

St. Louis Park Historical Society Board Meeting

March 10, 2026

Minutes

Attending-Ted Ekkers, President; Lynne Carper, Vice-President; Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary; Henry Solmer, Treasurer; Trustees, Doug Johnson, John Olson, Scott Ross, Rick Sewall, Jim McDonough, Bill Beyer, Marylou Nemanic (online).

Minutes-We reviewed the minutes. They were accepted as written with two typos.

Treasurer's Report-We reviewed the spreadsheet Henry provided. An additional donation came in that has not been added. Henry will add it for next month. Henry is filling out tax forms and asked for input/help from Kathy. He collected estimated hours spent working on SLPHS projects weekly by the board members. The CDs are being renewed this month, and he has reviewed the interest rates. He will renew them for 7 months based on these rates. We discussed adding a line on the spreadsheet for interest revenue. Henry will add this. The report was accepted as written.

Membership-Lynne reported that we have 22 new members. The membership renewal letter went out March 1st. The membership mailing went to 333 people. Lynne and Scott are still working on Business membership letters. Ted sent the membership solicitation to our email list. A Facebook post also reminded people to become members. Ted asked Lynne to create a report for next month parsing out who the new members are and how they joined to find which request techniques are reaching people.

Re-Echo-The newest Re-Echo is being mailed out. It is mailed to 253 people. The story is about Citizen's Bank.

We discussed the webpage statistics Doug sent out to us.

We reviewed the Facebook statistics Maureen compiled.

We get requests from people via email to add or correct pages on the website. These requests need to be reviewed to see if they should be added. Kathy asked for help with this. Kathy will send them out to the whole board to review, and we will review them at the meetings and assign people to write new/corrected text to add or decide not to add.

It was suggested we provide interactions with pages that get the most hits. Like asking a question on the page for users to answer.

Doug reported several Facebook pages (Minnesota Memories, I Grew Up IN Minnesota) are using photographs from our website (with attribution) for their content. Doug tries to comment on these pages and send them back to the website.

Office Hours-March 14-Scott, Maech 21-Rick, March 28-Bill, April 4-Henry, April 11-Jim.
Our next meeting is April 7th.

Building-Ted received an email from Spencer Johnson suggesting an increase in our rent. We have been paying below market rate since moving in. The increase will be from \$1200 to \$1800. We have been paying month by month and we will now have a lease. This rate is still well below market rate. Ted will work on the details with Spencer. Ted suggested we raise the rent for our inner office renter to offset some of our new increase. He will contact her.

It was suggested we ask Spencer to help design merchandise for us. The sales would help offset the increased costs. It was suggested we ask Spencer to use his event space at a lower or no cost. The event space is run by an outside group, so this might not be possible.

Kathy reported that Minnesota Collection has 1570 items, and more are being added weekly.

This month's donations include items related to Citizen's Bank 75th Anniversary in 2025 (pens, stickers, playing cards, pins), Items from members and volunteer Mark Toretsky (newspaper clippings, Little League and School yearbooks and memorabilia), and Echo newspapers from the 1930s and 40s.

We discussed how we might celebrate Anniversaries, the Historical Society's 55th anniversary, The city of SLP 140th anniversary, and the US 250th anniversary.

Lynne has created an ad in the Lenox newsletter the "Newscaster" asking for volunteers to help make a quilt. The ad will go out April 15. We discussed creating a committee who will come up with the criteria to make this happen. Lynne and Kathy volunteered to be on the committee. We need to recruit people to work on this committee. Jim reminded us that the quilt creations will come with stories and we should be collecting the stories as well.

Lynne reported that the Lenox men's group is looking for speakers. Bill is willing to do this.

Lynne reminded us of the Lenox Open house coming up June 16th. They may have a place for us to do a presentation there as well.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary