

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2007 7:00 P.M.
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Call to Order and Introductions
Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm
Approval of Agenda and July minutes: Approved as written.

In attendance: Marlin Possehl, Pres.; Ed Juda, Vice Pres., Ron Sterbenz, co-Treasurer; Lisa Mills, Secretary; Lynda Shaheen, Area 2 Rep.; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Cathy Skalicky, Area 4 Rep.; Carey Sirianni and Jay Peterson Area 6 co-Reps.; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor; and Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator.

Also in attendance were neighbor Matt Stark; City Council Representative Lisa Goodman; Brad Bourn from the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center; John Munger from the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation, and Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal.

City Council Report — Council Member Lisa Goodman

Lisa was able to go down to the site of the 35W bridge collapse, and cannot describe the enormity of the situation. She'd like to see authorities open a much closer viewing site so that people can see for themselves – possibly the 10th Ave bridge. She thinks that people who don't know someone involved aren't thinking about it, in part because they cannot comprehend the enormity of it. Lisa is glad to report that city and state agencies have been working well together, putting partisan politics and interagency rivalries aside to cooperate.

Our 'mutual aid agreement' with suburban police departments has kicked in. Mpls police have been working 12 hours on/12 off, and other depts. are assisting with our emergency calls and fires.

Lisa and other officials are hoping that the long-term closure of the bridge and the resulting traffic difficulties will have one positive impact - encouraging people to "switch modes" – start trying public transportation, riding bikes and carpooling.

Brad Bourn - Phyllis Wheatley mentoring project

The center is at Hwys 94/55. They are starting a school-based mentoring center, for kids from Bethune Elementary, an 'at risk' school adjacent to the center. They are looking for volunteers to do mentoring for 50 minutes, between 11am-1pm, once a week. He's here recruiting, and hoping we will help recruit. The Center will provide mentors with all the training and resources needed to become an effective mentor.

John Munger - Twin Cities Loppet

John led several neighbors on a walk of the trails built for the Loppet, including a look at where trails will be moved in the future, to make them more environmentally friendly and further from the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Unfortunately, notice was given pretty last-minute, and attendance was low. John said he is willing to do one more walk, if neighbors who have concerns about the Loppet are interested. The Board will contact neighbors to gauge interest, and get back to John.

Youth Council – Patty Wycoff

They have set their meeting for the 2nd Thursday of each month. Patty has many ideas for activities, and ways the Council can help out the BMNA and neighborhood in general. This month, they helped her make signs for the BBQ.

August 12 Meadows BBQ – Patty Wycoff

Patty procured supplies (food, paper items, coolers, etc.), put up signs (with the Youth Council) advertising the event, along with a piece in the Bugle and emails to the BMNA email list. She requests and is offered assistance from Board members, including the use of a grill and volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.

Committee Reports

Budgeting/Fundraising Committee

Neighborhood directory - Patty Wycoff, NC

She has sold most of the larger ad space and much of the business-card sized ads as well.

September 15th is the deadline for ad copy and neighbor listing submissions.

Ice Cream Social - Ed Juda

The Board gave a round of applause for Ed, whose hard work in procuring ice cream made the taste-off a big hit! There were many volunteers who contributed to the success of the event, including several non-Board members. Ed has been collecting suggestions for improving the event next year, including having several separate stations for the ice cream, to keep lines shorter.

Upton Garden project – Ron Sterbenz

To date, we've raised over \$1100 in donations, plus many plants and many, many volunteer hours.

The garden is really taking shape, and all of the 28 plots have been 'adopted' by neighbors. The project has also brought out many neighbors who've not volunteered before (or not for a long time), helping achieve one of the Board's important goals.

Treasurer's Report – Ron Sterbenz

The Board accepted the updated budget unanimously.

Ron reports that the Bugle is projected to come out \$293 ahead for the year.

Ron proposed, and the Board approved, 2 new line items to the budget, for Patty's Aug. 12th BBQ.

Website Committee – Ron Sterbenz

The new committee will be meeting on August 19th, 9-10:30am. We'll discuss ideas for changing and improving the site, including keeping it more current and adding functionality. Alan Torborg has been maintaining the site for 4 years, and would like to pass the responsibility on. The committee will come up with a proposal to present to the Board by the November meeting, so as to ask for inclusion in the budget for 2008.

Land Use Committee

Marlin received an update from Vida. They tentatively pre-approved a project on 200 block of Queen.

A project at 2xxx Cedar Lake Rd. began work, but had to stop because they had not applied for a variance, which their planned changes would require. LUC will entertain their request, but recommends that they keep their patio in scale with surrounding neighbors.

NRP Committee Reports

NRP Traffic Committee – Rob Harris

The committee is looking at pedestrian safety issues on Chestnut. The sidewalks that have been included on the city's Master Plan may be problematic. The MPRB is resisting putting sidewalks along the park, and there may not be room on the residential side, especially as there are lots of trees planted along the edge of the road on that side. We've also inquired about putting a stop sign or crosswalk there, particularly by the little kids' play area at the park, but so far the city has refused to consider those options.

Cedar Lk Rd/Penn – Minneapolis has agreed to put lights there, but not the kind we would like to see.

They have come up with a sort of master plan of their own, to address lighting needs around the city. Their plan includes a limited selection of lighting options, and none of the types that we have requested are on that list. The committee continues to work with the city toward a safe and attractive solution at that intersection.

NRP Housing Committee – Rob Harris

The City has changed the NRP budgeting rules. Instead of 70% of the Phase 2 total being allowed to be spent by Spring 2009, now it's 50%. We've basically spent that already, on our home improvement program and a couple of smaller items.

NRP Parks & Rec Committee – Ed Juda

Meeting Sept. 20th - inviting MPRB people to discuss canoe rack. 394 Fall cleanup is also on the agenda.

NRP Schools Committee – Jessica Wiley

Next meeting August 23rd.

New Business / Discussion Items

The Editorial Review Committee for the Bugle will now consist of Jay, Lisa, & Jessica. The committee will meet on an as-needed basis, when JoEllyn requests assistance or if a neighbor has an issue with an Editorial decision.

The city has formed a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the SW Light Rail Transit. The BMNA has requested inclusion on the committee and been given two seats. The Board votes unanimously to approve appointment of Barry Schade and Bruce Monson to represent the BMNA on the CAC.

The Board needs to set a date for our Fall retreat, at which we'll discuss next year's goals and budget, among other issues. We're looking at one of the first couple Saturdays in November. Joanna thinks we can use the Mill City Museum conference room again – she'll check those dates and get back to Marlin.

Several neighbors have mentioned that they're not getting their Bugles. The distributors get it the last Friday of the previous month, and they pass it along to the volunteers who distribute it block by block. JoEllyn will look into this.

Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2007
Bryn Mawr Elementary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Harvest Dinner – Wednesday, October 24th.