



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
June 14, 2016

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 Sue Ainsworth, Jane Hagstrom, Paul Linnee, John Olson, and Jim Robbins; member Don Schimmel

GOVERNANCE:

- Facility Update – Sublet. Paul has successfully found a person to sublet one of our inner offices. Roseann Stewart will be using the room for her SOAR therapy business, and will pay \$275 per month.
- Review and approval of May minutes. Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
- Secretary’s Report. Jeanne reported that we received a second Legacy grant for our newspapers on microfilm, in the amount of \$3,402. The microfilm reels should arrive in about two months. When they do, we will have every St. Louis Park newspaper, either on hard copy or on microfilm.
- Treasurer’s Report. Henry will revise the budget to incorporate new income from the sublease.
- Membership Report. Jeanne reported that she sent 291 letters to members, thanking them for their dues payments in 2015 and 2016 and giving them their next renewal date. At present there are 301 members, of which 249 are currently up to date.
- *Re-Echo* Report. Ted reported that the latest edition had just been mailed out. There was a discussion on whether it was a good idea to continue to print the issue in color on glossy paper, focusing on the cost. The original idea was for income from ads to pay for the increased cost, but Jane reported that obtaining ads was more difficult and time consuming than expected. A compromise of issuing the digital version in color and printing hard copies in black and white was tentatively reached.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH: Jeanne described her current research on Tommy Banks, a gangster from the 1940s and ‘50s who controlled McCarthy’s Restaurant at Highway 12 and Highway 100 (now gone). She showed the board one of Tommy’s fedoras, which had been donated by Keith McCarthy’s brother Meredith. Professional photographer Connie Singer has photographed the hat for our website.

PROGRAMMING

- Ted reported that the latest Historic Connections program, “Our City’s Park System,” held at Louisiana Oaks Park on May 10, 2016, was a success and very well received. Our thanks to panelists Cris Gears, Cindy Walsh, and Gene Gustafson.

- The Society had a table at the School District's 125th Anniversary Party at the High School on June 13. Afterwards Board members were presented with Spotlight Awards from the School Board at their meeting. Before the meeting, Superintendent Metz suggested that the Society partner with the High School to have a mini-Historical Society inside the High School.
- Ted made a St. Louis Park history presentation to the SLP Ambassador candidates on June 11, speaking to about 25 people, including candidates, program staff, and parents. He reported that it was very well received.
- Parktaacular is coming up on June 18. The Society will not march in the parade, but will participate in the Expo in Wolfe Park. Jane is working on some interactive ideas to draw people to our table.
- There will be an event at the Depot on August 21, featuring a representative from MN/Dot who will discuss ramifications of the Southwest Light Rail on the Park.
- Parkshores has requested a guide for an SLP historic places bus tour in September.
- A program is being planned for October 18 at the Little Theater in the Lenox Community Center. It will be a 1-2 hour presentation of the history of St. Louis Park.

FUNDRAISING

- Street signs: Sales have fallen off as the number of popular street names has dwindled.
- *Echowans*: Sales are slow, but the sale has only been advertised on Facebook and our website. Jeanne asked if we could look for a volunteer to sell the older ones on ebay, since they wouldn't be attractive to people on Facebook. Paul volunteered to put them on Craig's List. Jeanne will send him a list and photos of the books. There are about 20 of them.
- Directories: We have not advertised these at all; there are about 12 of them. Paul said he would put them on Craig's List as well. There are two from the 1940s and two from the 1960s that should go for at least \$20.

MUSEUM

Ted described a proposed new strategy and timeline to acquire a building for a St. Louis Park History Center.

1. We recruit people to be on a Building Committee who have expertise in:

- Real Estate Finance
- Property Development
- Construction
- Teaching
- Museum Administration
- City Government (perhaps Jeff Jacobs)

2. The Building Committee works with the Board to come up with the
 - Physical specifications for the building
 - Whether to buy or build (MHS strongly recommends building a new building)
 - Location
 - Dollar amount needed to be raised
3. We meet with the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to get names of people who have conducted successful capital campaigns.
4. We apply for a grant to hire a fundraiser to carry out the campaign.
5. We conduct a membership drive to increase our support and monetary base.
6. We donate the funds raised by the Capital Campaign to the City.
7. The City builds a building that meets the Building Committee's specifications and places it in its Parks and Rec building inventory.
8. The City leases the building to the Historical Society for 99 years at \$1/year. (John noted that our present bylaws do not include renting as one of its powers.)
9. The City maintains the building like any other park building, including:
 - Snow plowing
 - Lawn mowing
 - Garbage removal
 - Cleaning
 - Routine maintenance
 - Annual inspection of HVAC, etc.
10. The Society applies for Legacy grants, as eligible, for items such as:
 - Roof replacement
 - HVAC systems
 - Special fire suppression systems
 - Security systems
 - Storage facilities
 - Furniture

Our next step will be to meet with MHS to review this plan and get the names of possible fundraisers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 12, at 7pm at the SLPHS Office. (Note this is the second Tuesday due to the Fourth of July weekend.)