



HIGH-RIS

A photo tour of Loring Park's L

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THE JOUR

September 4–17, 2014

SERVING DOWNTOWN

SOUTHWEST LIGHT GETS THE GREEN LI



With municipal consent from all five cities along the route, Metropolitan Council can apply to commence final engineering for the 16-mile light rail line

BY DYLAN THOMAS dthomas@journalmpis.com

The Minneapolis City Council voted 10–3 to grant municipal consent for the \$1.65-billion Southwest Light Rail Transit project Aug. 29, becoming the last of five cities on the 16-mile route to give trains the green light.

Having won the necessary local approvals, the Metropolitan Council can now apply to the federal government to begin final engineering on Southwest LRT, an extension of the Green Line already connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul. If all goes as planned, passenger service between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie will begin in 2019.

Dissenting on the vote were Cam Gordon, Barb Johnson and Lisa Goodman, but council members expressed a deeper sense of ambivalence than was reflected in the

final tally. Mayor Betsy Hodges, a supporter of the project, sounded off and delivered her remarks.

“There is not going to be a celebration,” Hodges said. “There is not this one.”

In agreeing to co-location of light rail and freight rail trains in Minneapolis’ Kenilworth Corridor, the council stepped over a line it had drawn several years earlier. Light rail trains will travel through the corridor in a shallow tunnel. An environmental study on that last-minute change to the project won’t be completed for four months. And with most Minneapolis stations planned for relatively

SEE LIGHT



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



The Jackson Building at 300 Washington Ave. N.

NORTH LOOP

Proposed Boutique hotel plan for 3rd & Washington

A Milwaukee-based developer has purchased the historic Jackson building at the corner of 3rd Avenue North and Washington Avenue and plans to convert it into a hotel with approximately 120 rooms.

Tim Dixon, who owns the Iron Horse Hotel in Milwaukee, among other projects, has been working on creating a new boutique hotel concept for the five-story, 117-year-old building since closing on it in July.

“It’s the perfect space for a hotel,” said Dixon. “North Loop is an incredible neighborhood, Minneapolis is a great hotel market right now, it’s at a high-profile intersection, the building is beautiful — all the right parts came together on this project.”

He’s been staying in Minneapolis three to four nights a week, doing historical research and geing to know the neighborhood while brainstorming ideas for the hotel.

“It’s not going to be an another Iron Horse,” he said. “History will dictate what it’s called and how it feels. We’re geing to know the building’s history, the history and feel of the North Loop, and the city’s history, and I bet something will bubble up in the next four to eight weeks.”

Right now there’s only one hotel — the TownePlace Suites at 525 2nd St. N. — in the North Loop, which is home to numerous condos and apartments.

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SAVE THE DATE

Downtown Minneapolis
Neighborhood Association’s **ANNUAL MEETING**

DATE: Tuesday, October 21 | TIME: 6:30pm
LOCATION: Minneapolis Depot, 225 3rd Avenue South

News

Biz Buzz



An elevated view of the Third Bird's bar. Photo by Ben Johnson

LORING PARK

Now open The Third Bird

Local restaurateur Kim Bartmann opened her latest concept, the Third Bird, in the former home of Café Maude on Aug. 19.

The renovated space pairs a laid-back, coffee shop vibe with an upscale menu and extensive wine list in an attempt to establish itself as a dependable neighborhood hangout.

"It's a casual, neighborhood restaurant with really good food," said head chef Lucas Almendinger, who previously ran the well-reviewed but short-lived Union Fish Market.

The food, artfully plated by Almendinger, uses produce from Bartmann's Tiny Diner farm and will frequently change with the seasons.

"The first couple months it won't change quite as quickly as we still are getting our feet under us, but once the machine is up and running smoothly there will be small or even major menu changes as we see it about every two, three weeks," he said.

A beautiful, long, circular wooden bar dominates the back of room, which looks out at

Loring Park through tall, brand-new windows. Bartmann got into a bit of a dispute with the Historic Planning Commission in trying to replace the windows, but eventually a compromise was found.

The entrance can be a little tricky to find. Instead of coming in from the Loring Park side of the restaurant, it's in the alley out back, but the initial confusion caused by coming in the back does reduce traffic in front of the nice view.

This is Bartmann's eighth restaurant. She also owns Bryant Lake Bowl, Pat's Tap, Red Stag Supper Club, Café Barbeque, Gigi's Café, Bread and Pickle and Tiny Diner.

The Third Bird offers a brunch, lunch and dinner menu, and there's mezzanine seating available for large groups. During the week it's open 11 a.m.–2 a.m., and on weekends 9 a.m.–2 a.m. Happy hour is Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m..

—B.J.

EAST BANK

Proposed More details emerge on Alatus high-rise

Local developer Bob Lux and staff from Alatus

Most of Alatus's presentation focused on its

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