

St. Louis Park Historical Society Annual Meeting

September 12, 2023

Minutes

Attending: President, Ted Ekkers; Vice President' Lynne Carper: Secretary, Kathy Spence Johnson; Trustees, John Olson, Doug Johnson, Rick Sewall, Bill Beyer

Visitors, Diane Steen Hinderlie, Jeanne Andersen, Steve Raymer, Jim McDonough, Nikki Friederich (Recreation Superintendent)

Ted reported there were no elections. We appointed Henry Solmer as Treasurer for another year. We have several Board openings but at this time no one has been selected to serve. He invited anyone who was interested to become involved with the Society, attend meetings and see how they feel they would like to serve.

Ted introduced Nikki Friederich, the new Recreation Superintendent who is our liaison with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Minutes of the August meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report-Ted reported in Henry's absence. We reviewed the current spreadsheet. Highlights were a generous Estate Gift we received this year for \$25,000, and Memorial donations from the friends and family of Phyllis McQuaid.

There was some discussion about the use of the two internal offices in our suite.

Membership report-Lynne shared that we currently have 169 members, and eight business members. He would like us to promote more estate planning.

Website-Doug reported the website is working after some issues earlier in the week. We discussed adding the Mission Statement to the Front page as well as a Donate button. Doug will work on this.

Re-Echo-Bill reported the next issue is due out soon. He reviewed the topics that have been covered this year. He is always interested in new ideas.

Community Engagement-We have regular Office Hours every Saturday from 1-4pm. Attended neighborhood meetings like National Night Out and Block Parties, Lenox Senior Resource Event.

Events- We hosted an open House at the Depot in June, speaking engagements (Bill at Linden Hills, Kathy at the Women's Club), Participated in Parktacular, Ambassador Program. Email newsletter, "Park History Today". We will host the Depot Lighting Event again in December.

Education-Marylou Nemanic presented "Documenting Everyday Life" in March.

Facebook-We have 1881 followers. Kathy is currently posting Mayor Mondays, highlighting all the mayors who have served SLP.

Future Building-Bill shared he is on the Arrive and Thrive LRT Committee. This gives him the opportunity to include the Historical Society in their planning.

Goals for 2024

- Board Health
- Increase membership by 10%

Ideas include approaching more businesses to be members, work with Friends of the Arts, collaborate with Parks and Rec on their Gnome Hunts. Nikki suggested we participate in the “Walk In The Park” events.

Bill is working with Hennepin History Museum on a future Walking Tour of the Sugar Beet Industrial Area, “Skunk Hollow”.

Kathy invited everyone to look at some of the Donations that have come in this year so far.

Williams Family Photographs donated by Rick Sill

Photographs of Republic Creosote workers and baseball players donated by Dave Nieman

A selection of memorabilia related to Westwood Junior High donated by Diane Erickson

Waddell family artifacts, including a recipe for Caramels. Kathy made them and had some for us to taste. Donated by Sue Wagemaker

Cooper Theater artifacts from opening donated by Susan Thaxton

Cooper Theater artifact, a small tray, donated by Iris Johnson

Campfire Girls Uniform donated by Judith Auburn

Photographs from the collection of St. Louis Park teacher and counselor Lucile Adkisson Henderson. Photos include dances and royalty. Donated by Eric Adkisson.

Papers related to the Twin Lakes Project, Fern Hill Community donated by Mark McHenry

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Spence Johnson