



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
July 7, 2015

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Sue Ainsworth, Jeanne Andersen, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, John Olson, and James Robbins; members Don Schimmel, Steven Steuck, and Lucille Thornsjo; Guest Fred Mutchler

COLLECTIONS DONATION RECOGNITION

Jeanne introduced Fred Mutchler, who presented his 300-item St. Louis Park artifact collection to the Historical Society. He shared some background on several items and passed some around for the Board to inspect. The Board extended many thanks to Fred for this incredible donation!

GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: Ted moved that under “Fundraising Feasibility Update,” an additional sentence be added: “The next step will be to reach out to David Grabitske, our liaison to the Minnesota Historical Society, to identify qualified fundraisers and to get a sense of how much it would cost to engage the services of one to conduct a capital campaign. Ted will follow up.” Paul seconded, the motion passed, and the minutes were approved with this addition.

Treasurer’s Report: Henry reported the sales of street signs has so far netted over \$3,000. It was decided to put the costs associated with fundraising (e.g. mailing, tape, paper) in a separate category. The report was approved with this change.

Collections Update: Jeanne reported that, in addition to the Mutchler collection, we have also received a collection of documents and almost 400 slides from the City’s community development department. The slides were taken between the years of 1973 and 1977, and show many businesses that are long gone. They have been sent to Costco to be scanned and will be featured on our website. We extend our thanks to the City for this trove of images.

Board Recruitment: Ted is continuing to reach out to community leaders to identify people who would be good additions to the Society Board. Jeanne will provide Ted with her notes from similar conversations she had last August.

FUNDRAISING

Street Sign Fundraiser: Ted has been managing the orders, and Jeanne has been filling them. Of the 560 signs donated by the City in May, Ted estimated that we have sold about 200. A huge boost was the publicity in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. A story in the St. Louis Park Sun-Sailor is yet to come. Jeanne reported that there are 15 packages in the Depot that need to be delivered, and Dale volunteered to make those deliveries. There are also many that will be picked up from the office, and John volunteered to bring them from the Depot to the office.

Microfilm Reader: Jeanne reported that the Society has received a Minnesota Legacy grant for \$10,000 to purchase a digital microfilm reader. The machine requires a computer to run it, and the grant will cover all but \$234 of it. Paul moved that the Board approve the expenditure of \$234 to purchase the computer; Dale seconded and the motion was approved. Our application for microfilm reels of our newspapers was turned down, but Jeanne will apply at the next opportunity.

Business Member Drive: Ted proposed special categories of membership for businesses:

\$100: Benefactor; entitles members to member events, merchandise discounts, and the Re-Echo

\$250: Executive: entitles members to recognition in annual report and newsletter

\$500: Boardroom: annual customized history presentation for organization and annual meeting with Society Board member to discuss Society goals.

Paul moved that we adopt this plan, Sue seconded, and the motion passed. Dale voted nay, expressing that he thought there were too many categories.

Capital Campaign Fundraising Next Steps: This remains the same as last month: the next step will be to reach out to David Grabitske, our liaison to the Minnesota Historical Society, to identify qualified fundraisers and to get a sense of how much it would cost to engage the services of one to conduct a capital campaign. Ted will follow up.

Merchandising: Ted urged the Board to think of items that the Society can sell. We discussed the idea of doing a book with Arcadia Publishing, but these books are mostly photos with little text; require work on our part with little return; and we may be better to do a more comprehensive book on our own.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Ted reported that a Programming Committee has been formed comprised of Ted, Kathy Johnson, and Joanna McPeck. He distributed a proposed schedule of monthly programs:

August 30: Open house at the Depot, with railroad information presented by John Olson and Doug Johnson.

September 15: Annual Meeting, with event organized by Ted and Sue.

October 22: First of the Historic Connections moderated panel presentations, focused on How Development Shapes a City.

November: Family Archive Workshop, organized by Kathy Johnson.

Historic Connections presentations would be made quarterly, and a second Antique Appraisal event is proposed for next May. Other ideas include a walking tour of old downtown SLP, an architecture tour, a bus tour for visitors, and specialty presentations for various local groups.

OPEN TOPICS

Hennepin Historical Meeting: The second meeting of Hennepin County Historical Societies was held on June 27. The topic was how to convince your city to support your organization. Ted reported that Northfield had success in taking on functions that the City no longer had to do.

Volunteer Recruiting: There is always a need for volunteers and we have many jobs listed on the website and with the City. Board members are encouraged to recruit volunteers and can direct them to Ted to discuss opportunities.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is on August 5 at 7pm at our office at 3546 Dakota Ave. Note that this is a Wednesday – the meeting was moved because of National Night Out.