



BMNA Reporter

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, April 9th, 2008

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
Approval of Agenda, Financial Report and March minutes:
Approved as written.

Attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Larry Skov, Vice President; Ron Sterbenz & Chad Smude, co-Treasurers; Lisa Mills, Secretary; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; Rachel Banken, Area 1 Rep.; Lynda Shaheen, Area 2 Rep.; Rick Carter, Area 3 Rep.; Cathy Skalicky, Area 4 Rep.; Robert A. Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Barry Schade, Carey Sirianni & Jay Peterson, Area 6 Reps.; Stephen Harvey, Area 7 Rep.; Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator, and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor. Also in attendance were City Councilmember Lisa Goodman with CLIC member John Bernstein, Roderick Southall from Juneteenth, neighbors Dick Adair and Claudia Egelhoff, and Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal.

City Council Report - Council Member Lisa Goodman

Lunch with Lisa: At their annual meeting, the Downtown Council presented a slide-show reviewing downtown events from the past year. Lisa was so impressed, she asked them to present it at Lunch with Lisa, April 23rd 11:45 until 1pm at St. Thomas. For more info about this and upcoming 'Lunch with Lisa' events, call the hotline at 612.673.3195.

Library merger update: The biggest news is that the combined libraries have the resources to open 13 additional libraries on Sundays, from 12-5pm, beginning June 1st. These will include East Lake, Homer, Minneapolis Central, and North Regional, in Minneapolis. The funding will come from the new Twins Stadium sales tax, by Minnesota statute.

The Hennepin County Board will hold a Board Briefing on the Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center on Thursday, May 8, 9:30 a.m., 24th floor of the Government Center. State funding for the planetarium project transferred to Hennepin County with the library consolidation. Discussion is now underway as to next steps.

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) update: A Task Force worked throughout 2007, to come up with rules and procedures for IRV in Minneapolis. Their report, along with the Legislatures' own Work Group Report, was issued Feb. 1st, 2008. The goal is still to use Instant Runoff Voting in the 2009 election. Elections equipment, which in Minneapolis is actually owned by Hennepin County, must receive federal or state certification, which can take from less than a year to multiple years. The city will attempt to work with the county to implement IRV. The City Council has now issued an

RFP (Request for Proposals) for IRV-compatible elections equipment.

Reminder: Spring street sweeping is underway - they WILL TOW. (The tow truck often trails the sweepers, to 'tow-as-they-go.'). Watch for the signs on your street.

Road repairs on Minneapolis Parkways: There are 3 ways to re-do roads: resurfacing (happening on Kenwood Pkwy right now); re-paving (grind up and overlay); and reconstruction. Lake of the Isles Parkway is in such bad shape, it would have to be closed soon, if it isn't repaired. The Council voted to do mostly re-paving, and the project will use up funding for Parkway repairs for the next 3 years.

Property valuation notices have come out - NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTEST. Most have been reduced in value. This is the last year that there will be a difference b/w the assessed value and the 'limited market value' - so if your house has been assessed at a lot less than 'lmv,' next year you'll see a big increase in the valuation. If you disagree with the valuation of your home, call the Assessor's Office and set up an appointment to discuss your concerns with the Assessor responsible for valuing your property (whose name is on your assessment.)

Lisa brought a guest: John Bernstein from CLIC [Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee]. CLIC is a citizen advisory committee to the Mayor and City Council. All city capital (Public Works) projects must first be presented to the CLIC, which rates/recommends projects to the Mayor and Council. John discussed the CLIC process. He gave the Board a copy of the 4 proposals that may impact our neighborhood. Rick, Steve & Rob will review the items for Bryn Mawr and synthesize them into an article for the Bugle, and possibly an email to the list.

Budget/Fundraising Committee - Ron & Lisa

Our newest member, Bob Burgett, has come up with a detailed plan for the year, to coordinate membership recruitment efforts. The committee discussed the plan and offered input. We are excited to have such an experienced fundraiser on the committee, who is willing to coordinate our membership recruitment efforts!

May Member Meeting - The committee made final plans for the dinner and meeting. There will be informational tables from Barry's environment group (in re their lawnmower sharing project) and the Juneteenth folks, along with displays about what the BMNA has been up to in the past year, and has planned for the next. We've had much discussion in committee and with the Board about the role that elected representatives should be afforded at our annual meeting. Generally, there is consensus that we should not have the kind of open-ended question/answer sessions that have happened in the past. Too often, it deteriorates into people asking about specific, personal issues which are of no interest to the rest of those present. However, our representatives should have a chance to speak - BRIEFLY, and should be invited to attend the dinner and mingle - for

many neighbors it's the only time they see/meet these reps. We'll likely invite them to speak at the end, after BMNA business is done. That would accommodate neighbors who want to stay and talk with them 'offline,' without inconveniencing everyone else.

Garage Sale - The committee met with a representative of Twin Cities Youth Rowing to discuss handover of registration and maps for the sale. We are planning a 'BMNA sale' like last year, with items donated by neighbors sold to raise money for the BMNA.

Budget - Motion to move \$368 from savings to new line-item for 'Joffe Appeal'. The city charged us in connection with our appeal of the variance for their billboard-sized sign.

Nominations Committee - Christopher Etz will run for co-rep for Area Capital Project - Jessica put an article in the Bugle and wrote an email, which Patty sent to the email list. April 21st is the deadline for neighbors to submit ideas. If we receive several proposals, we will present the ideas at the May member meeting, possibly putting them to a vote by the members. If not, we may solicit proposals at the meeting.

Website Redesign Committee - We've hired Network Solutions to redo the site, and they've already put together what we sent them. Ron & Chad sent out a link to the 'Beta' and then had a 'webinar' for the Board to attend a demo and offer suggestions. Several sent feedback.

Marlin, Larry, Patty & Lisa will help maintain content - we'll have a training session soon. Ron will re-stage it and send out another link - we need another round of feedback from the Board before final rollout.

Land Use Committee

LUC met with Craig Joffe who is still trying to finagle a 24ft sign. There might be room for compromise - Craig will continue to work with Steve Maurelli, and Steve will bring any proposed compromise solution to the Board.

Although there was no quorum at the April 1 meeting, the three members present signified unanimous support for a variance request at 1949 Ewing Ave, which has the support of adjacent neighbors. A sub-committee of the Zoning Board subsequently recommended denial of the request, and the matter is scheduled to be taken up at tomorrow's Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting. The Board approves a resolution in support of the variance, and Marlin will contact the Zoning Board in that regard.

NRP update - Rob Harris

Rob submitted a proposal to the Non Motorized Transportation Pilot (NTP) program for funds to pay for sidewalks along West Chestnut Ave (from Penn to Xerxes Ave) and South Wayzata Blvd (I-394 South Frontage Road) from I-394 to Thomas. However, the NTP proposal review committee did not recommend our proposed projects to the City Council, so it is likely we will

not be awarded these funds. The coordinator for the NTP indicated that even though our proposed projects did not meet the criteria of the NTP program, he believed that these are worthy projects for consideration by the city, and he is willing to work with the neighborhood to see if there is some other way to get sidewalks installed in these areas.

NRP Traffic Committee - did not meet
NRP Parks Committee - did not meet

NRP Schools Committee - Lynda Shaheen. Enrollment at Bryn Mawr Elementary is up for next year. An even higher number of 'school-choice' cards came in this year (for Kindergarten and High Five at BME) from Bryn Mawr families.

On the morning of Wednesday, April 30, 2008 Hands On Twin Cities and 150 Target team members will be volunteering at Bryn Mawr, along with dozens of parents/teacher & neighbors, to complete a variety of projects in the Media Center and around the school. In addition to the volunteers, Target has given Bryn Mawr a Target Loves Schools grant for books, supplies and materials.

New Business

Roderick Southall from Juneteenth came to propose a 'working group' to determine how we can collaborate more with the Juneteenth celebration - as was suggested by several Board members last year. The celebration will be June 21st this year. Steve Harvey and Carey Sirianni will work with Roderick on that. The Board voted to invite the Juneteenth folks to have an informational table at our May member meeting. They'll have a shuttle (and discount tix?) to a Lynx game that night. Roderick will send us something about that for the June Bugle.

WestEnd project. The state is turning the frontage road over to Golden Valley in '09. For now, MnDOT has sole jurisdiction. After, G.V. will be able to undertake 'traffic calming' projects.

Barry, Patty & Claudia are proposing a 'shared lawnmower' project. They'll have a table at the May member meeting with non-gasoline lawn mowers outside for people to try. The project would subsidize shared electric (incl. battery) or push lawnmowers, to encourage environmentally friendlier options than gas mowers. The Board generally agreed that it's a good idea, we'll decide later how & how much to fund it.

We'll invite Tracy Nordstrom and at-large MPRB member to come to our June meeting.

The Nola store at Penn Ave. & Cedar Lake Rd. will be featured in the June Better Homes & Gardens.

NEXT MEETING:
Annual Pot-luck and business meeting, Wed, May 14, 7:00 p.m.,
Wed, June 11, 2008, BME Community Room

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Festival of Garage Sales May 3-4
Annual Dinner Wed, May 14.