



Meeting Minutes  
St. Louis Park Historical Society  
August 9, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society  
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen, Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jane Hagstrom, Paul Linnee, John Olson, and Jim Robbins; members Don Schimmel and Diane Steen-Hinderlie.

**GOVERNANCE:**

- Review and approval of July minutes. Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Treasurer's Report. Henry's report will be reviewed further.

**ROADSIDE ROCK GARDEN**

Diane Steen-Hinderlie gave a report on the status of the Roadside Rock Garden, familiarly known as "Monkey Island." There have been several cleanups of the area, including one on Earth Day and a quarterly scheduled cleanup. The area was visited by Erin Berg, representing the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM). The visit was sponsored by the Birchwood Neighborhood Association. Erin gave the group some leads as to organizations that could help with cleanups, including the Conservation Corp. The site could be re-evaluated as a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places, a local historic site as designated by the Minnesota Historical Society, or a "Place of Value" as designated by PAM. One of the unique aspects of the site is the presence of "sawtooth rocks," which is a signature feature of landscape architect Arthur Nichols, who designed the roadside parks. Diane noted that the fencing is gone from the site and is working with Mn/DOT to restore or replace it to prevent people from taking souvenirs. Ownership of the site is either with Mn/DOT or the contractor; it is expected that it will be deeded over to the City once construction of Highway 100 is complete.

- Membership Report. Volunteer Cory Schoen has been working on the PastPerfect database to make corrections and to get it updated. She has identified about 300 names of people or organizations that have made recent donations. Cory is working with Jeanne to determine how many members are up to date on their dues.
- *Re-Echo* Report. The next *Re-Echo* is scheduled to go out at the end of September. Paul and Jeanne are writing articles, and more are needed.
- Secretary's Report. Ted announced that the Annual Meeting will be held on September 13 at 7:00 pm in the Gallery Room at the Rec Center. Sue and Jane will make treats. Sue announced that she will not be running for re-election but will continue to volunteer for the Society

## **COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH**

- Not much new in terms of collections.
- Jeanne has written a new web page on Skads Travel Service: [slphistory.org/skads](http://slphistory.org/skads)

## **PROGRAMMING**

- Ted and Jeanne represented the Society at a table in Minikahda Park for National Night Out on August 2. This was of much interest to neighbors, and we may have recruited some valuable volunteers.
- There will be an event at the Depot on August 21 from 1 to 4 pm, featuring a representative from Mn/DOT who will discuss ramifications of the Southwest Light Rail on the Park.
- Parkshore Place has requested a guide for an SLP historic places bus tour in September. Dale has volunteered to do this if he is available.
- 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. It is free to participants. Dale and Jim volunteered to work on this.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING**

- Ted attended a meeting of the St. Louis Park Business Council, sponsored by the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce. Items discussed included the changes at Meadowbrook Manor, possible internships, organics recycling, and take-out containers. School Superintendent Rob Metz reported that student test scores have gone up.
- In Ted's absence, Jeanne attended a meeting at STEP about revitalization efforts in the Lake Street/Walker Street corridor. A grant that the City applied for was not funded, but the group, which included representatives from the neighborhood associations, business owners, and the City discussed other ways in which the area could be identified as "The Heart of the Park."
- Paul has been in email communication with Tom Friedman, who says he has finished his new book, and it is scheduled to come out on November 22, 2016. There is no date set as of yet for a fundraising event to benefit the Society, but we are assured that this will happen.
- Advisory/Building Committee: Jeanne volunteered to draft a press release that will announce our Annual Meeting and call for volunteers to participate on the Board, the Building Committee, and other projects. At National Night Out, we met an architect who has volunteered to be on the Building Committee.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Jeanne mentioned that she represented the Society at a meeting at the Municipal Service Center about the effects of the Creosote Plant on St. Louis Park's drinking water. Representatives from the EPA, Minnesota Department of Health, and other relevant organizations each spoke and answered questions. Jeanne's role was simply to display photos of the plant and the people who worked there.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, in the Gallery Room of the Rec Center at 7:00 pm. Note this is the second Tuesday due to Labor Day and the fact that it is our Annual Meeting. As instructed by our bylaws, Jeanne will notify each member of the Annual Meeting, by email or by regular mail, at least two weeks ahead of time.