

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2008

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Approval of Agenda and Dec. 12 & Jan. 9 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.; Robert A. Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Barry Schade & Jay Peterson, Area 6 Reps.; Stephen Harvey, Area 7 Rep.; Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator, and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor. Also in attendance were neighbor Dick Adair, and Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal.

City Council Report — Council Member Lisa Goodman

Lisa was unable to attend this evening, but submitted a report to Marlin, who summarized it for the group:

The merger of the Hennepin County and Minneapolis Library systems is moving forward. The Roosevelt, Southeast and Webber Park libraries have re-opened. There is a \$2 million dollar fund, which they plan to dedicate to increasing library hours. There are capital improvement plans for the Walker library. Four new Minneapolis members have been appointed to the Library Board; Roger Hale, Jill Joseph, Kathleen Lamb and Joe Pacheco.

The City is working on a 'Pedestrian Master Plan,' that will examine current city policies, suggest standard guidelines for sidewalks and crosswalks, and recommend future capital improvement projects. See the City's website "Walking in Minneapolis," at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/index.asp>.

The wireless vendor (USI Wireless) is aware that residents in Bryn Mawr are having trouble accessing the network, particularly in Areas 1 & 2, and they are working with the city to resolve those issues.

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth is available online and the City is still taking public comment: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/comp_plan_update_draft_plan.asp.

Lunch with Lisa is on February 27th. Our topic is the Minneapolis Plan! We are meeting at St. Thomas University – Minneapolis Campus at 12:00 noon.

Activity report: Patty Wycoff, NC

Patty will be meeting w/Maggie Mercer at Kenwood next Tues. to discuss summer programming @ Bryn Mawr Meadows.

Patty has asked that we develop a more formal policy for the Constant Contact emails she sends to the neighborhood lists. Rob Harris presented a proposed policy, and the Board approved it. If Patty has questions or concerns about particular emails, she will confer with Larry Skov, to decide what to do.

BMNA.org e-mail Service

Concerns have been raised by subscribers of the mail@BMNA.org service about the quantity and relevance of emails they receive. The Board voted to adopt a formal "statement of purpose" for the mail@bmna.org system and implement guidelines for the types of subject matter that are appropriate for email notifications and announcements. An article explaining the guidelines and the "statement of purpose" will be published in the Bugle. Additionally, current subscribers will be asked to re-check their "subscriber settings" to make sure they select only those topics for which they want to receive notices.

Budgeting & Fundraising Committee

Ron presented the updated Budget, which was approved by the Board.

Larry Skov presented a proposed process for selection of a 2008 'capital' project. We need to form a committee to implement the process, which was approved unanimously by the Board. Rick Carter, Cathy Skalicky, and Jay Peterson volunteered to be on the committee – still need a chair. There will be a Bugle article outlining the process and soliciting ideas for the project.

The committee met to discuss upcoming events. One proposed event is a wine tasting. We discussed doing several of these, possibly by Area, since the event will be hosted in someone's home and the group needs to be relatively small. Marlin has spoken with a neighbor who works for a liquor distributor who can help us host the event(s). He has also conferred with our insurance company about liability issues. We may have a neighbor in Area 2 who is willing to host the first one. Marlin will pursue this.

Although we plan to hold a 'BMNA Sale' in conjunction with the May Festival of Garage Sales, we will not do the administrative piece this year – we will contact the scouts/church to see if they wish to continue the registration & maps. We do not have the manpower to take on such a labor-intensive project again.

The Annual Dinner in May will be a potluck, as always. However, we discussed the need to make the event more neighborhood- and BMNA-oriented. We will invite local politicians to attend, but considering this is an election year, the Board believes it would be inappropriate to have formal 'speeches.' We may schedule time 30 minutes prior to the Potluck dinner start time to allow neighbors to speak with the local politicians. Or, we may allow neighbors to submit questions in writing. However, we will definitely not have the open-ended, free-for-all Q & A sessions that have happened in the past. Instead, the presentations and discussions at the dinner will focus on what the BMNA has accomplished this past year, and our plans for the coming year, along with the election of BMNA officers.

Nominations Committee – Larry

- Appointment of Dick Adair to Lakes District Council

Dick mentioned that the Bryn Mawr Meadows is going to take on added importance in the next few years with the Bassett Creek Valley redevelopment gaining momentum. Our relationship with the Park Board has been a bit too adversarial, and he would like to help us change that. Barry Shade made the motion, Jay Peterson seconded, and it passed unanimously. Vida Ditter is the BMNA's other representative to this board.

Land Use Committee (LUC)

Vida and the LUC have been communicating with the Joffe Medcenter, who are developing the "Palm Brothers" site along the I-394 South Frontage Rd, about their request to install a larger-than-usual sign on the site – they want a 24ft sign, the Land Use Plan limit is 8ft. The LUC recommends against the variance, and the Board voted to support the LUC's recommendation. Also, there is concern about the sidewalk that should go there – they've landscaped right up to the road. The Traffic Committee will follow-up on this.

NRP Update – Rob Harris

Given the recent budget restrictions imposed by the NRP, the Board asked the Bryn Mawr NRP Committee Chairs to make a recommendation on whether we should keep the current funds targeted for Downtown (\$8K), Parks (\$6K), Traffic (\$34K) and Schools (\$5K) in those categories or reallocate those funds. Rob indicated that we are still awaiting confirmation on cost estimates for our proposed improvements to Penn Ave and the Penn/Cedar Lake Rd intersection. Upon receiving those estimates, the Committee Chairs will provide their recommendations on the budget to the Board.

NRP Housing Committee - Rob Harris

Jim Hasnik, a Sr. Loan Officer with the CEE (the administrator for the 2007 Bryn Mawr Home Improvement Program) informed Rob that 25 residents who applied were eligible for loans and/or

grants. As of February 12, 2008, the CEE has closed loans and grants for 20 households. The CEE is ready to activate a loan/grant for the 21st household on the waiting list. Jim indicated that this 21st household would likely exhaust our budget for the BMNA Phase 2 program. However, the CEE will continue to contact households on the waiting list to see if they are still interested in leveraging the program funds—until such time as the funds run out.

NRP Traffic/Transportation Committee - Steve Maurelli

Rob Harris sent an e-mail on behalf of the BMNA to Hennepin County Commissioner Mark Stenglein (and copied Minneapolis City Council Member Lisa Goodman) on January 28, 2008, asking for his help in addressing pedestrian safety and traffic speed issues on Penn Ave South, from Chestnut Ave to Mt View Ave. Specifically, Mark was asked if he could help Bryn Mawr leverage the neighborhood's NRP funds to get matching funds from the County and City, to pay for the construction of traffic calming measures such as bump-outs. (It was noted in the letter that Mark had expressed an interest in working with the neighborhood and the City on this issue several years ago.)

Mark's office responded that they would discuss the issue with CM Lisa Goodman on February 20, 2008, and follow up with the neighborhood. (There should be an update on this issue at the March BMNA Board Meeting).

The Lowry Hill neighborhood plans to hold a Charette to address issues related to the 394-94-Lowry Tunnel corridor; specifically, to address ideas for reducing noise and air pollution, implementing green initiatives, and improving traffic flow. Rob Harris plans to attend, and will send out a notice to Bryn Mawr in case anyone else wants to go.

Next meeting; Wednesday, March 12th, 7p.m., Bryn Mawr Elementary School.

Lisa Mills, BMNA Secretary