



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
May 2, 2017

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Secretary Jeanne Andersen; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jane Hagstrom, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, Jim Robbins, and John Olson; Members Ingrid Moe, Don Schimmel and Rick Sewall.

GOVERNANCE:

- April Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his report, as amended by Ted. Expenses associated with the Tom Friedman event will be taken from the Building Fund. Jeanne reported that at our table at the event we sold 6 street signs, 2 copies of *Something in the Water*, 1 *Echowan*, and 3 posters. Barnes and Noble also sold over 30 books, and we should be getting a check amounting to 10 percent of those sales.
- Membership Report: Membership stands at 251. Jeanne will be sending 29 reminder letters for May out soon.
- *Re-Echo* Update: Ingrid reported that the next issue is basically done, and that we should be thinking about the following issue. Steven Steuck has submitted a story relating to Methodist Hospital, so that might be a theme.
- Secretary's Report: Jeanne has touched base with the head of the PTSA at Susan Lindgren School, Jena Bjorgen, who has provided us with the remaining school photos to be scanned. Jeanne took them to the home of David Kopperl, our volunteer who has scanned hundreds of our school photos. Jena is also working on how we can present the street signs we have reserved for the schools to those Parent/Teacher/Student organizations. Ted will present 41st Street to Susan Lindgren next week.
- Jeanne also requested volunteers to take office hours on May 13 and May 20. Rick will take the 13th and Dale will take the 20th. Emory Anderson will most likely also be there both of those days.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

Jeanne and staff photographer Emory Anderson were able to scan a very large pile of rare school photos that came from the District's vault, courtesy of retired teacher Mr. Darold "Deb" Wold. Jeanne put them in a binder before they returned them to the school. Mr. Wold also presented the Society with score books for the Girls' Basketball Team, and biographies of notable Park High graduates.

PROGRAMMING/FUNDRAISING

- Paul reported that 285 tickets were sold for the Tom Friedman fundraiser on April 30. Henry will provide us with a net amount earned when all bills are in. Ted announced that Tom Friedman has pledged to donate an additional \$10,000 for our building fund, for which we are extremely grateful. Ted and Jeanne will write a thank you letter to Tom.
- May 21 is the Children First Ice Cream Social. Ted and Ingrid will represent us.
- June 17 is Parktacular, and we will have a booth at Wolfe Park from 10 am to 6 pm. Jane has offered to coordinate activities again this year. Nancy Rose of the Friends of Bass Lake asked if their walking tour could start at our booth, and we agreed.
- July 18 is the McDonald's event, featuring Lisa Napoli, the author of *Ray and Joan*. Ingrid and Jeanne are looking for an appropriate venue. It was agreed to charge no more than \$25.
- Depot Open House: John will be opening the Depot up to the public on the third Saturday of the month from May through September. It will be open from 1 to 3 pm, and he will present a railroad-themed slide show.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

- On April 17, the City Council held a study session to discuss the proposed purchase of the Walker Building. In Ted's absence, Jeanne made a short presentation that emphasized the unique character of the building and the importance of saving it. There was a spirited discussion among council members, and the Mayor directed the City Manager to pursue the possibility of a purchase.
- Two days later, Jeanne heard from the owner of the property that another potential buyer had made an offer before the City contacted them. Jeanne contacted City Manager Tom Harmening, who directed Economic Development Director Greg Hunt to contact the realtor of the potential buyer. At this point the issue is in the hands of the City.
- On May 1, Ted met with Brad Bakken (Citizens Independent Bank) and Becky Bakken (Discover St. Louis Park) to explain our vision and obtain support. They recommended getting the assistance of a professional fundraiser and putting together materials.
- We have also contacted the various foundations in the city and will try to meet with them to explain our goals and find out how to apply for grants.

OTHER BUSINESS

Diane Steen-Hinderlie reported on the cleanup of the Rock Garden on Earth Day, which culminated in the burning of buckthorn in the fire ring at Lilac Park.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the Society's office.