

St. Louis Park Historical Society Annual Meeting, Via Zoom

September 14, 2021

Minutes

Attending; President Ted Ekkers, Vice President Lynne Carper, Secretary Kathy Spence Johnson, Treasurer Henry Solmer, Trustees, Bill Beyer, Rick Sewall, John Olson, Marylou Nemanic, Jim Robbins. Guests, Doug Johnson, John Scroggins, Nancy Rose, Sue Ainsworth, Robert Wilson, Mr. Stevens.

Nominations of Board members-Ted presented a slate of Board nominations for the class of 2023. The slate was Rick Sewall, Bill Beyer, John Olson. Ted opened nominations from the floor. Seeing none he called for the vote. The vote was unanimous for the slate.

Minutes-We reviewed the minutes of the July meeting. The Minutes were approved with two typos corrected.

Treasurers Report-We reviewed the spreadsheet Henry provided. There was discussion about some items being income in 2020 and expenses in 2021. There was discussion about Memorials deposited in the Building Fund. Henry explained we need to watch our expenses. Ted shared a chart of the historical balances.

Membership-Lynne reviewed our membership. A Business letter is going out soon. He expects to send regular membership letters out January 2022. Lynne asked for suggested names of potential new members. He also asked for names of new businesses to contact.

We will sign up for Give to the Max Day in November.

Kathy reported that she has been hanging collection items on the walls of the office. We reviewed the Policy and Procedure manual kept on the office desk. It contains information Volunteers need.

Website-The website crashed twice this summer. Our thanks to Doug Johnson for working with GoDaddy to get it back up and running. Ted formed a new committee of himself and Doug and Kathy to work toward updating the website. Lynne suggested someone that has worked with the Lenox Foundation to contact.

Kathy reported that the Depot Condition Assessment Grant is complete. Kathy spoke with Rick Beane, and he believes Parks and Recreation can do many of the restoration items suggested (except the underlining structure issue) in this calendar year.

John updated us on the Track Display. He also reported on the donation of the 1912 Bridge Marker. The marker was imbedded in the ground on the southeast corner of the depot. We discussed wording for signage to explain this item.

Highlight of Collection of 2020-2021 items- Kathy shared items from the Roller Garden, the Waddell/Baston/Rixon families, an SLP Letter Jacket from 1993 which highlights the donor's participation in theater and music, and some items we have collected about Covid and Civil Unrest.

Kathy reported on the City Assessors records that have been promised to SLPHS. Kathy and Bill went to City Hall and visited with Cory Bultema, the City Assessor in July. These seventy some boxes of records hold information about residential buildings that we think would be useful. While we do not currently

have room for them, we told Cory we do want them. Cory is concerned with any possible liability and wanted to talk to the City Attorney.

ReEcho-Bill reviewed the last four issues. The next issue is currently in layout and will be sent out in September/October. The topic is Religion, and it will be twelve pages. We send out 264 copies and emailed 48.

Facebook-Kathy highlighted a couple of recent posts, Bill's article for Hennepin History magazine, and the photograph of the 1930 SLP High School Class. Both were very well received, and statistics show their engagement.

Research Questions- Kathy shared research questions we have received this year. Photograph requests for the house at 4090 Brookside, Upland View, if there was School Bus service 1936-44, Photographs of the old Cristy's gas station, Photographs of Lincoln Del for Shalom Home, and information about the bond drive in 1942 for the B25 Bomber called the Spirit of St. Louis Park.

Parktacular-We participated in the Parktacular Expo in June. The theme for our booth was 1971 in homage of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We took 1971 Dispatches, yearbooks, directories. We enjoyed visiting with people there.

Railroad Book Sale-John reported the Railroad book sale was successful. We took in \$1610. Most of that income was from a dealer who made the biggest purchase.

Education and Programing Ideas for 2022-Ted outlined some ideas which may include Senior High School students essay contest, Documenting Personal Histories, presentations at Lenox, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party, SLPTV programs, Depot Open House.

Strategic Planning and Fundraising-Bill reviewed the Building Plan options we have discussed with the city. These needs continued discussion.

Board members were asked to sign up for office hours for the fall.

Lynne asked for new "tabs" on the website to encourage fundraising. Options, "Leaving a Legacy", "Business Supporters".

Lynne reviewed options like encouraging IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) , and other Planned Giving, Wills and Bequests.

Goals for 2022-Ted outlined our future goals.

- Maintain distribution of the ReEcho

- Website stabilization, including updating web articles

- Increase membership by 10%

- Restart Public Programing

Lynne mentioned he has been visiting with Board members at office hours to get their ideas.

Next meeting October 5, 2021, 7pm, in person. Adjourned.