





HIGH-RIS

A photo tour of Loring Park's L PAGE 8

THEJOUR

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SOUTHWEST LIGHT GETS THE GREEN LI



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

BY DYLAN THOMAS dthomas@journalmpls.com

he 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 vecities 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 nal 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 refected in the

nal tally. Mayor Betsy Hodges, a supporter of the project, sounded delivered her remarks.

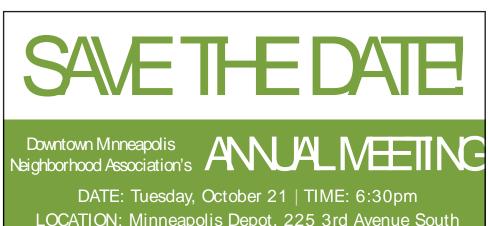
" ere is not going to be a celebration," Hodges said. " ere is no this one."

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

SEE LIGHT







News

Biz Buzz



The Jackson Building at 300 Washington Ave. N.

NORTH LOOP

Proposed Boutique hotel p 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 ve-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-pro le 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 ge ing 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 ge ing 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

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News

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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, e ird Bird, in the former home of Café Maude on Aug. 19.

e renovated space pairs a laid-back, co ee shop vibe with an upscale menu and extensive wine list in an a empt 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.

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

" e rst couple months it won't change quite as quickly as we still are ge ing 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 t 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.

e entrance can be a li le tricky to nd.

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 tra c in front of the nice view.

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

e ird Bird o ers 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..

—В.J.

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EAST BANK

Proposed More details emerge on Alatus high-rise