



Meeting Minutes  
St. Louis Park Historical Society  
April 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, John Olson, and James Robbins; Members Don Schimmel and Diane Steen-Hinderlie

## GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes from our March 8, 2016, meeting and approved them as written.

Treasurer's Report: Henry made a correction to last month's report, and his report was accepted. He also reviewed the rules for charging sales tax.

Vice President's Report: Bonnie reported that membership was stable at 272 members; only three members renewed in March. She presented a graph of membership rates from 2008 to 2016. She has uploaded the membership data to PastPerfect on our office computer. The Board expressed the importance of sending a thank you to each person who sent in membership dues or a donation. Bonnie reported that the next issue of the *Re-Echo* would be ready next week.

Secretary's Report:

- We received some free publicity when a realtor advertising insert from the *SLP Sun Sailor* used information from our website on street name changes.
- Final reports for our Legacy grants for the microfilm reader and reels of newspapers on microfilm have been submitted and approved.
- A Legacy grant application for additional reels of newspapers on microfilm has been submitted.
- The 2015 Annual Report has been submitted to the Minnesota Historical Society. Ted submitted an executive summary to the City.

## COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

- We have been offered a Park High Letter Jacket, which will be an appropriate addition to our new-but-as-yet-undressed mannequin.
- Jeanne has been working on a history of Tommy Banks, a gangster who owned McCarthy's Restaurant from 1942 to 1968.
- Volunteer Tori Beyers has been sorting through several boxes of materials donated by the League of Women Voters.
- Mark Toretzky brought in a bag that had the street address of the Lincoln Del in Bloomington. Jeanne posted a request for a picture of the restaurant on the Bloomington Facebook page – no pictures came up but the post got over 250 likes!
- Jeanne donated some Robin Hood Flour cookie cutters (a birthday present) to our archives.

## **PROGRAMMING**

A Historic Connections panel discussion on our city parks is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm. The discussion will include Cris Gears, former Parks Superintendent, and will take place at the Louisiana Oaks Park Pavilion, which is indoors.

Doug Johnson and John Olson will host a pack of Cub Scouts at the Depot on May 9. We have done this once before and welcome the opportunity to help Scouts earn their badges.

Diane noted that there is an Earth Day Spring Cleanup at the “Monkey Island” rock garden on April 23-25. Boy Scout Troop 282 will participate.

This year’s Depot Open House will be held on Sunday, August 21, from 1 to 4 pm. A representative from Mn/DOT has been invited to talk about how the Light Rail will affect St. Louis Park.

Parktacular will be held on 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 again tabled.

## **FUNDRAISING**

- Ted and Paul have been working to sublet our inner offices and have shown them, but have not found anyone so far. The offer is posed on Craig’s List.
- Friedman Fundraiser: Paul reported that Tom Friedman will be launching his book tour in November/December of this year. Paul continues to work to organize a fundraising event when he comes to the Park

## **LONG RANGE FACILITY UPDATE**

A contingent of the building committee toured the former Reformation Church site on March 31. The building encompasses 12,000 sq.ft. and seats 300 people. There are nine smaller rooms as well. The cost to supply utilities alone is approximately \$2,500 per month. The building needs work, and would take a lot of work to make it handicapped accessible. The real estate agent said that the owner had received eight offers ranging from \$1.2 to \$1.5 million. Only one bidder wanted it for a church.

Henry reported that the City has taken the position that it will not buy the property, nor will it be receptive to requests to rezone it.

Jeanne reported a visit on Saturday from Marshall Kieffer, one of the people who had a redevelopment plan. He said that he would like to incorporate the Historical Society into his plan.

The building committee will meet again on April 20.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7pm at the SLPHS Office.