



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
October 6, 2015

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, Dale Lapakko, Paul Linnee, John Olson, and James Robbins; members Don Schimmel and Diane Steen-Hinderlie.

GOVERNANCE

Review and Approval of Minutes: Bonnie moved for approval of the August 2015 minutes. Jeanne seconded and the motion was passed. Paul moved for approval of the September 2015 Annual Meeting minutes. Dale seconded and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his report; Bonnie moved for approval, Ted seconded, and the motion was passed. Jeanne described her acquisition of seven cartridges of ink from HP at a very low price for her home computer and asked for compensation. Bonnie moved to approve, Ted seconded, and the motion passed.

Membership Report: Bonnie reported that we now have 280 members. Reminder letters to lapsed members are continuing to be sent out.

Collections Update:

- Aaron Isaacs of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum and the area's foremost authority on Twin Cities streetcars visited the Society last Saturday to gather material about the St. Louis Park Streetcar that was built by T.B. Walker. We were able to provide him with information and photos, and in turn he provided us with photos of the SLP line and the Como-Hopkins line, which ran just ½ block south of St. Louis Park and made possible the Browndale and Brookside neighborhoods.
- Bader Development donated a historical report on the Hoffman-Callan (ASAP) building, which is about to be demolished for the Shoreham project. They also sent digital copies of the photos.
- Don Schimmel has once again purchased the latest Echowan and donated it to our collection.
- Jeanne brought to the attention of the board the ongoing controversy about the effects of creosote on cancer rates in St. Louis Park. As always, the Society has no opinion on this issue, but our web page on the creosote plant includes a great deal of information about the actions taken by the city, the Minnesota Department of Health, and others as reported by the local newspapers. Jeanne urged board members to read this page: www.slphistory.org/creosote
- Dale mentioned that it may be a possibility that the Society could get a piece of Tucker's Treehouse, which is coming down. Dale was encouraged to pursue this.
- The check for our grant to purchase microfilmed copies of our newspapers has arrived, and we will be sending the order in immediately. It takes about 4 to 6 weeks for microfilm orders to be filled. This grant was for newspapers that we had neither in the bound copies in our office or in boxes at the Depot. Jeanne has submitted a second application for microfilmed copies of newspapers that are now stored in the Depot.

Board Meeting Schedule: Ted handed out a proposed schedule for upcoming meetings that takes into account various conflicts and holidays. Dale moved that the schedule be adopted, Bonnie seconded, and the motion passed. Jeanne will send the list to the Sun Sailor to be included in its weekly calendar.

FUNDRAISING

Give MN November Fundraiser: Jeff will be using Facebook to let people know about the GiveMN Give to the Max Day in November. Ted has added memberships to the Gift Shop on our website, to be paid to our PayPal account. The GiveMN account will be used primarily for donations other than memberships.

Merchandise Budgeting: Ted has ordered notepads and mousepads to add to our gift shop. The cost to purchase these items will be budgeted as costs for fundraisers (just as paper and tape are for the street sign fundraiser).

PROGRAMMING

Update on Historic Connections: Ted described plans for the first Historic Connections event, scheduled for October 13 at the High School at 7pm. A press release has been sent to the *Sun Sailor*. Sue and Jeanne will assist with preparations for the event, and fliers were given out for board members to distribute around the city. Citizens Independent Bank will also be sponsoring the event with a financial contribution.

Depot Lighting: Ted distributed a mock-up of his plans for adding holiday lights to the Depot and for an Open House on December 5. Kathy Johnson will be assisting in this event. Jane advocated for more lights!

Speaker Needed: The Westwood Lutheran Church's Men's Group has requested that the Society provide a speaker for their meeting on November 19 at 10:30 am. Dale volunteered to do this.

LONG RANGE FACILITY DISCUSSION

Ted stressed the importance of thinking about our long-range viability. Although the street sign fundraiser gives us some breathing room, just as our rent is about to double, by 2017 the rent will triple and we need to have a plan to cover it. We also need to think about whether we should be expecting to continue to pay rent or pushing to find a permanent home that meets our needs for space, accessibility, location, etc.

Ted distributed a presentation that outlined what we need, cost considerations, different scenarios in terms of buying, renting, etc., a framework to evaluate options, and a list of next steps.

The Reformation Lutheran Church site was discussed, but Jim found that there was a purchase agreement pending on the property, so that would not be a possibility. The city had considered purchasing the property but decided it would not.

Ted continues to talk to people in the community like Curt Rahman and fundraisers for STEP who may be able to give us some guidance.

Ted proposed that we form a History Center committee to work on this issue. He said that although some may think we are moving too quickly and some too slowly, the fact is that in order to have a place to operate, something must be done. Paul, Bonnie, Ted, Sue, and John volunteered to be on the committee. Ted will work out a time.

NEXT MEETING

The November board meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, November 4, at 7pm at the Office.

2016 BOARD MEETING DATES

January	Tuesday, 5 th
February	Tuesday, 2 nd
March	Tuesday, 1 st
April	Tuesday, 5 th (Easter is March 27)
May	Tuesday, 3 rd
June	Tuesday, 7 th
July	Tuesday, 12 (to avoid 4 th of July weekend)
August	Tuesday, 2 nd
September	Tuesday, 13 th (to avoid Labor Day weekend) – Annual Meeting
October	Tuesday, 4 th
November	Tuesday, 1 st (Election Day is November 8 th)
December	Tuesday, 6 th