St. Louis Park Historical Society

Annual Meeting

September 13, 2022, Rec Center Gallery

Attending: President, Ted Ekkers; Vice President, Lynne Carper; Secretary, Kathy Spence Johnson; Trustees, John Olson, Rick Sewall, Mary Lou Nemanic, Jane Hagstrom, Jim Robbins, Bill Beyer; Visitors, Doug Johnson, Sue Ainsworth, Doug Nemanic, Tom Tape, Faye Ross, Jeanne Andersen, Marci Matson, Mark Toretsky

President Ted Ekkers opened the meeting with Board election information. Several Board positions are open. Ted presented the slate of candidates for the 2022-2025 class, Doug Johnson, and Mary Lou Nemanic. Ted asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none a vote was taken, and the slate elected.

Henry Solmer has agreed to be appointed as Treasurer for another year.

Ted thanked the Board for its continuing work.

Ted announced a new annual award, the Marie Hartmann Award, which is given to someone who has uniquely contributed to the Historical Society in a way that honors the legacy of Marie Hartmann, Historical Society founder. This years award is given to Jeanne Andersen, longtime Trustee and Volunteer. The award is "Given in recognition of her longtime commitment to collecting and sharing the history of St. Louis Park, MN." Ted presented the award to Jeanne.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as written.

Ted presented the Treasurers report overview. We will continue to focus on income through donations and memberships.

The Membership report was presented. Current membership is at 192. Lynne shared his plans for increasing membership.

Ted reported that Doug Johnson has updated the website and will continue to monitor and update as needed.

Ted presented our work toward Preserving and Highlighting History.

John Olson has been working with Southwest Light Rail to preserve historic track which was installed near the depot. He also collaborated with them to preserve a rail bridge corner stone also installed near the depot. Signage for both installations has been completed.

The city has completed work on installing a new chimney on the depot. Care was taken to insure this was historically accurate.

Kathy gave a report on new collection donations, highlighted by slides. She had displays around the room showing some items that included a folding table with business advertisements on it, bowling items from Park Tavern, the Baston-Rixon-Waddell family archive, Covid and Civil Unrest related items.

Ted and Bill reviewed the ReEcho for the past year. Stories included Meadowbrook Manor housing and Grocery Stores in the Park which included extensive research and writing by Mark Toretsky. The summer issue highlighted the Fire Department. Bill shared the future issues topics.

Our Facebook page has 1880 followers. There is good engagement with the items we post on the page and people make comments and share the page.

We had several events this year.

> Women's Club Luncheon (May)
> Ambassadors Annual Talk (June)
> Lenox Senior Resource Event (June)
> Parktacular (June)
> Walker Lake Business District (July)
> Brookside Walking Tour (July)
> Neighborhood Night Out (August)
> Linden Hills History Group (Sept)
> Texa Tonka Sound Garden (Oct)
> Depot Lighting (Dec)

We are planning some programs for the coming year. Mary Lou Nemanic will present on her work on Documenting America and the Lightning Gazette. Kathy Spence Johnson will lead a workshop on researching the history of your house.

Strategic Planning and Fundraising

We continue to work with the city and the Parks and Recreation Planning Commission on planning a new building in Jorvig Park. Bill has updated his original drawn plans. This work will continue.

Goals for 2023

> Board Health-We would like to fill all the open Board positions with vibrant new members.
> Increase Membership by 10%
> Add new stories and update existing stories on our website.
> Grow our public programing
> Find a special project to focus on.

Ted expressed thanks to everyone for their help through the year.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary