

MINUTES
ST. LOUIS PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MARCH 3, 2015

In attendance: President Ted Ekkers; Vice President Bonnie Burton; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jeanne Andersen, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, Jeff Liss, John Olson, Jim Robbins; Guest Katy Nelson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2015, was tabled.

FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION

Trustee Paul Linnee presented his friend Katy Nelson, a professional development (fundraising) expert, to talk about the steps to take in order to raise funds for a St. Louis Park History Center. She suggested we hire a consultant who would evaluate the viability of a capital campaign; funds for this may be eligible under the Minnesota Legacy grant program. Next steps:

- Paul will draft a Request for Proposals for a consultant.
- Jeff will conduct a survey on Facebook to find out where SLP natives live now.
- Jeanne will investigate the possibility of a grant for a consultant.
- The Board will meet to talk about the vision for the History Center.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Henry presented this month's financial report; Dale made a motion to approve the report, Paul seconded, and the report was approved.

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie reported that PastPerfect has been successfully installed on our laptop, and she and Kathy are entering membership information. There are approximately 130 people whose memberships are now due, and they plan to send reminder letters, which have been very successful in previous years

MEETING WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

On February 28, Ted, Bonnie, and Jeanne attended a gathering of fellow Historical Society leaders from around Hennepin County. The meeting was organized by Marci Matson, Executive Director of the Edina Historical Society, and hosted by the Hennepin History Center. A representative from each Society summarized their current projects. We were especially impressed by the success of Golden Valley's program of selling street signs that they received by the city as they were replaced. They have made close to \$8,000 in the last two years. Jeanne will investigate the viability of doing a similar project here.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

On April 16, Jim will begin a six week program at the Middle School, teaching a curriculum about business entrepreneurship in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The sessions will highlight successful businesses such as Levi Strauss.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL EVENT

Sue and Jeanne gave the Board an update on the event, which has been scheduled for May 16. A venue is still being sought; the AAA room is under construction, and most other rooms are not big enough. The committee, led by Joan Brinkman, continues to work on the details.

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, Ted, and Paul will be putting together a PowerPoint that can be used for this and other presentations.
- **SORENSEN NEIGHBORHOOD:** We have been asked to submit a piece for the Sorenson Neighborhood newsletter, as our office is within the neighborhood. Ted will write something.

COLLECTIONS REPORT – see report below

WEBSITE UPGRADE PROJECT

Ted reported that it would be difficult to continue to have the city host the new site, and moved that the Society move it to a private hosting company. Paul seconded the motion and it was carried. Ted is hoping for an early April launch of the site. Ted has been moving each page of the site from the old to the new format, which represents a tremendous amount of time and effort, given that there are approximately 5,000 pages!

LOGO

Ted presented the latest version of the logo that Mark Toretzky has been working on, and will continue to work with Mark to finalize the design.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The Board will meet on March 18, 2015, at the Society's office at 3546 Dakota Ave. for a special visioning session. The next regular Board meeting will be on April 7, 2015, at the office.

BOARD REPORT

Jeanne Andersen

March 3, 2015

NORTHERN AIRE POOLS: Received an artifact (sign) from Manny Camilon that indicated that the company had been located at 3575 Wooddale. Called the company for a better history, and am working with the owner to get photos, etc. Will also try to get photos of the building from former owner, Carl Eide, whose motorcycle shop was located there.

AMBASSADOR HOTEL: Put contents of donated scrapbooks into a photo album and file folder. Posted photos to the website. Sold one of the photos to author of book on modern architecture.

STATE LEGISLATURE: Found state website on former legislators and updated list on our website.

REC CENTER PHOTOS: Put two sets of photos documenting the construction of the water park in 1997 into the photo album.

FRANK NYE: Received photo scans of Frank Nye and his 1904 Cadillac; research showed him to be a U.S. Senator who lived in St. Louis Park. His son also lived in the Park; scans were received from a grandson who was unaware of the family history.

TOWN TAXI: Son of owner donated photos of cars and one of his father's driver's licenses. Read through phone books to research taxi companies in the Park.

LINSK FLOWERS: Talked to members of the Linsk family to find out about the origins of the company; received scans of photos of Mr. and Mrs. Linsk to post to the website.

MYSTERY PHOTOS: Found a box of unidentified photos in the Depot; Emory Anderson took pictures of them and Al Hartman posted them on Facebook to get them identified.

WILLIAM LAYCOCK: A woman in Texas had been given an etching of William Laycock, thinking he was a relation, but he was not. She saw his photo on our website and sent the etching to us. It appears to be quite old. Laycock was one of our first pioneers.

HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS PARK: In over preparation for writing a PowerPoint on the history of the City, I have pored over every document in our collection, contemporary news accounts, and biographies of TB Walker on the Internet. Have uncovered some interesting things, including when things were built and the role of the Truesdale Brothers in the naming of the Park. One was an incorporator of the Village and the other owned the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad.

ACQUISITIONS:

- Eight banks of flat files were donated by the City's Engineering Department. Five are in our office and three are at the Depot. They were delivered by City staff, thanks to Rick Beane and his crew.
- Engineering also donated a huge pile of atlases, plat maps, and aerial photographs. A volunteer helped in the initial sort, and they are in the process of being inventoried.
- Two folding tables were made available to us courtesy of City Hall building manager Rutager West. They are at the Depot.
- Rutager also mentioned that some vertical files would be available in the future and we asked that they be saved for us for storage of the assessor's files that have been in storage for us.
- A three-level cart was donated by John McHugh, City Community TV. Also at the Depot.
- A steel cabinet that can be used to hold microfilm was donated by the Sherburne County Historical Society. A call for help on Facebook was met by help from Doug Kraft and Al Hartman, who went with me to get it using a trailer Doug borrowed from his church. We stowed it in the Depot and City staff hauled it up into our office.
- With the microfilm cabinet, City staff also brought over our plat maps and aerials, as well as our documents and large photos, to be sorted and inventoried. The plats and aerials will stay in the office (the ones the City didn't have will be scanned for them) and the large documents will be stored at the Depot.

MICROFILM SCANNER: Emory and I saw a demonstration of a second type of scanner that we like better because it is more like Microsoft programs and has buttons. It comes with a large monitor, but we must come up with a computer. There is about \$600 left in the grant amount, but the specs on the computer are very rigorous and it will probably cost closer to \$1,000. We have applied with a company that provides low cost computers to nonprofits, so we'll see what happens. Grant application due date is April 9.

AAA FORUM: Attended a public forum on Highway 100 construction held at AAA by Mn/DOT. Had a display table of photos of the construction of the Highway and handed out brochures.

ST. LOUIS PARK MAGAZINE: Last Glance was in the March issue and featured a photo of the last Fireman's Carnival in 1962, taken by former resident Steve Brown.

STRIB ARTICLE: John Reinan's article on TB Walker's role in the development of St. Louis Park was in the West Metro section of the *StarTribune* on February 18. He wrote the story about the 1890 house on Minnetonka Blvd. being demolished, and is interested in old houses and history in general.