



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
December 1, 2015

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Vice-President Bonnie Burton; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jane Hagstrom, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, John Olson, and James Robbins; member Don Schimmel

GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 4, 2015, meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his monthly report and it was approved. Ted presented a draft budget for 2016, and after Board input it was approved.

Membership Report: Bonnie reported that the organization membership is 287, which is up 30 percent from last year.

Re-Echo Update: Bonnie reported that only two issues of the *Re-Echo* were published in 2015. The next issue is planned for mid-January 2016. It will have 12 pages, including 4-5 pages of ads.

Administrative Issues: Jeanne reported that our membership in the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) was due. Bonnie recommended that we renew our membership, as that is how we get a reduced fee for Past Perfect.

Jeanne will be writing the annual report required by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Copies of *Something in the Water* are running low. Jeanne asked if, since she is a co-author of the book, she could make revisions before it is reprinted, and the Board agreed. We may also try to re-format the book.

COLLECTIONS/RESEARCH

Jeanne reported the usual amount of donations of artifacts this month, including some homecoming buttons and *Echowans*.

FUNDRAISING

GiveMN November Fundraiser: Ted reported that we had approximately \$1,500 in donations through GiveMN this year, up considerably from last year. Ted sent a thank-you letter and Nordic Ware gift card to each person who contributed.

Antique Parade: Sue and Jeanne agreed to pursue organizing another antique appraisal event for the spring. Another venue will need to be found. The video of our first event last May is up on Park TV

Channel 16, and we hope that will generate interest in another one. Our thanks to John McHugh and Emory Anderson for providing the video and still photos for John's production.

PROGRAMMING

Westwood Lutheran Church Men's Club: Dale and Jim made a presentation that was well received; the Society was presented with a thank-you note and an honorarium in the amount of \$125.

St. Louis Park Women's Club: Kathy Spence Johnson will be making a presentation about Women in St. Louis Park History on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. She is also conducting further research on sculptor Evelyn Raymond, who lived and taught in St. Louis Park.

2016 Program Schedule:

| Event | Date | Location | Owners |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Depot Lighting | Sat Dec 5 | Depot 5pm | Ted, Kathy |
| Beer, Wine & Spirits in SLP | Tue Feb 9 | Steel Toe Brewery 6 pm? | Ted, Joanna |
| Parks & Rec | April? | TBD/Wolfe Park | TBD |
| Open House | June | Office | TBD |
| Railroads Past and Future (LRT speaker) | August | Depot 5pm | TBD |
| Annual Meeting w/ Speaker? | Tue Sep 13 | TBD | TBD |
| Historic Connections: Immigration | Oct/Nov | TBD | TBD |
| Annual Depot Lighting | Sat Dec 3 | Depot 5pm | TBD |

LONG RANGE FACILITY UPDATE

1. PLACE

It is unclear what kind of capital we would need to be a part of the PLACE development. As a point of reference, the Reformation Church property asking price is \$1.5 to \$2 million. Sue reported that she visited another PLACE development in Ventura, California, and found it to be very well run.

2. The Walker Building

This would be a difficult property, in that if we bought the entire building we would be responsible for renting out the offices, maintenance, etc.

3. The Former Reformation Church

This property is off the table pending more information.

4. Park Theater Building

This building is not for sale, and would have the same issues as the Walker Building. Jeanne's real estate friend suggested, "Your best bet is to find a small empty single use building that someone could rent you for minimum rent and take advantage of the tax credit."

Note: We had talked about partnering with the model railroad museum, but John reported that they would need a very large space.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5, at 7pm at the SLPHS Office.