

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 2007 7:00 P.M.
Bryn Mawr Elementary School

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Approval of Agenda and February minutes: Approved as written.

In attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Joanna Danks & Ed Juda co-Vice Presidents; Ron Sterbenz & Chad Smude, co-Treasurers; Lisa Mills & Mike Roth, co-Secretaries; Rachel Banken, Area 1 Rep.; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Alan Torborg, Area 4 Rep.; Robert A. Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Carey Sirianni, Barry Schade and Jay Peterson, Area 6 co-Reps.; Stephen Harvey & J. Pam Weiner, Area 7 co-Reps; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor.

Also in attendance were neighbors Vida Ditter, Dick Adair, and Larry Skov; and Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal.

City Council Report —

Lisa was not available, but contacted Marlin with the following: Lunch with Lisa will be on April 25th at Terrance Murphy Hall (Rm 252) at the University of St. Thomas at noon. As usual, lunch is ten dollars. The topic will be the merger of the Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Library systems.

Discussion Items:

Neighborhood LRT meeting and Board stance

Neighborhood feedback has been limited, but generally supportive of LRT and a Kennilworth line with a station at Penn. We will seek more feedback, with a follow-up article in the Bugle and during membership canvassing by Area Reps.. However, based upon past neighborhood feedback, including many meetings/discussions about transit back when we were developing NRP Phase 1 goals, we are comfortable taking a stance at this time.

The Board approved, unanimously, the following motion: We, the BMNA, support LRT and the Kennilworth Alignment, including a Penn Avenue station. However, our continued support is contingent upon the results of an Environmental Impact Study and all further studies/reports on the subject. Marlin and Lisa will draft the letter and run it by the Executive Board before it is sent.

Request for temporary use designation for part of Bryn Mawr Meadows as Frisbee Golf range

Ed Juda and Timmy Gill, a nationally ranked Disc Golf Professional, have drafted a plan to temporarily convert the NE corner of Bryn Mawr Meadows into a disc golf course. Currently, this area is full of trash and not being utilized (although it does seem to be frequented by several homeless people). The group would clean up and maintain the area, and the course would be funded by private donations. They are seeking a 'temporary use permit' from the Park Board and request our support for the idea. The course would be temporary, as that area is part of the Bassett's Creek Redevelopment Plan put forth by the ROC. Ed and Timmy will also run their plans by the ROC.

The Board approved a motion that "the BMNA draft a letter to the MPRB in support of a temporary use permit for a privately funded disc golf course in the NE corner of the Bryn Mawr Meadows park." Ed will draft the letter and run it by the Executive Board for approval.

Neighborhood Coordinator Search and Nominations Committee

There is one person who may be interested in the Neighborhood Coordinator position. She's meeting with Vida and others this week to discuss the position, and has the enthusiastic support of the Executive Board.

The Nominations Committee has recruits for Area 1,3,5 & 7 Representatives, Treasurer and Vice President. The Area 7 nomination has changed, as J. Pam Weiner will be resigning her position to take up the position of President of the Friends of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Pam canvassed her Area and found an able and willing volunteer in Larry Skov. All other nominations were printed in

April's Bugle, and the updated slate will be published in the May Bugle and posted at the Member Meeting on May 9th.

Land Use Committee – Vida Ditter

The committee needs new members from Areas 1 & 5. The City of Mpls is considering new rules for new housing construction to avoid 'McMansions.' According to the BMNA's Comprehensive Plan, we are already on record supporting growth that maintains the character of our neighborhood, so we'll have Marlin draft a letter in support of the new ordinance, run it by the LUC committee and send it to the City Council.

NRP Schools Committee – Jessica Wiley

The committee has developed a process for hearing issues and advocating for/against them – getting to 'just the facts' on these often very emotional issues. Lynda is writing an article about the process for the Bugle.

A current issue is Barton School being taken off our list of choices – they don't want to bus Bryn Mawr kids there, and we do have a group of families whose kids attend Barton. We need to advocate even more strongly with the School Board that Bryn Mawr be kept in the 'South oriented' group of school choices.

Also, a North Side plan has been released and 5 schools are slated to be closed. A South Side plan is coming next. We know that the task is difficult, and will strive to work with the School Board in a positive manner, while ensuring that our neighbors' concerns are heard by the Board.

NRP Housing Committee – Rob Harris:

The Home Improvement Program is moving ahead as planned. Applications are due on April 16, and inspections will begin the following week. [At the time of the publication of this Bugle edition, 23 neighbors submitted applications for the Home Improvement program money in time for the deadline of April 16.] If there isn't enough money in the program to fund all the applicants, the applicants will be awarded funds based on their need (income). If necessary, a special meeting of the Housing Committee will be called to help CEE prioritize applicants.

NRP Traffic & Downtown Committees – Rob Harris:

Don Sobania, Traffic Engineer for the City of Minneapolis, has requested that the BMNA submit a formal, written request, indicating that we want to make the temporary stop signs on the Penn and South Cedar Lake Rd intersection permanent. Rob will work with Marlin to write the official letter to Don.

Also, the Traffic and Downtown Committees are working with Don Sobania to install new light poles at the intersection of Penn Ave and South Cedar Lake Rd. As neighbors may recall, the city began to install new traffic signal lights last summer at this intersection, but then stopped their work when neighbors requested (via Lisa Goodman's office) to have all-way stop signs installed at the intersection instead of the new traffic signal lights. Although the traffic signal lights were never installed, the base units remain at the southwest and northeast corners of the intersection. Rather than removing them, the city now wishes to leverage it's investment in those base units to support 30-foot high light poles on the southwest and northeast corners of the intersection. The city also wishes to remove the old traffic signal light poles on the northwest and southeast corners of the intersection and have Bryn Mawr pay to cover the base units up with planters.

The Bryn Mawr Traffic and Downtown Committees have a counter-proposal, one that we believe supports our vision for making this intersection more pedestrian friendly. First, we wish to have light poles installed that better fit the scale and aesthetics of the neighborhood. And second, we would rather not add any more planters to the intersection, as the ones there now are difficult enough to maintain. Specifically, Bryn Mawr wishes to have 12 to 18 foot high, vintage style light poles, similar to those currently used on the Lake Street and Chicago Ave South intersection, installed on all four corners of the Penn & South Cedar Lake Rd intersection (or on at least two of the corners). These poles would accommodate the use of banners and look more attractive than the 30-foot high type poles envisioned by the city. The Committees would also like to make the cross walks and stop signs more

prominent, which may require the installation of new road surface materials and signage. Representatives of the two Committees will discuss their ideas with Don and his colleagues the week of April 22 and reach agreement.

NRP Parks & Recreation Committee – Ed Juda

A former neighbor who is a landscape architect has proposed a plan to beautify the NE hillside overlooking Cedar Lake, and will help finance the project. Rob and Ed will work with him and the Cedar Isles Neighborhood Association on the plan.

The committee will also continue removal of Buckthorn around Brownie Lake. The Park Board 'clear cut' the eastern hillside last year because of a bent-over dead tree and 'bad sight lines' etc., and will watch what native plants come up this spring, then plant more things to fill it in. The MPRB will be continuing the Buckthorn removal around Eloise Butler that began last year.

Now the Park Board says we can have a canoe rack by Brownie, most likely where we asked for it to be, on the eastern hillside by the staircase. Rick Carter is working with the MPRB on that.

Kathy Skalicky will be organizing work on the triangle garden at Upton & Cedar Lake Rd. and is actively seeking participants.

Ed, Rob, Greg & Karen met, will be doing downtown planting Memorial weekend – **contact Ed or Greg to help out.**

NRP Budget

The Plan Modification for moving the left over funds from the NRP Phase 1 Action Plan to the NRP Phase 2 Action Plan is in progress.

Budgeting & Fundraising Committee – Ron Sterbenz & Lisa Mills

The Garage Sale subcommittee, led by Patty Wycoff and Joanna Danks, has planned a BMNA Benefit Sale. The benefit sale will take place on Cedar Lake Rd. between Penn and Queen Aves, for which we received a permit to close the street on Saturday of the sale (after Patty knocked on doors and got signed consent of at least 75% of the residents on that block). We have several neighbors who've indicated that they will donate goods to be sold, and are seeking more. There will be a piece on this in the Bugle. As far as disposal of items unsold, we've contacted ARC and others but they are unable to do a special pickup. We have several members who have graciously offered their vehicles to transport suitable items to Goodwill and others for disposal, and are seeking more help in that area.

Registrations for 'official' Festival of Garage Sale sales are coming in, and Ron and Chad are creating the map of sales and official signage for each sale, to be distributed the Friday before the sale, by Area Reps.

May member meeting May 9th at 6pm. Joanna is heading up this effort as her last official duty as VP, with help from Chad and others. Ed secured donated tablecloths for this and future events. Several Board members have solicited and received donations for door prizes as well.

Membership has exceeded our goal for funds raised, but we are still short of our participation goal. Each Area Rep now has the list of their neighbors who have not responded/joined. And they will be canvassing in April and possibly into May.

Ron and Chad are working on a new Neighborhood Directory! We have a list of those who included this information on their membership forms. We will also send out an email, asking who wants to be included and how. Finally, we will include an item in the Bugle, seeking those who would be included. We could do an electronic copy, linked to our website, which could be modified on the fly, and possibly even give members access to add themselves. However, there are privacy issues, which we will consider before we do so.

Our new BMNA mail distribution system is a hit. We have well over 500 active members on the various distribution lists, and more are signing up every week via our website. Ron has been handling the email distribution up 'til now, and has passed the responsibility on to Lisa, until we have a new Neighborhood Coordinator to either take it over, or partner with Lisa in the effort.

We are also working with Alan Torborg to update and enhance the information on the BMNA.org website.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Festival of Garage Sales Sat-Sun, May 5-6
- Annual Meeting Wed, May 9
- Juneteenth Celebration Sat-Sun, June 16-17
- April 28th kicks off the 100th Anniversary of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden celebrations, which continue throughout spring and summer.