



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
September 13, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society
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ANNUAL MEETING 2016

Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen, Treasurer Henry Solmer, Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jane Hagstrom, Dale Lapakko, John R. Olson, and Jim Robbins

Members Emory Anderson, Bill Beyer, Chris Burbul, Doug Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Julie Renner, Richard Saliterman, Don Schimmel, Richard Sewall, Scott Smith, Diane Steen-Hinderlie, Steven Steuck, Donald Voss, and Barb Wothe.

MATCHING FUNDS

Julie Renner announced that she would match all donations made at the meeting, up to \$1,000. Ted offered the same match.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Upon voice vote, Henry Solmer was unanimously reappointed as treasurer and thanked for his continued service.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board currently has the following vacancies:

- Vice President
- Trustee – 2 year Term
- Trustee – 3 year Term (Three Positions)

Sue Ainsworth has chosen not remain on the Board but will continue to volunteer for the Society. We thank her for her many years of service.

Given the Board's search for members with particular skills, the decision was made to fill these positions as qualified candidates are identified during the year. Particular skills include planning, marketing, project management, fundraising, museum administration, and other specific skills related to creating and managing a museum/History Center. Those interested may contact the Society at any time.

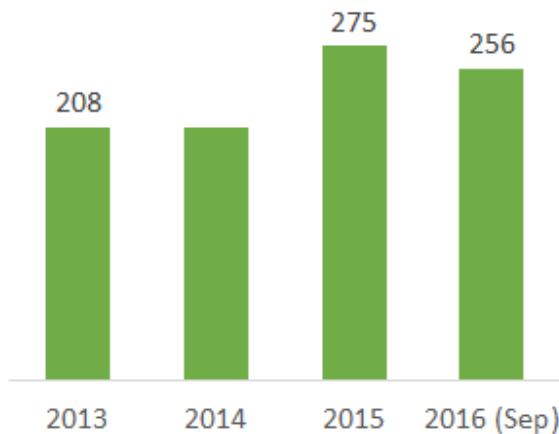


Finances

	2015	2016 (est)
Revenue		
Fundraising / Sales	\$ 13,242	\$ 7,000
Memberships	\$ 9,206	\$ 7,500
Misc	\$ 1,209	\$ 3,000
Grants	\$ 12,997	\$ 3,402
Total	\$ 36,654	\$ 20,902
Expenses		
Rent	\$ 7,500	\$ 12,000
Supplies & Misc.	\$ 3,825	\$ 3,000
Fundraising Expense	\$ 1,736	\$ 200
Programming	\$ 932	\$ 200
Re-Echo	\$ 868	\$ 1,600
Grant Equipment	\$ 12,997	\$ 3,402
Total	\$ 27,858	\$ 20,402
Difference	\$ 8,796	\$ 500
Checking Account	\$ 20,157	\$ 20,157
Building Fund	\$ 5,019	\$ 5,019



Membership



- Renewed focus on membership management
- Opportunity remains for more corporate memberships



Communications

Building upon the success of the St. Louis Park Historical Society, we've created a new publication...



Join Us!

It's been a busy summer, but it's not over yet! Join us at our annual Depot Open House this Sunday where you can explore the past and future of our city...



430 Subscribers

111 - Historic articles... 112 - Member notices... 113 - Letter to members... 114 - Local history...



Robert Penman, Share Volume 15.1 / WINTER 2014



FIREFIGHTING IN THE PARK: 100 YEARS

By John Anderson... Firefighting in the Park: 100 Years... The history of fire in St. Louis Park...

Mailed to all members

The goal is for the Re-Echo to be issued quarterly; Ted requested that people submit stories.



Fundraising



488 sold to date

347 remain
(124 names / 223 numbers)

\$11,000 raised to date



45 sold to date

21 remain

\$1,550 raised to date



Programming

- Historic Connections Series
 - “How Development Shapes Our City” (Oct '15)
 - “Our City’s Park System” (May '16)
- Beer Wine & Spirits in the Park (Feb '16)
- Depot & SWLRT Open House (Aug '16)
- Community Presentations
- Parktacular



Upcoming Events

Walk and Talk at Walker Lake
 Saturday October 8
 11-3pm
 Lake St. b/w Wooddale and Library Ln.

SLP History – Stories from our past
 Tuesday October 18th
 4pm
 Little Theatre at Lenox

Community programming included talks at Westwood Lutheran Church, the Lenox Men’s Club, and Susan Lindgren Elementary School.

MARKETING

The Society’s Facebook page has over 1,000 followers, and there are about 100 followers on Twitter. We need to do much more on social media. Jeanne continues to contribute a column to the St. Louis Park Magazine every other month. We also have good coverage from the Sun-Sailor and the Star Tribune.



Volunteers

- Re-Echo Design
- Office Hours Help
- Photography
- Special Research Projects
- Membership Records
- Railroad Committee
- Event support
- Emory Anderson
- Tori Beyer
- Joan Brinkman
- Julie Ekkers
- Doug Johnson
- Kathy Johnson
- David Kopperl
- Joanna McPeek
- Steve Raymer
- Julianne Renner
- Don Schimmel
- Rick Sewall
- Cory Shoen
- Mark Toretzky

Thank You!

John Olson heads up the Railroad group, which meets monthly to study the impact of railroads in the Park. They review maps that reveal former lines and spurs, and identify the businesses that used the railroads to ship raw materials and finished products.

Aquila Elementary School loaned the Society 12 albums of student photos, which are now being scanned by volunteer David Kopperel.

ARTIFACT AND RESOURCE DONATIONS

Despite our limited ability to accept donations of large items, we have received several significant donations in the past year, including:

- A window from the now-dismantled 7-story Tucker's Treehouse
- The recumbent bike (complete with Cat in the Hat animals) made famous by Elliot Royce, who rode it with us in the Parktacular parade. Elliot passed away at age 96, and his family wanted us to have his trademark bike. It is now on display in our office.
- Park High donated approximately 100 copies of the Echo student newspaper.
- Echowan yearbooks were donated by several people throughout the year, including Don Schimmel, who purchases a new one for our collection every year.
- Methodist Hospital provided three books on the history of Park Nicollet and Methodis.
- Julianne Renner donated her mother's 1943 Class Ring
- We received a print of the cartoon Sally Forth, which was created by Park resident Greg Howard.
- Doug Hodgdon donated blueprints related to the Minneapolis Northfield & Southern Railroad.
- Verne Wigfield donated photographs of Park railroad trains, tracks, and stations.



Microfilm

- **Digital Microfilm Reader**
(\$10,000 grant)
- **79 reels of microfilm**
(\$6,400 in grants)

Complete sets of:

- *The St. Louis Park Dispatch*
- *The St. Louis Park Herald*
- *The Spirit of St. Louis Park*
- *The St. Louis Park Forum*
- *The St. Louis Park Sun*
- *The St. Louis Park Sailor*
- *The St. Louis Park Sun-Sailor*

Between our collection of bound copies, our newly-acquired microfilm, and loose copies that were not microfilmed (collected and donated by Kathy and Doug Johnson), the Society now has access to almost every newspaper published in St. Louis Park.

COLLABORATIONS

- We provided photos and text to the School District in conjunction with its 125th Anniversary Celebration.
- We worked with the Fire Department to determine that 2015 was the 100th Anniversary of the Department.
- We participated in an event concerning water quality, displaying photos of the Creosote Plant.
- We helped the Parkettes with their claim that they were official Vikings cheerleaders for 20 years.
- We worked with the Class of 1966, providing photos and resources for their 50th Class Reunion.
- We participated in the Lake/Walker Improvement Organization
- We worked with other area Historical Societies, making sure that artifacts went to their proper homes.



Research & Preservation

- "Purple Rain" Warehouse
- City photos
- 1929 Echowan pictures
- Property annexations
- Class size records
- League of Women Voters donation

Additional Research Topics:

- The Jackley Family
- Lydia Rogers
- The Louis "Doc" Brown Family
- Park Pet Hospital and the Porter Family
- The North Side and the Yngve Family
- Liquor in the Park
- T.B. Walker
- The St. Louis Park State Bank, 1915-1919
- Gangster Tommy Banks
- Skads Travel
- Herbert Carleton
- Oscar Johnson's Grocery Store and the Ewald Brothers Billboard



Goals for 2017

- Establish a Building Committee
- Community and City input into our vision
- New fundraising ideas
- New research and stories
- Continue building the collection
- Continue public programming

DISCUSSION

Ted opened the floor to discussion about how the Society can better meet its goals. We agreed that we need to become better known to Park citizens and get the word out about the services we provide. We also need to increase our fundraising activity. Discussion about the details of the proposed History Center will be carried out by the Building Committee, which is in the process of being formed.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at the Historical Society office, 3546 Dakota Ave. So., at 7:00 pm.

After the meeting John and Diane presented a cake to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Historical Society!