



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
October 4, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees John Olson and Jim Robbins; member Don Schimmel.

GOVERNANCE:

- Review and approval of August minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Review and approval of September minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction.
- Treasurer's Report: Henry's report will be reviewed further.
- Membership Report: We have approximately 270 members who are either paid up or within two months of their renewal date. Jeanne will send reminder letters in mid-November.
- *Re-Echo*/Park History Today Update: A *Re-Echo* is being put together.
- Secretary's Report: Jeanne reported that we had received a call from someone who had a stairway chair lift to donate. A member of the city building inspection staff came to the office to see our office site but confirmed that it would be against the building code to install. Jeanne also relayed the offer of our tenant, Roseann Stewart, to clean our floor each month in exchange for a \$30 reduction in rent. The board agreed to do this for three months, until the end of the year. At that time we will re-evaluate the need for this.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

- The City's Water Department donated a four-drawer file cabinet to the Society, and Jeanne and her husband Steve Raymer picked it up and brought it up the stairs. Volunteer Joan Brinkman came to help load the Society's collection of Echo student newspapers into the cabinet.
- Volunteer Julie Renner helped Jeanne inventory the Society's collection of elementary school and junior high yearbooks. Of the extra copies, 14 were sold to Special Collections at the Hennepin County Central Library for \$270.
- The second round of our newspapers on microfilm was meant to replace the hard copies stored in the Depot. The Board discussed what to do with the hard copies, which are now redundant. Jeanne said that our hard copy collection was incomplete and took up badly needed storage space in the Depot. She had ideas of going through them and cutting out articles, but that would be too time consuming and expensive, as each article would have to be photocopied. Jeanne said that in our Legacy grant agreement for the microfilm there was a requirement to report what we were going to do with these papers. The Board told Jeanne to contact MHS for guidance on this issue and act accordingly.

- Jeanne traveled to southern Minnesota to speak to the grandson of Herbert Carleton. Herbert wore several hats in St. Louis Park 100 years ago: Superintendent of Schools, Village Recorder, and real estate agent were some of them. The house he built in 1904 on Dakota Ave., around the corner from the Depot, still stands; in 1915 the Dan Patch Railroad was built right through his back yard. His grandson, Robert Carleton, is 91 years old but remembered many things about his grandfather and the Carleton family.

PROGRAMMING

- On October 8, 2016, the Society had a table at the “Walk and Talk on Walker/Lake” event, and several Board members came to talk to people about the Society and the history of Walker and Lake streets. We handed out self-guided walking tours of the area. The organizers also took five photos from our collection and had them blown up.
- On October 18, 2016, there will be a History of St. Louis Park talk at the Lenox Community Center’s Little Theater. Jim and Dale volunteered to be the presenters.
- We received an email from Lisa Napoli, who has written about McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc and his wife Joan. Lisa worked with the Society to get the story of how the SLP McDonald’s was built and the controversy surrounding it. Jeanne will follow up to see if there is the possibility of an event with her when her book comes out in November.
- John will host a Cub Scout pack at the Depot on October 13, 2016.
- Marla Destache-Macdonald, head of the Ambassadors program, inquired about another Depot lighting event this year. We decided to hold one on December 3, 2016, at 5:30. John or Ted will follow up with Rick Beane at the City to get the lights installed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

- Ted had lunch with Mayor Jake Spano, and reported that the Mayor was very supportive of the Society. He advised us to get community input and have a clear vision of what we want to accomplish; i.e., not just a building but what will go on inside of it.
- Ted has a meeting set up with Cindy Walsh and staff on October 11, 2016, to discuss ways that the Society can work with Parks and Rec to identify a site.
- Ted has also been in contact with Meg McMonigal, in the City’s Community Development Department, about including the Society in the new Vision process that is getting underway.
- A fundraising event with Tom Friedman has been set up for April 30, 2017. We need to find a venue for this event. Trustee Paul Linnee has worked hard to make this happen.
- Advisory/Building Committee: A story about our building plans and our search for board members and volunteers came out in the *Sun-Sailor* the week after our Annual Meeting. (Jeanne’s personal contact information was accidentally listed at the end.) Our next step would be to convene a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2016, in the Society’s office