



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
December 6, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jane Hagstrom and John Olson; Members Sue Ainsworth, Emory Anderson, Bill Beyer, Kathy Spence Johnson, and Rick Sewall

This meeting focused on exploring the vision of a St. Louis Park History Center.

I. Ted reported on a meeting that he attended on October 11, 2016, with:

- Cindy Walsh, Operations and Recreation Director
- Rick Beane, Parks Superintendent
- Jason West, Recreation Superintendent
- John Olson, Historical Society Trustee
- Jeanne Andersen, Historical Society Secretary

Ted presented the Society's goal to establish a museum, and several options were discussed. The Society will come back to Parks and Rec with a specific proposal.

II. After reviewing the Vision documents that came out of the March 15, 2015, meeting of the Society's board, the Board explored each of three concepts for a History Center that have been proposed. Pros and cons of each were discussed. Those were:

Concept A: Depot Building

This concept is to raise funds to build a new building in Jorvig Park, in proximity to the Depot. The building would be owned and maintained by the City. Preliminary architectural plans were drawn up with City funds in 2013.

Concept B: Downtown Building

This concept is to raise funds to purchase a building on Walker Street, the city's original downtown.

Concept C: Small but Mobile

This concept would use a low-cost storage facility and have a small public space.

After debating the pros and cons of each, the majority favored the Depot location. The main advantages were the proximity to the incoming Light Rail and the fact that the City already owned the land. Other ideas were adding an app, and having smart screens. Bill distributed an example of media walls.

Ted will contact members of the Board who are not present to get their input. With a united vision, Ted and Bill will meet with the City again to get their input. We will solicit neighborhood input as well.

The meeting was adjourned; the next meeting will be on January 3, 2017, at the Historical Society Office.