



Meeting Minutes  
St. Louis Park Historical Society  
January 5, 2016

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, Paul Linnee, and John Olson; members Don Schimmel, Nancy Gertner.

## GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 1, 2015, meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his monthly report and it was approved. Ted reported that income from memberships, donations, and book sales have virtually doubled from last year.

Membership Report: Bonnie reported that the organization membership is 275. This year's membership goals will include placing more focus on business memberships.

Re-Echo Update: Members of the *Re-Echo* Committee are Bonnie, Jane, and Joanna McPeck. The next issue is due for distribution in mid-January 2016. It will have 12 glossy color pages, including 5 1/2 pages of ads, thanks to Jane and Bonnie's sales acumen. The committee's goal is to produce three issues this year. Jeanne will provide updated distribution addresses to the committee. There was brief Board discussion of advertising, distribution, the need for future articles, and the use of the newsletter to recruit corporate members.

Secretary's Report: Jeanne recommended that the March board meeting be moved from March 1 because it conflicted with the precinct caucuses. The Board agreed to move the meeting to March 8. Jeanne will notify the *Sun-Sailor* of the change.

## COLLECTIONS/RESEARCH

### Collection:

- On November 11, the City Assessor's office donated several hundred photos of commercial and multifamily buildings to the Society. In December, Emory Anderson scanned all of these photos in less than a week!
- Several years ago the City's Parks and Rec Department donated several hundred slides of our city parks to the Society. We had the slides scanned, but the scans needed to be compared to the original sides so they could be identified. Again, Emory took on this task and got it finished in less than a week.

New Research: Additions to the website include an update to the Dan Patch Railroad and Liquor in the Park pages. Emory is also adding new photos to the website.

Volunteers Needed for Oral Interviews: Jeanne mentioned that the Society has been contacted by several people who should be interviewed. One notable is the great-granddaughter of Herbert Carleton, who was an insurance and real estate mogul 100 years ago. Another was a descendant of Dutch Reider, who worked at the Creosote factory was a known moonshiner. Jeanne asked if anyone would volunteer to conduct some interviews. Jane volunteered to contact a woman who was instrumental in establishing the St. Louis Park Library building. There are many other people who should be interviewed. Ted asked the Board to think about other ways they can volunteer.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Photography Project: On January 4 Trustee Dale Lapakko sent an email to the Board outlining a possible collaboration with Owen Franken, a renowned photographer who grew up in St. Louis Park (Al Franken's brother). Owen has offered to sell prints of his photographs and share the profits with nonprofit organizations. Dale had explained it to Paul and Paul explained it to the Board. We will wait to get more information from Dale.

Street Signs: The City delivered another 300 street signs to the Depot on December 22, 2015. That same day, Jeanne and student volunteer Jesse sorted and inventoried them. On January 5, 2016, Jeanne contacted people on the waiting list to let them know that their signs were available. When that list is cleared we will make the updated inventory available to the public. This will be the last shipment. The new signs are expected to last 20 years.

Yearbooks: On November 18, 2015, Jeanne and volunteer Joan Brinkman inventoried and evaluated the Society's collection of *Echowans* yearbooks. The best copy for each year was designated to be stored at the Depot, and the second best copy at the office. Librarians at the High School inventoried their collection and decided to keep three of each edition. On December 8, 2015, Jeanne delivered 12 excess *Echowans* to the High School to round out its collection. The High School has agreed to provide the Society with its yearbooks over and above the three it wishes to keep, with the understanding that we will first use them to round out our collection, and then sell excess copies as a fundraiser. When we receive the copies from the High School we will sell them much as we have been selling the street signs. A price of \$50 each, regardless of condition, is proposed by Jeanne and Joan.

Proposal for Building Funds: Ted proposed that the Society set up a special fund earmarked for establishing a museum. It was moved that the \$5,000 we now have in a savings account would be earmarked for a fund to support maintenance, development and/or acquisition of appropriate facilities. Donors could then specify that their donations would be designated only to this fund. The motion was passed, with John voting nay. John's concerns were that we may need operating funds and we wouldn't be able to use the earmarked funds. It was determined that the Board could make exceptions in that eventuality.

Proposal for Friedman Fundraiser: When we were visited by Tom Friedman, he offered to appear at a fundraiser. Paul has volunteered to organize this event, possibly in the fall.

## **SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

Schools' 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Jeanne reported that she has met with Sara Thompson, Communications Director for the School District, to talk about the District's plans to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Louis Park Schools. The date stems from the first class that graduated from Lincoln School. Jeanne

will provide photos and text for banners, presentations, and other materials that the District is planning. Another meeting is scheduled later in January.

SLP High School History Day: Henry, Dale, and Jeanne participated as judges at the High School's History Day on December 8, 2015. Their job was to hear students explain the research they did in conjunction with this national competition, evaluate each project, and provide feedback to students.

Susan Lindgren 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Presentations: On December 16 Ted and Trustee Jim Robbins conducted two sessions of 40 students each, teaching them about St. Louis Park history. The students were very attentive and interested, especially in how their school was named.

Need for Volunteers and Leaders: Ted asked the Board to think about projects for which they wanted to take leadership or volunteer roles.

## **PROGRAMMING**

The Depot lighting ceremony on December 5, 2015, was well attended, with 50 or 60 people there to see the Depot brightened with holiday lights. Many thanks to City staff for installing the lights and to Ted for donating them. They are on a timer to go on at 4:30 pm and off at midnight.

Women's Club Presentation: Kathy Spence Johnson made a presentation on St. Louis Park history, focusing on distinguished Park women, to the St. Louis Park Women's Club this morning. Ted reported that Kathy said it went well and that she sold five copies of *Something in the Water*.

Beer, Wine & Spirits at Steeltown Brewery: This will be our next program, scheduled for Tuesday, February 9. It will be an opportunity to share St. Louis Park's unique history on the subject, and for the owners of the Brewery to talk about their business. It is not intended as a fundraiser.

## **LONG RANGE FACILITY UPDATE**

Ted stressed the importance of finding an alternate space before the rent is increased pursuant to our lease in October 2016. One idea is to encourage other property owners to follow the lead of our current landlord, Curt Rahman, and make rental space available to us at a reduced rate for a short period of time. Ted will talk to Curt to see if he knows of any other property owners who might be able to help.

It is still unclear how much it would cost to buy into the PLACE development, but one cost estimate is \$1 million for 4,000 square feet.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ted contacted our City liaison, Jason West, to see if the City Council would be receptive to a presentation about the Historical Society, and Jason answered in the affirmative.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2, at 7pm at the SLPHS Office.