



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
February 7, 2017

St Louis Park Historical Society
3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
www.slphistory.org
history@slphis.org
952-583-9893

Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jane Hagstrom, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, Jim Robbins, and John Olson; Members Ingrid Moe, Rick Sewall, Don Schimmel, Bill Thibault

GOVERNANCE:

- January Minutes were unavailable and will be reviewed next month.
- Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and approved
- 2017 Governance
 - a. Ted presented the 2017 budget. At this point it shows a \$4,000 deficit, but the budget was approved with confidence that the shortfall would be made up with fundraisers.
 - b. We have been approached to sublet part of our space to Marie Nelson, who does personal training. The sublet would involve heavy mats on the floor. Jeanne was tasked with finding out if Marie could use the space inside the glass wall.
 - c. 2017 Goals. Our primary goal is to obtain a permanent building to establish a St. Louis Park History Center.
 - d. Open Board Seats. This remains a problem, and we are reaching out to city leaders to find people who are willing to serve on the board and share their expertise, especially when it comes to working with the city, real estate financing, law, etc.
- Membership Report: Membership stands at 244. Eight people renewed/reinstated last month. We continue to send out reminder letters to those whose memberships have lapsed.
- *Re-Echo* Update: The board was introduced to Ingrid Moe, our new volunteer editor of the *Re-Echo*. The board decided that it was important to save money but also to have an attractive publication. Ingrid's suggestion that we print the front and back cover in just one color (green) was agreed to by the board. Ingrid stated her goals as getting back to a four issue per year schedule and keeping costs down while making the *Re-Echo* an important vehicle for information and stories.
- Secretary's Report: Jeanne requested some assistance from board members in coming to office hours on Saturdays. We are getting more and more visitors! She also asked if anyone could help in bringing water to the office from the Depot, taking the school desks back to the Depot, and performing chores such as taking out the trash.

- Reminder of 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 March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 15, September 12, October 3, November 14, and December 5. Jeanne has notified the *Sun-Sailor* for publication on its calendar of events.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

In order to close out our second Legacy for microfilm, we need to submit our deaccession plan (to dispose of the newspapers that we now have on microfilm). Jeanne presented a revision to our Collection Policy, which includes the deaccession plan. The Board approved the revision.

PROGRAMMING/FUNDRAISING

- Paul reported that 30 percent of the tickets for the Tom Friedman fundraiser, scheduled for April 30 at 7:00 pm at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, have been sold. Thus far publicity has been limited to our members and people on Facebook. Paul will write a press release that will be sent to the *Sun-Sailor*, *Star Tribune*, and other news outlets.
- Lisa Napoli, author of the book *Ray and Joan*, will be in our area on July 18. Ted is working with her to have an event here in St. Louis Park. Part of her book discusses our Lake Street McDonald's, and her book has been very popular.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Jeanne gave a description of the actions she's taken to pursue the Walker Building as the location of a permanent St. Louis Park History Center. She and Ted attended a meeting with City staff, including Jason West, Rick Beane, and Cindy Walsh from Parks and Rec; Community Development Director Kevin Locke; City Assessor Cory Bultema; and City Manager Tom Harmening. Jeanne gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Walker Street, the importance of preserving the Walker Building, and how the Historical Society would be the logical inhabitant of the building. Mr. Harmening gave us three assignments: provide examples of how other cities have supported their Historical Societies, submit a Business Plan, and clarify the Board's support of the proposal. We also need to meet with Council members to get their suggestions and reactions.

CAREER DAY

Jim mentioned that he attended Career Day at Washburn High School in Minneapolis and talked about the Historical Society.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

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