

Meeting Minutes  
St. Louis Park Historical Society  
May 5, 2015

Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Vice President Bonnie Burton; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jeanne Andersen, Paul Linnee, Jeff Liss, John Olson, and James Robbins; members Diane Steen-Hinderlie and Don Schimmel

**GOVERNANCE**

Review and Approval of Minutes: April meeting minutes: Bonnie moved for approval of the April meeting minutes. Jim seconded and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bonnie moved for approval, Paul seconded, motion passed.

Membership Update: Bonnie reported that there were 196 paid members. She plans to send another letter in June.

Collections Update: Jeanne reported that people continued to come in for office hours, often bringing donations. One notable donation was a set of photographs that turned out to be senior photos from the Class of 1933, which was significant because to our knowledge there was no yearbook in 1933. Jeanne also mentioned that more table space was needed during office hours and Ted volunteered to provide some

Board Meeting Calendar: Future meetings are scheduled for:

- June 2
- July 7
- August 5 (moved to first Wednesday due to National Night Out)
- September 15: moved to accommodate schedules; also Annual Meeting
- October 6
- November 4 (moved to Wednesday due to Election Day)
- December 1

Bonnie moved that this schedule be adopted. Ted seconded and the motion was approved.

**KEY ACTIVITY UPDATES**

Vision Proposal: Ted presented a revised Vision Statement for the Historical Society, as follows:

We are a welcoming, energetic organization: connected with the City, and offering relevant programming for the community and schools where current, former, and future residents can learn and reminisce about the history of St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Jeff moved that this Vision Statement be adopted. Jeanne seconded, and the motion passed.

Fundraising Feasibility Update: Paul developed a 17-question survey about the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to raise money for a St. Louis Park History Center. He emailed it to 462 people directly, and also posted it to Facebook. As of the meeting he had received 147

replies. He will report back at the next meeting with an analysis of the number of replies and responses.

Park's Antique Parade: Jeanne and Sue reported that plans were moving along well. Most people have been registering online.

Street Sign Fundraiser: We have been approved by the City to receive street signs that have been replaced. However, plans for a space to sort and distribute them have fallen through. Jeanne asked permission to use the Depot for this purpose and the Board agreed.

#### Parktacular:

- Ted is working with the Ambassadors group on a treasure hunt for the candidates. Coronation of Ambassadors is Saturday, June 20 at 4pm at the high school. A special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Miss St. Louis Park/Ambassadors program is planned.
- Jeff has lined up a 1967 red Olds Cutlass Convertible for the parade. We need to come up with something to hand out.
- Ted has submitted our application to participate in the Expo and will provide the table. We will sign up for shifts at the June meeting.

## **FUTURE PLANNING**

Programming: Ted would like us to start a series of programs to present to the public. Bonnie suggested that we each come up with a proposed program. A program committee was discussed.

Office Plan: We need to be mindful that our rent will double in 2016 and triple in 2017. Jeanne mentioned that Friends of the Arts also has to leave Lenox by July 1 and since all they need is an office, perhaps they could sublet our empty office. Jeanne will provide Bonnie with contact information for FOA and she will follow up.

2015 Goals: Ted presented a list of five major goals for the Historical Society for 2015:

- Shore up our organizational discipline
- Create a Programming Committee and execute regular and diverse programming
- Strengthen our ties and outreach with the City's business, media, and civic leaders
- Ensure we are financially sound
- Assess the feasibility for a significant capital campaign

We have accomplished many of these, but have many to go. Bonnie moved that we adopt these goals. Jeff seconded and the motion was passed.

Board Management: Ted did an analysis of how other Historical Societies and other St. Louis Park nonprofit organizations structured their boards. Our board of 13 positions is about average. We currently have two board vacancies: Secretary, and a Trustee position that ends in September 2016. Three Trustee positions currently held by Jeanne, Jeff, and Jim end in September 2015. Ted proposed a board member recruitment process and proposed candidate qualifications.

## **OPEN TOPICS**

Junior Achievement: Jim reported that he has completed five out of six sessions with 30 sixth graders at the Middle School. He presents a curriculum developed by Junior Achievement, focusing on entrepreneurship in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Monkey Island: Diane Steen-Hinderlie described her committee's efforts to preserve the "Monkey Island" stone structure that is a vestige of the Minnetonka Blvd. roadside park built when Highway 100 was built in the 1930s. She asked the Society if it could act as the fiscal agent for the committee when it begins to collect donations for restoration of the structure when the highway reconstruction is completed. The Board agreed, and also expressed support for the project.