



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
June 6, 2017

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jane Hagstrom, Dale Lapakko, Jim Robbins, and John Olson; Members Ingrid Moe, and Rick Sewall.

GOVERNANCE:

- May Minutes were reviewed and approved with one spelling correction.
- Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his report, as amended by Ted.
- Membership Report: Membership remains constant at about 250. Jeanne will be sending 29 reminder letters for June out soon.
- *Re-Echo* Update: Ingrid reported that the June *Re-Echo* is finished. The deadline for submissions for the September issue is July 15.
- Secretary's Report: We received two free file cabinets from our neighbors in the building.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

High School Treasures

Jeanne spent four days at the High School, examining the contents of the vault, under the auspices of Superintendent Rob Metz. She reorganized copies of the *Echowans* so that there were as full sets as possible in the vault, the *Echowan* classroom, and the Media Center. Some books were donated by the Society to the High School and vice-versa in order to complete sets.

Another publication was the *Mandala*, the High School's literary magazine. An almost-full set was found in the vault – this set was added to with volumes from the Media Center. Other volumes from the Media Center were given to the Society, and vice-versa.

Some items, such as student handbooks, were given to the Society. Also found in the Media Center were Supt. Harold Enestvedt's original Commencement Programs, which were collected by teacher Carolyn Charles before she retired.

Other items were borrowed by the Society and will be returned. These include three large portraits of High School Principals, which need some restoration. A collection of Homecoming buttons was also found – these will be photographed, combined with the Society's collection, and returned to the High School. Photos will be posted to our website.

The Eckers Family

Jeanne is working on the history of the family of John Carl Eckers, who came to St. Louis Park in about 1905. Members of the family have been here ever since, including Ray Eckers, who is 90 years old and still lives in his boyhood home. She has contacted many members of the family and obtained several photos, including those from *Echowans*.

PROGRAMMING

- Ted reported that he, Henry, Ingrid, and Dale talked to about 50 people at the Children's First Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 21.
- Ted hosted the SLP Ambassadors for a history of the Park on June 4. About 30 people were in attendance for this third annual event.
- Kathy Johnson will be making a presentation about the preservation of the Beehive for a group from Linden Hills on June 10 in the Gallery Room of the Rec Center.
- Jane is organizing our booth at Parktacular on June 17.
- Jeanne and Ingrid are organizing an event about the beginnings of our Lake Street McDonald's, featuring Lisa Napoli, author of the book Ray and Joan. Tickets will be \$20, and the venue will be the High School auditorium. The event will start at 6:30 pm
- John is hosting open houses at the Depot on the third Saturday of the month from May through September.
- We were approached by the owner of the Pinot's Palette franchise in the Park about a collaboration. The venue is a place where private parties paint and drink wine, and we would get 15 percent of the proceeds. We decided not to pursue this at this time.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

- **Walker Building:** Tom Harmening reported that the building is under contract to be purchased. The prospective buyer is conducting their due diligence of the property. Economic Development Director Greg Hunt spoke to the broker representing the buyer, and they concluded that there was a shared interest in seeing the building preserved and restored. Tom will stay in touch with us as this goes forward.
- **Capital Campaign Next Steps:** We will discuss strategies for the capital campaign at our next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

John mentioned that groundbreaking for the SW Light Rail is expected to be this fall.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the Society's office. Note that this is the second Tuesday of the month due to the Fourth of July weekend.