



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
January 3, 2017

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, Jim Robbins, and John Olson; Members Sue Ainsworth, Bill Beyer, Steve Raymer, and Don Schimmel.

GOVERNANCE:

- Review and approval of November and December minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and approved.
- Membership Report: Membership stands at 259. 75 renewals came in at the end of the year. Jeanne discussed the difficulties of managing an individual dues due date system vs. a calendar year system that we had been on until 2015.
- *Re-Echo*/Park History Today Update: Ted has been finding difficulty finding time to edit the *Re-Echo*. Jeanne knows of a volunteer who would be willing to work with Joanna McPeck to edit and design the newsletter. The next one should be out shortly.
- Secretary's Report: Jeanne had a meeting with Todd Mahon from the Minnesota Historical Society, who came to review and take light and humidity readings at our facilities. He gave us templates of documents that we should have on file, including updated templates for bylaws. John noted correctly that some of our stated policies are in noncompliance. Jeanne will have documents for the Board to review at the next meeting.
- Board Meetings for 2017: Although meetings are generally scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, some will be held on the second Tuesday because of conflicts. The meeting dates are February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 15, September 12, October 3, November 14, and December 5. Jeanne will notify the *Sun-Sailor* for publication on its calendar of events.
- 2017 Goals: Ted emphasized that our main goal for the year is fundraising for the purpose of establishing a permanent St. Louis Park History Center.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

Jeanne inquired about whether there was a counter on our website to see how much traffic we were getting. Ted will check and see if there already is one. Website pages are being updated as subjects arise. One notable donation was a series of 14 reels of film from the 1976 Park High football season, donated by David Wick. John McHugh, in the Community TV Department, has agreed to convert these to a digital format that can be stored on a hard drive.

PROGRAMMING

Paul is working on the Tom Friedman fundraiser, scheduled for April 30 at 7:00 pm at the Sabes Jewish Community Center. Price points and possible related events have yet to be worked out.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Walker Building

Jeanne gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Walker Building, 6516 Walker Street. The building has been for sale for over a year, and the Board had toured it earlier, but felt that being a landlord to the tenants in the seven offices on the second floor was beyond our capacity.

Jeanne and Steve got an extended tour on January 2 from the owner, Doug Winters, who would like to sell it to the Society. The asking price is \$775,000, and many more dollars would have to be raised in order to renovate it to meet our needs and to make city-required improvements to the south exterior. We would also have to raise an endowment to pay for staff and upkeep.

Although the Board was in general agreement that it would be appropriate to be located in the City's oldest and most historic commercial building in the Park's original downtown, it was dubious as to whether we could raise enough money to buy it before the owner sold it to someone else.

Jeanne was given 90 days to pursue the vision of the Walker Building, while being careful not to give the impression that it is our only option. Bill will take a look at the building to determine its feasibility for our needs.

Jorvig Park

Bill presented an alternate plan that would place the History Center between the Depot and the railroad tracks in Jorvig Park. This plan would keep the building to one story, and bring it closer to Brunswick Ave. for potentially more exposure. John expressed concern as to whether the State Historic Preservation Office, which reviews plans that relate to buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, would allow the alternate plan with regard to the proximity to the Depot.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the Society's office.