



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
March 8, 2016

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; 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 Board reviewed the minutes from our January 6 and February 2, 2016, meetings and approved them as written.

Treasurer's Report: In Treasurer Henry Solmer's absence, Ted presented the spreadsheet that Henry provided. The dramatic change in our bank balance is partly due to the payment for microfilm out of the grant funds we received several months ago.

Secretary's Report: Jeanne noted some correspondence regarding PastPerfect and asked if we were still using the program. Functions of the program include:

- Keeping membership records. Membership records have not been entered into PastPerfect for the past year and are therefore unavailable to Board members. The Board discussed this and agreed that all membership information should be kept in PastPerfect on our office laptop.
- Generating letters thanking members and donors for their contributions. Except for personal notes that Ted has written in connection with GiveMN, no donors have received any form of acknowledgement or thank you for their donations since January 2015. At this point Paul suggested we table the discussion of PastPerfect until Membership Chairman Bonnie Burton could be present.

The board approved Emory Anderson's request to make up business cards that identified him as the Historical Society's Staff Photographer.

Jeanne noted that whether or not we sublease our inner offices, she had some suggestions about moving some of our furniture to make our showcases more visible and to move the desk into the big room. Paul and others volunteered to help move furniture when the time came.

Jeanne and Sue expressed an interest in attending a conference of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, which will be held in Willmar on April 27 and 28. The Board voted to pay for both registrations (\$60 each) and half the cost of their hotel rooms.

Jeanne noted that Sue has keys to the office and Board members should see her if they need a set.

Jeanne distributed a draft of the 2015 Annual Report for Board members for review and comments. The final report will be sent to the Minnesota Historical Society. Ted has shared an executive summary of the report with the City. Paul suggested that it might be appropriate to post on our website as well.

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

- Volunteer David Kopperl has now scanned over 1,200 school photos, making them accessible to groups planning high school reunions, etc.
- Jeanne and Emory have been updating web pages to include the new photos we received from the City. Jeanne also had some of the early 1970s photos printed for the photo albums.
- Responding to a request for clarification about the number of Bennetts there are in the Porter family (there are 5), Dr. Bennett Porter IV provided Jeanne with several photos of the Park Pet Hospital that his grandfather started on Highway 7.
- We received a call from a woman who wanted suggestions for the name of the complex that will be built at Highways 100 and 394. Those put forth by the Board included the Ambassador, Cooper, McCarthy's, and Candlestick.
- Jeanne continues to work with the School District on photos and text for banners, etc. celebrating its 125th Anniversary.
- On March 2 we received a donation of 47 phone directories from the St. Louis Park Library. These have considerably increased our collection at the office, adding another valuable research resource that we can offer people. There may be extra copies that we can sell, as well.

FUNDRAISING

- Street Signs: Sales have slowed considerably, with 17 orders last month. Ten signs have been reserved but not picked up.
- Yearbooks: Sales started strong, with ten sold and seven reserved. Requests have leveled off.
- Friedman Fundraiser: We had hoped that Tom Friedman would work with us on an event related to his new book. He will be holding a fundraiser for the St. Louis Park Schools Foundation on May 21. Paul will follow up and contact him again about an event that would benefit the Historical Society.

PROGRAMMING

A program related to city parks is being planned for May. It will feature a panel discussion that will include Cris Gears, former Parks Superintendent. There will be no formal presentation. The date is pending.

Parktacular is scheduled for June 18. Although we agreed to have a booth at the Expo, it was unclear if there was enough interest in walking in the parade. The subject of the parade was tabled.

An event at the Depot is tentatively scheduled for August. We hope to have a representative from Mn/DOT there to talk about the proposed LRT station that is planned for the area. John Olson and Doug Johnson are chairing this event.

LONG RANGE FACILITY UPDATE

We have had some interest from people who might want to sublet one or both of our interior offices, but no takers as of yet. Our landlord, Curt Rahman, is sending potential renters our way.

Ted asked the Board whether we wanted to take Curt up on his offer to cap our rent for the next three years, and the answer was a resounding yes. Ted will follow through with Curt to sign a new lease that would also allow for a sublet.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

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