



Meeting Minutes
St. Louis Park Historical Society
March 5, 2019

St Louis Park Historical Society
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Attending: President Ted Ekkers; Treasurer Henry Solmer; Trustees Jim Robbins, Rick Sewall, Bill Beyer, and John Olson.

GOVERNANCE:

- December Minutes were reviewed and approved. As there was no scheduled meeting in January, and the February meeting was canceled due to weather, no other minutes were reviewed.
- Treasurer's Report: Henry presented his report, strong revenue from a recent membership mailing. A 2019 budget was worked on in the meeting and approved.
- Membership Report: A membership renewal letter was sent to 337 current and former members in early February, which resulted in 85 renewals so far. Additional members had paid prior to the letter, and there are other members who are still current from their 2018 donations. Membership is currently at 208. Another mailing is expected in a few months.
- *Park History Today*: Ted shared that he will send the email newsletter out soon as a follow up to the membership renewal letter as well as to highlight recent research from Mark Toretsky and mention the recent community engagement activities.
- *Re-Echo* Update: Bill shared that he has a schedule for all 4 issues, with the next issue on track.
- Admin: Ted noted that the agenda will now be organized according to the Societies 3 key strategic pillars: Preserve & Highlight History, Community Engagement, and Education & Programming.
- Office Hours coverage: The following members signed up for office hours coverage:
 - March 9: Jim
 - March 16: Bill
 - March 23: Rick
 - March 30 John
 - April 6: Ted
 - April 13: Rick
 - April 20: Henry (Easter)
 - April 27: Jim

PRESERVE & HIGHLIGHT HISTORY

SLP History Booklet

Bill Beyer presented a project idea in which he would write a 40+ page booklet about the history of St. Louis Park. He would source his material from our website, past SLP history books, and some original research. The format would be like a long form magazine, with pictures and maps, and short pieces of narrative. There will be 10-15 chapters including topics like "Land & Water", "Schools", "Rails and Trails". The intent is to provide an updated overview of the city history that is approachable rather than exhaustive. Bill estimates at a high quantity we could print them at about \$2 each, and if we sold them

at \$10 each it could be a significant fundraiser. In addition, we can coordinate the publication with the 50th anniversary of the Depot being put on the National Register, on November 25th and have a celebration.

Ted put forth the following motion, Jim seconded, all approved: “The Board enthusiastically supports Bill Beyer’s efforts to create a new St. Louis Park history booklet, expects to provide input, but authorizes Bill to be the editor, and upon Board approval of final copy authorizes to spend up to \$5,000 to print copies and sell them individually at a price to be determined later.”

Archives Training

Kathy Johnson has agreed to train the Board on how to properly log in any archive donation into Past Perfect and discuss proper storage. Training will be on Saturday March 16th during office hours, starting at 1pm.

Mark Toretzky’s Research

Ted shared recent research that member Mark Toretzky finished. He researched the buildings around Louisiana and Cedar Lake Rd. and determined the date each was built. He also has finished updating a list of the 350+ stores that have ever been located in Knollwood mall and their associated dates of operation. This information will now get updated on the website by Ted.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Ted did a presentation on history to a boy Scouts troop at Aldersgate Church on January 28.
- Bill did a presentation to the Wolfe Park neighborhood association on February 20.
- Ted did a presentation to the Minikhada Vista neighborhood association on March 4.
- Bill will be presenting at the noon Rotary club on April 8th
- Ice Cream Social is on May 19th – Ted and Henry are volunteering to work our booth.
- Parktacular is on June 15th, Jane will be coordinating events.

EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING

Ted shared that the SLP Library is hosting a workshop called “Researching the History of Your Home” on Saturday April 6th from 10-11:30am. The librarian is leveraging materials from our website, and Rick has volunteered to attend the workshop and ensure attendees understand what our office has available for research homes.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

There was no new development in planning or finding space. We discussed that we need to be more actively looking for space in the area so we don’t miss out on opportunities.

OTHER BUSINESS

John has copied all the details related to the Depot's National Register status so we have those documents readily available in the office.

Rick suggested hosting office hours occasionally at the Depot, we agreed to discuss in detail next month.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the Society's office. Note that this is the second Tuesday of the month.