



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

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Trustees Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, Jim Robbins, and John Olson; Members Julianne Renner, Rick Sewall, and Don Schimmel

GOVERNANCE:

- January and February Minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction.
- Treasurer's Report: Ted gave the report in the absence of Treasurer Henry Solmer. Our operating budget now shows a \$4,000 shortfall for the year; the Board decided to leave it as it is and make up the gap with fundraisers. Jeanne reported that another posting on Facebook has brought in several orders for street signs. Emory Anderson is putting the excess Echowans on eBay with good results.
- Membership Report: Membership stands at about 250. Reminder letters were sent to 80 members whose dues were either overdue or coming up.
- *Re-Echo* Update: In the absence of *Re-Echo* editor Ingrid Moe, Ted reported that the *Re-Echo* would be out shortly. Articles are needed for the next issue.
- Secretary's Report:
 1. Jeanne reported that there are two outstanding inquiries for participation in our Century House program, whereby an owner of a home that is at least 100 years old can apply to have a plaque placed on the home. Present rules are that the homeowner pays the first \$100 for the plaque, and the Society pay the remainder. The Society orders the plaques from Wrap City Graphics in Hopkins. Jeanne brought up the fact that more and more homes are on the 100 year plus list, and this program is no longer economically feasible for the Society given our present goal of obtaining a museum. Questions were asked about the present cost of the plaques and if a "generic" plaque without the year the home was built would cost less, and Jeanne will check out. In the meantime, the Board voted to keep the program but require that the homeowner pay the entire cost of the plaque. The two pending requests will be honored at the \$100 price.
 2. The discussion of plaques brought up the idea of installing historic markers around the area to indicate where other historic buildings had been. Ted will contact Julie Grove from the City's office of Economic Development about the possibility of working that into the Walker/Lake revitalization project. We could place plaques at other historic sites as well, and a grant may be available to pay for the plaques.
 3. Our potential second sublet did not work out.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

Park alumni Glenda Hoffman donated several items, including her 1977 letter jacket, the first of these in our collection.

PROGRAMMING/FUNDRAISING

- Paul reported that sales for tickets to the Tom Friedman fundraiser, scheduled for April 30 at 7:00 pm at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, have been brisk, so far raising a total of \$5,520. He and Jeanne worked together to send a press release to the *Sun-Sailor*, *Star Tribune*, and other news outlets. It is also a prominent item in the *Re-Echo*, which will be distributed soon. The Board approved Paul's request to spend \$350 for advertising of the event.
- 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. Jeanne is continuing to do research on the backstory regarding the controversial opening of this store.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Jeanne gave a report of actions taken regarding the Walker Building since the last Board meeting:

- On February 9 she attended a focus group with the task of "branding" the Walker/Lake area. She gave some historical pretext to the neighborhood.
- On February 14 there was a tour of the building by City Inspections Director Brian Hoffman, Dave Skallet of Inspections staff, Volunteer Architect Bill Beyer, and building owner Doug Winters to discuss the implications of a change of use. No additional requirements would be made until a full-fledged museum was ready for the public.
- On March 3, Ted and Jeanne met with Council member Sue Sanger to present the PowerPoint that gives the history of the area and the building and the proposal to have the City help the Society purchase the building for use as a museum.
- On March 4, Ted and Jeanne met with Council member Thom Miller and Julia Schmeltzer, who is spearheading an effort to establish a Teen Center in the Walker/Lake area. We showed the PowerPoint and discussed ways to incorporate the Teen Center.

The plan is to meet with the remaining Council members individually. Sue Sanger will ask that we get on the agenda for a Study Session, where we present our request.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the Society's office.