St. Louis Park Historical Society

Annual Meeting

September 8, 2026, 7pm, Byerlys Community Room

Attending: Ted Ekkers, President; Lynne Carper, Vice President; Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary; Henry Solmer, Treasurer; Trustees, Richard Sewall, Scott Ross, John Olson, Jim McDonough, Doug Johnson, Bill Beyer. Visitors-Faye Ross, Sue Ainsworth, Diane Steen-Hinderlie, Virg Hamack, Stu Alexander, and Mark Thornsjo.

Ted Ekkers convened the meeting.

Ted asked us to go around the room and introduce ourselves.

Elections-Ted presented a slate of nominees for Officers and Trustees for the next three years.

Officers-President-Ted Ekkers

Vice President-Scott Ross

Secretary-Kathy Spence Johnson

The Slate was unanimously elected.

Trustees term ending 2029-Jim McDonough

The slate was unanimously elected.

Trustee term ending 2028-Lynne Carper, Motion to the Board to fill this position. The Board so moved.

Treasurer Henry Solmer was appointed to be treasurer for the coming year.

Minutes-The Minutes of August meeting which had previously been distributed were approved were approved with a typo correction.

Treasurer's Report-August ran a deficit due to the increase in rent. Interest came in on one of the CDs. Report accepted as presented.

Office hours- Sept. 12-Scott, Sept. 19-Henry, Sept-26-Bill, Oct. 3-Doug, Oct. 10-Ted.

Year in Review-Ted presented the year in review. Our balance sheet is healthy thanks to the estate gifts we have received over the last two years. Membership is decreasing.

Lynne reported on efforts to increase membership.

Bill shared news regarding the Re-Echo. The next issue will go to the printer next week. The main article is on Nordic Ware.

Community engagement- We have had Open Houses, Office/Museum Hours, Neighborhood Meetings, Speaking engagements, Merchandise, Email Newsletter *Park History Today,* and externally published articles.

Facebook-We have 2300 followers on Facebook, Engagements to posts can range from 300 to 1,000 depending on the topic.

Events- Lenox 100th (Oct), Depot Holiday Lighting (Dec), Lenox Senior Resource Event (June), Parktacular (June), Shalom (June), Skunk Hollow Tour (July), Depot Open House (August), Neighborhood Night Out (August)

Century House Program-We have presented four Century House Plaques this year. Many historic homes in the park are reaching the century mark giving more homeowners the opportunity to purchase plaques for their homes.

Strategic Planning and Fundraising-We are renewing our goals for 2026 as we move into 2006-2027. Board Health – New Members, Maintain family memberships, Maintain and opportunistically grow business members.

We need help in all these areas.

Collections and Research- Kathy shared some items of interest from the collections. Cindy Lubet Kalland donated two costumes, a poster, and a Vikings program C. 1964 from the Parkettes. We have the Boy Scout Uniform of Brad McElfish, donated by his sister Jan. It includes a shirt, pants, belt, hat, scarf, and pins. Brad was in Scout Troop 307 which met at Aldersgate Methodist Church. Brad was a 1971 SLP High School graduate. We also have a photograph of Brad in his uniform. We received in the mail a bound copy of the Hennepin County Rural Messenger, 1915, along with some other items related to Mayor Wayne P. Martin's family. This publication was thought to be lost to history. We have been offered two desks from Park Hill school and some tableware from Eddie Webster's restaurant.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Spence Johnson, Secretary