

MINUTES
ST. LOUIS PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 3, 2015

In attendance: President Ted Ekkers; Vice President Bonnie Burton; Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jeanne Andersen, Dale Lapakko, Jeff Liss, John Olson, Jim Robbins; Members Joan Brinkman, Don Schimmel, and Lucille Thornsjo; Guest Aaron Jongbloedt.

President Ted called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of January 2, 2015, were reviewed. Bonnie moved that they be approved, Dale seconded, and they were approved as written.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL EVENT

Appraisal expert and St. Louis Park resident Bonnie Lindberg has approached us about holding an "Antiques Roadshow" type of event, which are being held by many other historical societies in the area. Joan Brinkman was asked to help organize such an event, and she came to the meeting to present the findings of her preliminary research. After Joan left the Board discussed the pros and cons of holding such an event, and considered such factors as available venues, amount of time to plan, availability of volunteers, potential earnings, value in terms of public relations, etc. Jeanne volunteered to be the Board lead on this project, and with Sue and Joan will explore it further and report back to the Board at our next meeting.

2015 BUDGET

In the absence of our Treasurer, Henry Solmer, Bonnie presented the proposed 2015 budget. Given current projections, we will need to raise at least \$3,000 this year in order to pay rent and meet expenses. Jim moved to approve the budget, Ted seconded, and it was approved.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership records are kept on our PastPerfect software, and although it was transferred from our old to our new computer, the data is corrupted and must be fixed before PastPerfect will sell us our needed upgrade. Bonnie has been working on this problem, and suggested that we pay \$250 for a support package that would give us unlimited support as we continue through this process. Jeanne moved that we purchase this package, Jim seconded, and it was approved.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Jim has volunteered to teach a Junior Achievement course on Entrepreneurship in the 19th Century to sixth graders at the Middle School for a period of six Thursdays, and is looking forward to learning along with the students.

AAA HIGHWAY 100 FORUM

Jeanne will represent the Society at a forum that AAA is sponsoring on February 4 about the impact of construction on Highway 100 and the Minnetonka Blvd. and Highway 7 bridges. She will bring along our four photo albums of pictures for display.

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

- **BRONX PARK:** Ted and Jeanne are working on a PowerPoint for the Bronx Park Neighborhood Association, who requested a presentation. Jeanne provided an outline and photos to Ted, who will build the PowerPoint and present it at the Association's meeting on March 10.
- **ROTARY CLUB:** Ted has committed to making a presentation on Park history to the Rotary Club on March 30. Jeanne and Paul will be putting together a PowerPoint that can be used for this and other presentations.

FREE STUFF

Jeanne presented a PowerPoint showing several additions to the Society's office that can be had for free.

1. The City's Engineering Department is undergoing rehab of their offices, and needs to dispose of their flat files. Jeanne, Steve Raymer, and Emory Anderson went to see what Department head xx had, and Emory took photos. Ted moved that we accept all but the 1" file drawers, Jim seconded, and the motion was passed. Jeanne will work with Rick Beane at the City, who has agreed to have them moved to our office and to the Depot. We really are in need of these cabinets to protect our valuable flat items such as aerials, plat maps, and other large documents, and express our deep appreciation to the City.
2. Jeanne is in the process of researching the various digital microfilm reader/scanners on the market, and we have already had a demonstration of one model. A demonstration of another model is scheduled for this Saturday, February 7, at noon in our office. There are five vendors listed by the Minnesota Historical Society, and it appears that there are three basic models. Once we decide on the model and vendor we like, we will apply for a Legacy Grant to pay for it. The next deadline for Legacy Grants under \$10,000 is in April. Ted moved that Jeanne be authorized to apply for the grant, Bonnie seconded, and the motion was carried.
3. We would also have to apply for a Legacy Grant for the reels of microfilm of our newspapers. MHS charges \$90 per reel (minus 10 percent for members). Jeanne presented a spreadsheet of the newspapers we have in bound form, those we have loose in the Depot, and what it would cost to order all of our papers. With the discount, we could request them all within the grant limit. We can submit two grant applications in the same round. Ted moved that Jeanne be authorized to apply for a grant for the microfilm, Jeff seconded, and the motion carried.
4. The Sherburne County Historical Society has a microfilm cabinet that it is giving away free for the taking. Jeanne has contacted them and told them that pending Board

approval, we would like the cabinet for our future microfilm reels. Ted moved that we accept the cabinet, Dale seconded, and the motion carried.

LOGO

Mark Toretzky submitted his latest design to Ted and it was discussed by the Board. Ted will get back to Mark about a few more adjustments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting will be on March 3, 2015, at the Society's office at 3546 Dakota Ave. Everyone is encouraged to come.

BOARD REPORT

Jeanne Andersen

February 3, 2015

Collection:

- Posted mystery school photos found in the collection to Facebook and they were identified as being from Cedar Manor, so I could finally put them where they belonged!
- Posted mystery fire photos found in the collection to Facebook and they were identified to be of the Shelard Park Theater fire of 1975 and unrelated photos taken at Ainsworth Park. Sent scans of the photos to the Fire Department for their archive.
- Emory Anderson and I took photos of homes for which demolition permits have been issued.

Research/Website:

- Worked with Herb Reckinger, Jr. to find photos of men from St. Louis Park who lost their lives in Vietnam. Emory found one photo that we sent to Herb for his project to place photos of all casualties by the Wall in Washington, DC. Took photos that Herb had found of other SLP casualties and posted on our website.
- Looked through phone books to trace history of taxi service in the Park.
- Read the book *Stolen from Garden* about the Virginia Piper kidnapping in 1972 and found several connections to SLP. Will write up a page on it, focusing on the ties to the Park.
- At the suggestion of a member of Westwood Lutheran Church, Emory and I went to the church and he took pictures from a display they had of historic photos and materials. Emory posted many of these to Facebook and they were well received.
- Emory and I also visited the Battlefield Militaria Store on Highway 7, which is proposed for demolition and redevelopment. I interviewed the owner, Bob Johnson, who was very helpful in giving the history of both his business and the building itself. Emory took many, many photos of this unique store.

- Went through photos of an older house on Goodrich sent in by Steven Olson. Will post two to the Goodrich site and one on the 1965 blizzard page.
- Posting to website has been suspended pending changeover.

Office Hours Visitors:

- Doug Hodgden came to find out more about his 100-year old house in the Brookside neighborhood.
- A private investigator came looking for information on the theft of Norman Rockwell paintings from Elayne Galleries on Excelsior Blvd. Although this has been written up in a book and the paintings have been recovered, he's apparently still on the case. We shared some articles on Elayne Galleries and he allowed us to copy a great article that he had.
- Joe Weaver came looking for pictures of the Highway 100 Roadside Parks.
- John Hager came in with pictures of his family in the Brookside neighborhood, which goes back over 100 years. He donated a 1920 photo of his grandfather's house and other school and personal documents. His grandfather, Arthur Hager, Sr., was one of Park's first policemen, and his father, Arthur Hager, Jr., was a photographer for the *Minneapolis Tribune*.
- Myron Biros came with two framed photos of the Parkettes, dating from 1982-83. Emory took photos of them and posted them to Facebook, getting a great reaction from the girls.
- Ric Peterson came in with pictures related to his dad's business, Town Taxi.
- Tim Bailey came in with two scrapbooks and many envelopes of photographs from the Ambassador Hotel. He and his mother had both worked there, and when it closed in 1991, the management allowed his mother to take them. Googling the Ambassador led him to us.
- Lucille Thornsjo came in with an *Echowen* and other materials from the Class of 1968, donated by her son Mark.
- Mark Toretsky comes in every week to do research and make donations.
- Al Hartman takes photos from the *Dispatch* and posts them to Facebook.

Donations in the Mail:

- Mark Swedlund sent a packet containing copies of promotional materials relating to the model home that Ecklund-Swedlund Homes built in the parking lot of Knollwood Plaza in 1958 and then raffled off.
- Susanne Herrington sent a small box made by the National Lead Co. Although we don't know for sure whether it was made in the Park, it is representative of the company that employed many people here through the years.



Other Donations:

- Toni Nelson at Lenox accepted on our behalf a donation of a 1927 diploma from Park High and a photo of the 1926-27 football team.

Miscellaneous:

- Met with reporter John Reinan of the *StarTribune*, ostensibly to follow up on his story about 7112 Minnetonka Blvd., which is due to be demolished. He is the West Metro editor and interested in old houses. Told him about the role that T.B. Walker played in the development of the Park, and he expressed an interest in writing a story about it. No concrete plans as of yet.
- Made my very first PowerPoint to show the board the “Free Stuff” that may be coming our way:
 - Flat files from City Hall
 - A digital microfilm reader/printer – getting bids to apply for April Legacy Grant.
NOTE: Demonstration of a second kind of machine will take place on Saturday, February 7, at our office at noon. Everyone is invited to come.
 - Microfilm reels of our newspapers – will require a second Legacy Grant
 - A free microfilm cabinet offered by Sherburne County Historical Society
- Worked up an outline and assembled photos for a presentation to the Bronx Park neighborhood association that Ted will put together and present.
- Wrote up 2014 Annual Report as required by the Minnesota Historical Society.