



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
February 2, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Vice-President Bonnie Burton; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Paul Linnee, and John Olson; member Don Schimmel

GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: Jeanne distributed the minutes for January but discovered that they were not the most recent version. In the process of the review there was a discussion as to whether the *Re-Echo* should be distributed to our elected officials such as the City Council, School Board, etc. The consensus was that, although the decision was made to only send the *Re-Echo* to members, the decision was not intended to exclude the list of elected officials. Further consideration of the January minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his monthly report and it was approved.

Vice President's Report: Bonnie reported that the organization membership is 275. The *Re-Echo* has been mailed.

Secretary's Report:

- Jeanne noted that mail is coming to our box at the office, but there are problems regarding misdelivery and envelopes with checks enclosed sticking out of the top. Bonnie said that she had been asking people to send their membership renewals to the Dakota address. It was noted that we had not changed our mailing address, our legal address is at the Rec Center, and that the Dakota location was not secure. Bonnie said that the last batch of renewal letters had already gone out, but that she would use the Monterey address in the future.
- Volunteer Tori Beyer is assembling the documents for the Annual Report.
- Jeanne sat for an interview with Scott Smith for the Life in the Park program that is shown on Park Community TV and is available on YouTube.
- Our webmail is about to expire and we need to see whether it can be renewed at a lower rate. Another alternative would be to switch to our existing gmail account. Ted will investigate.

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

Collection:

- The photos donated by the City Assessor are slowly but surely being added to the existing photo books already in our collection. They are of commercial, industrial, and multifamily properties only.
- Julianne Renner has donated the 1943 Class ring that belonged to her mother, Betty Engebretson Renner, who passed away recently. Kathy Johnson will add it to our display of class rings in the office.

Research/Website: In the process of working with the Assessor photos, Jeanne has added several photos and more information to the Miracle Mile web page.

FUNDRAISING

Street Signs: The *StarTribune* printed another story about our street sign program on January 17, prompting us to post the new inventory posthaste. Over 60 signs have been ordered since then. We have about 375 signs left, but only about 140 with named avenues, as opposed to numbered streets. Signs in good supply are Minnetonka Blvd., Hwy 7, Princeton, Rhode Island, Vernon, Virginia, and Zarthan.

Yearbooks: Jeanne and Joanie Brinkman plan to inventory the *Echowans* donated by the High School on Monday. The Board agreed that \$50 was a fair price, and that we should keep track of purchasers. This would be an outright sale, versus a donation like the sign project. Henry will investigate whether we need to charge sales tax.

Antique Parade: Although this was a popular event, neither Jeanne nor Sue felt they had time to organize another one until next year.

Proposal for Friedman Fundraiser: When we were visited by Tom Friedman, he offered to appear at a fundraiser. Paul sent Tom a letter asking him if he could find time for such an event. The release of his new book is scheduled for October. Paul will follow up soon.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Schools' 125th Anniversary: Jeanne continues to work with Sara Thompson, Communications Director for the School District, to talk about the District's plans to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Louis Park Schools.

Susan Lindgren Involvement: Ted will follow up and talk to the IB Coordinator to see how we can help fit St. Louis Park history into the school's curriculum.

PROGRAMMING

Beer, Wine & Spirits at Steeltown Brewery: This program is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9. It will be an opportunity to share St. Louis Park's unique history on the subject, and for the owners of the Brewery to talk about their business.

St. Louis Park's Parks: No date has been set for this next program, but it is tentatively scheduled for April.

LONG RANGE FACILITY UPDATE

Ted announced the news that our landlord, Curt Rahman, has offered to extend our lease from 1 to 3 years at the current rate. The rent was originally scheduled to increase on October 1. The Board expressed gratitude for this offer, and Ted will work out the details with Curt.

The idea of subletting one of our interior offices was also raised, and Curt has put Ted in touch with some potential people. This would significantly reduce our rent and allow us to redirect those funds to our museum acquisition fund.

Jeanne reconnected with the people involved with the Masonic Temple, and the next step is for the Board to tour the building. Ted is in the process of contacting the realtor to determine a time, which would have to be on a Saturday, given his schedule.

Ted also reported on a meeting he attended about the City's plans to revitalize the Lake/Walker corridor. Attendees included Julie Grove and Gary Morrison from the City's Economic Development Dept., City Council members Thom Miller and Greg Lindberg, Curt Rahman, members of the Sorenson Neighborhood Association, and several business owners. The City Council has applied for a \$500,000 grant that would pay for such improvements as fixing sidewalks, improving signage, cleanup of brush and debris along the railroad property, lighting, and street art. The City will know in the spring if it is awarded the grant. The first step would be to hire a consultant/designer to start the process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sue mentioned a small business where a woman makes dishtowels with a design provided by the customer. We would spend approximately \$100 to buy a supply and sell them in our gift shop. The Board approved this fundraiser, and agreed that an image of the Depot would be the most appropriate design.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, at 7pm at the SLPHS Office. It has been moved from the first Tuesday because of the political caucuses.