposed to the large amount of Park Board money that would be needed to fund a building on the south shore of Lake Calhoun. As the proposal appears now the Yacht Club would invest $250,000 over 10 years, and the park board would invest $1.5 million in the structure. Some park board members and the superintendent appear to support more commercial development around the lakes. Maintaining and adding to natural features of the parks do not seem to be a priority for these people. Various members of the board and guests seconded Vivian's concerns about the direction that the park board is taking.

David Shirley moved that the minutes of the CIDNA Board meeting from October 2, 2004 be approved. Judy Berge seconded the motion. All voted aye to approve, except Bob Corrick, who abstained because he had not been at that meeting.

Bob Corrick presented proposed Land Use Guidelines for presentation to developers working within the neighborhood. Board members expressed appreciation for the work of the Land Use and Development Committee. Board members and guests raised various questions and issues.

- Are the guidelines too vague on shading and sight lines?
- City officials cannot deny property owners their rights under the zoning code, therefore the guidelines can only be taken as principles that the neighborhood would like to follow, not as laws.
- It might be best to insure that nothing in the guidelines is directly in conflict with what the zoning code permits.
- The guidelines might be weaker if they do not acknowledge that the area south of the Midtown Greenway is different from the rest of CIDNA, and that in that area there could be positive results that come from development.
- Are these guidelines unreasonable from the city council's point of view?
- Although the city council might feel that the terms of the Shoreland Overlay district are not binding on developers, CIDNA might want to take a different, more restrictive, view.
- This set of guidelines is a starting point, and may change, but should start strong.

After discussion, Ed Bell moved that the board approve the guidelines as presented. Steve Gove seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Guidelines will be posted on the website, http://www.cidna.org.

Judy Berge presented actions of the Variance Committee. The committee voted no objection to Alana Bassin's request for a variance at 2921 Chowen Ave. Brad Petersen at 2806 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway has plans to request a variance. Hai Quan, the owner of 2921 Benton Ave. is requesting a variance to build an addition at the back of the building.

Bob Corrick presented actions of the Land Use and Development Committee. They have been concerned with three projects: two on the two lots east of Tryg's, and the Weisman enterprises property. Troy Mathwig, the developer of the property next to Tryg's met with Chad

Larsen, Bob Corrick and Tom Buck several weeks ago. During the meeting it appeared that plans showed moving the density of the project toward the Greenway. Mathwig is also in discussion with Tryg's to either acquire the property of work with them in some way. Mathwig's current proposal is over 5 stories, and over 60 feet, thereby exceeding what is permitted under the current zoning and the Shoreland Overlay. Bob expressed the opinion that the second proposal was not as attractive as the first.

Ackerberg Group is working on the second project, just to the east of Mathwig's project. Their most recent proposal shows attractive condos facing the Greenway. The main building is 5 stories (60 feet) tall. The density is not as far from the R1 zoned neighborhood as the committee would like. Parking is an issue. Although city code only requires 1 parking space per unit, the committee feels that this is not realistic, given that many of the condos will probably be occupied by more than one adult. The planned building is the same height as the Minister's life building that currently occupies the property. With both of these projects traffic will become heavier. One idea floated by board members in the past, i.e., giving the new projects access via the rear of the Calhoun Village shopping center, is not feasible.

Michael Lander of the Lander Group, the potential developer for the Weisman property, will present his preliminary plans to the neighborhood in a meeting scheduled for Jan 13 at 7 pm, at Jones-Harrison. He is looking for input from the neighborhood, and his plans are in a very preliminary stage. The issue of height limitations was discussed. Some board members expressed the opinion that the site, because of it's location so close to the lake shore, should adhere to the requirements of the Shoreland Overlay, and be limited to 2.5 stories. At least one legal firm has held the opinion that the Shoreland Overlay applies here. A guest encouraged residents and neighborhood associations in the lake area to make sure that they know the original motivations for passage of the Shoreland Overlay ordinance.

Lisa Goodman reported that at last the Cedar Lake Bridge work is done. She invited all to the next Lunch with Lisa, on January 26, 2005, where the city's pension issues will be the probably topic. In the council meeting last night she recommended that the city budget be passed. The police federation is complaining that 9 positions are being eliminated, but this reduction is tied to federal funding that is disappearing. The police and fire departments will, in any case see a significant increase in funding through 2010. Local taxes will continue to increase because of a lack of funding at the state and federal level. In discussing the city budget, Lisa commented that safety and schools make a city attractive, and that to support them, she felt compelled to vote for a budget increase, for the first time in her tenure as a city council member. Finally, she mentioned that a response to Requests for Proposal on the Walker Library site were due soon.

David Shirley moved that the board adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.