

St. Louis Park Historical Society

Annual Meeting, at the Byerly's Community Room

September 9, 2025

Minutes

Attending-President; Ted Ekkers, Secretary, Kathy Spence Johnson; Trustees; Bill Beyer, Rick Sewall, John Olson, Doug Johnson, Jim McDonough, Visitors, Diane Hinderlie, Stu Alexander

Ted Presented the slate of Nominees to fill Board Positions, Doug Johnson, Mary Lou Nemanic are nominated for a three-year term. A motion was made and seconded. Approved by voice vote. Henry Solmer was appointed Treasurer.

Minutes- August 12, 2025, minutes were approved as written with the correction of one typo.

Finances-Ted reviewed the highlights of our finances. There was a large gift from the Hartvigsen Estate, for which we are grateful. We reviewed Henry's spreadsheet. Most of the donation money is in CD's that will create income. The new computer expenses are not yet reflected.

Membership-We currently have 164 members. Lynne and Scott are meeting to create communications with prospective business members. We discussed membership engagement. We will be tracking outreach and impact. We discussed outreach to Real Estate Companies and Westopolis.

Bill has had outreach to the Rotary as he researches their history for them. He is also in contact with Parkshore. Bill will reach out to Westopolis.

Website-Doug shared updates. New items that have been added are links to MN Collection and the Land Acknowledgement. We discussed the removal of the Marjorie Congdon pages and the impact it is having on the reports of page usage.

Bill will add information to the Land Acknowledgement page as it comes available.

He has been sharing Burr Oak stories on the Facebook page related to the city's name a favorite tree project. There is an event on October 31st related to Haha Wakpadan, a Water Blessing.

Kathy brought some current donations and shared some items that have been rediscovered as we catalogue the collections. New donations include Civil Defense items from the Fire Department, A Gambles business meeting LP, Two High School Letter Jackets

from '79 and '83, The metal railroad bridge sign from the previous tracks near Meadowbrook Dr., the Lincoln Del Cookbook.

Rediscovered items include, Wedding clothing from the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edey, including bow ties, and pink garters. The Manhole Cover at the Depot, Monitor Drill equipment checkout tags kept in a sock. A box of items given by Frank Mutchler, 371 items. Many are related to businesses, pens, mugs, banks, shot glasses, many others. We have rediscovered 157 so far. Also, Park Jeep brochures.

Re-Echo-Bill shared that the September issue is at the printer. The topic is Back to School.

Bill had a video interview with the School District Communications staff talking about the early schools and where they were located.

Community Engagement-Our Facebook page has 1900 followers.

Events-There have been events this year were engaging with STEP, Parkshore, Rotary, Lenox, Parktacular and others.

Strategic Planning-Ted suggested we start the Century House Plaque Program again. We need to update the spreadsheet of previous recipients. And update the spreadsheet of houses that are at least a century old. Kathy will contact Wrap City Graphics about updated costs.

Jim shared that he had seen a video of the history of Walker Lake, and we discussed finding that again and sharing it.

Ted would like our goals this year to be increasing membership and New Board Members.

Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary