



BMNA Reporter

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2009

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm
Approval of Agenda and June minutes: Approved as written.
Acceptance of this month's Financial Report (available online)

Attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Ben Horn & Adam Maki, co-treasurers; Lisa Mills, Secretary; Scott McGlaughlin, NRP Chair; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Christopher Etz, Area 4 Rep.; Dave Logsdon, Area 5 Rep.; Barry Schade & Jay Peterson, Area 6 co-Reps.; Andrew Kraling, Area 7 co-Rep.; Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator, and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor & Community Schools Rep. Also in attendance were City Council member Lisa Goodman; neighbors Matt Stark and Claudia Egelhoff; and Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal.

City Council Report – Council Member Lisa Goodman

- Lunch with Lisa on July 22nd at St. Thomas will be an Instant Runoff Voting tutorial, including election of the group's favorite candy bar as a trial for ranking choices. The city races this Fall will be IRV ballots.
 - September Lunch with Lisa will discuss the results of the July 22 IRV candy bar election.
 - The Walker Library may be redone yet again. The merged Mpls/Henn Cty systems has budgeted \$13million to fix it or build a new one. They will be holding public meetings to gather public input about the kind of library the community wants, before issuing a Request for Proposals.
 - Lisa is enthusiastic about the Minneapolis Mosaic Art Festival which continues through August - <http://www.minneapolismosaic.com/schedule.html>
 - Lisa will scoop ice cream at the BMNA's Ice Cream Taste Off on July 23rd.
- Newsbites:**
- The Governor has cut Minneapolis' local government aid by \$30 million through 2010. The City of Minneapolis now receives 43 percent less in local Gov't Aid than it did 6 years ago. However, the city has maintained a balanced budget and plans to continue to do so.
 - The Minneapolis Economic Recovery site, www.minneapolisrecovery.us, has an up-to-date list of recovery grants for which the city has applied or that the city has received.
 - Included in the city's Living Well report is a note that Brownie Lake has reached its water quality improvement target.
 - Neighbors are reminded to water their boulevard trees - particularly those planted this Spring, to be sure they will survive.

NRP discussion with Stacy Sorenson, NRP staff

We have \$58k left from Phase I which is safe. That money can be re-allocated among the Phase I objectives, such as housing assistance. We have about \$50k available to allocate in Phase II (which will bring us to 80% of our Phase II allocation – we are not allowed, yet, to spend the remaining 20%). It would be prudent to figure out what we want to do with that Phase II \$\$ and get it allocated. It's an easy target for budget cuts while sitting there unused. After Phase II, there will be no more NRP, but the City is exploring other programs to assist neighborhoods.

Patty Wycoff's Neighborhood Coordinator report.

- Ice Cream Taste-Off
We're buying re-usable, d/w safe plastic bowls and cups to keep forever, instead of buying disposable. Now that we also have our own tablecloths and scoops, the only trash we will create is napkins and spoons.
- Patty has an intern volunteering w/her and the BMNBA - Doug DeVries.
- They are working on a 'Sip n Stroll' event with the Bus. Assoc. It will be Thurs Aug 20th – local businesses will run specials in conjunction with the event.

Bugle Committee – Jay Peterson

The committee failed to come to consensus on how to hire the next Bugle contractor, and brings 3 options to the Board for a decision:

- 1- Start advertising again – reopen with new committee to get more details out there and hopefully get more applicants.
- 2- Accept both applications and interview both candidates.
- 3- Stay with the stated deadline and interview the candidate who applied on time.

Christopher Etz moved for 3rd option, seconded by Jessica Wiley, Board approved.

Schools Committee – JoEllyn

The committee will meet in August after the School Board meets about a plan for school closings, consolidation, etc.

Land Use Committee - Marlin

It was brought to our attention that the City asks only for an 'acknowledgement of receipt of request' by the BMNA. In the case of the request by the owners of 704 Cedar Lake Rd., there was a neighbor who was opposed to the variance. In such a case, the BMNA ought not to take sides in a dispute among neighbors, so we should send only the acknowledgement to the City, not our 'approval.' A motion was made to rescind 'approval' for request approved last month for 704 Cedar Lake Rd., and replace with 'acknowledgement of receipt of request.' The Board approved the motion. Marlin will contact the city.

The Board will undertake a general discussion of role of LUC in September.

Treasurer's report – Ben Horn/Adam Maki

Board approved discretionary spending related to accountability (e.g. if they change the type of account and a fee is incurred).

Energy Challenge – Jessica

It's actually Centerpoint Energy who will not provide the promised info to CEE – not CEE's fault.

Ash Borer project – Jessica

10 people came to the first committee meeting. The committee is working on a 6 month plan.
Steve Pundt is contacting Tree Trust. Patty will connect with the City & Park Board. There will be a tree info seminar in September, perhaps with neighbor/arborist Shaun Malady. Neighbor Cathy Ripke, Master Gardener, will help come up with how/where to do an Ash Tree inventory in Bryn Mawr.

The committee will develop a list of recommendations/options; treat, replace, let it go. They'll devise a chart to recommend what to do about each Ash tree.

There will be a table with info about the Ash Borer at the Ice Cream Social. We'll put an article in August Bugle.

HourCar - Claudia Egelhoff

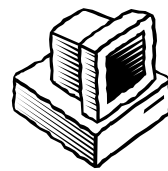
Claudia asked Lisa Goodman to ask the Mpls School district and Qwest about a place to park. Now Anwatin says it shouldn't be a problem to park in a spot out near the frontage road. They're awaiting written approval. Then they'll need to do fundraising. McKnight Foundation will match 10-15k to buy a car to park there. Businesses can have an advertisement on the car, perhaps. At least one local Realtor has agreed to contribute, and they hope others may follow suit - it could be a good selling point for the neighborhood.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting – August 12th, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Ice Cream Social - Thursday, July 23rd.

'Sip N Stroll' event with local businesses, Thursday, August 20th.



From the Editor

Summer GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math & Science) and GISE (Guys in Science and Engineering) is a Minneapolis Public summer school held at Augsburg College. Today I attended the GEMS & GISE Summer Festival where kids showed off what they have learned. This program breaks new ground on setting high expectations and supporting kids in achieving their potential and reaching their goals.

People wonder we have to break new ground, why we cannot go back to the way schools used to be. Well, schools need to be different because the world is different. We are not doing kids any favors by preparing them to live in white, middle class 1958 Iowa. (I mean no disrespect to Iowa, it is just the root of standardized testing.)

In the current system, too many students are not making the grade. Unfortunately for those kids, "the system's" old school strategies are not improving education and they feed children's distaste for school.

What we need is innovative education that incorporates modern life skills across all areas of instruction. After all, this is what we had in 1958. Back then we were teaching kids to go to work, sit at a desk, spit out information and do things "the company way."

These are not the skills that most people need in the 21st century

work environment. Nowadays, we need to be able to solve problems, not just know the answer.

Let's say you have a classroom of fifth graders who are learning the history of the Apollo space program. You could sit them down in desks with a textbook, put a teacher in front of them and tell them the facts. If you give them a test the next day and most of them would probably do pretty well. But how many of them could still pass that test a year later?

Now let's teach them the GEMS/GISE way. Give them Lego building blocks and a laptop. Divide them into teams and show them how to build a robot. Then ask them to program those robots to navigate a lunar map and hit a golf ball, just like Alan Shepard of Apollo 14.

Granted, it would take them more than one or two class periods to master this "history" lesson, but they would also be learning math, science and technology at the same time. What's more they develop their interpersonal skills by working together.

These are the boys and girls who are more likely to recall that Apollo 11 almost didn't land because of trouble locating a flat place to set down and these are the men and women I want running the world as I get older.

- JoEllyn Jolstad, bugle@bmna.org