

St. Louis Park Historical Society Board Meeting

October 3, 2023

Minutes

Attending: Ted Ekkers, President; Lynne Carper, Vice president; Henry Solmer, Treasurer; Trustees, John Olson, Rick Sewall, Marylou Nemanic, Bill Beyer. Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary and Doug Johnson Trustee on Zoom.

Minutes-The Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Accepted as written with the correction of one name spelling.

Treasurers Report-We reviewed the spreadsheet Henry provided. Henry remarked it was a slow month. There was discussion about donations. There was discussion about book sales as income which are also donations. The report was accepted as written.

Membership Report-membership is 170. We reviewed the report. Give to the Max is approaching. Ted will activate the account.

Donations-Mark Toretzky donated items, Parktacular Tee Shirts, an Ambassador Hotel Ash Tray, newspaper clippings, School poetry books from 1976-1977.

Kathy reported that the deadline for a grant to purchase the Collective Access software is October 8. She will complete the paperwork and submit.

There was a brief break with technical difficulties. Wi-Fi needs to be updated at the office.

Re-Echo-Bill reported that the newest edition was mailed yesterday. We discussed the rising costs. Bill asked that we establish (or re-establish) a post office account and Permit #.

John reported that people stopped by at the Depot Open House on September 30. He sold a few books and there were a couple of donations, totaling \$71. John gave Henry these funds and some from the previous Open House.

Marie Hartmann Award-We discussed the Marie Hartmann Award and the criteria used to choose recipients. The policy will be;

Marie Hartmann, lifelong resident of the city, was a driving force behind founding the St. Louis Park Historical Society and the preservation of the Milwaukee Road Depot building.

The mission of the Society shall be to the collection, preservation and sharing of knowledge about the history of St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

The Marie Hartmann Award shall be given annually or otherwise voted upon by the Board to any person or organization which has made exceptional contributions in any of these three categories.

Written nominations shall be sent to the SLPHS Board, which will vote on them at a normal board meeting.

Nominees need not be current or past residents of St. Louis Park.

The Award shall be presented at the Boards regularly scheduled Annual Meeting.

Kathy will add to the website page on Marie Hartmann.

Mission Statement-We discussed any changes to the Mission Statement. We voted to change the word "dissemination" to "sharing."

We discussed making the mission statement more prominent on the Website. Doug will work on this.

Board Recruitment-We discussed how to recruit new Board members. We have four open seats for Trustees.

We discussed events, advertisements, announcements at City Council Meetings, among others.

Ted will create a press release to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Website-We discussed changes and updates to the website. This included making the Mission Statement more prominent, creating buttons for "Donate" and "Membership." Removing "In the News," and "Upcoming Events," "Recent Stories," combining Membership, Gifts in Honor and remembrance, corporate members, Planned Giving under "Support Us."

Doug will work to more or remove all these items.

We discussed membership and the many options and forms. Doug has reviewed other local Historical Societies webpages, membership, etc. He provided a spreadsheet for comparisons. We tabled this discussion. Will discuss further next month.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary