

BMNA Meeting: June 14, 2006**Call to Order and Introductions****Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm**

Approval of Agenda and June minutes: Approved as written.

- In attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Joanna Danks and Ed Juda, co-Vice Presidents; Ron Sterbenz, Treasurer; Lisa Mills & Mike Roth, co-Secretaries; Rachel Banken, Area 1 Rep.; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Cathy Skalicky, Area 4 co-Rep.; Robert A. Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Barry Schade, Carey Sirianni, and Jay Peterson, Area 6 co-Reps; J. Pam Weiner and Mike Pengra, Area 7 co-Reps; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; Vida Ditter, Neighborhood Organizer; and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor. Also in attendance were Ward 7 Councilwoman Lisa Goodman, MPRB District 4 Commissioner Tracy Nordstrom and several visitors from the neighborhood, including Elizabeth Anderson and Heather Clark from Area 7.

City Council Report – CM Lisa Goodman

- Lunch with Lisa will resume July 28th, with former U.S. Senator from MN, David Durenberger, Health Care Policy Fellow at St. Thomas. They will be discussing the implementation of Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit. Lunches are held the 4th Wednesday of every month.
- **National Night Out:** Will be Tuesday, August 1st. Minneapolis has among the highest participation rates in the country, with Bryn Mawr leading the way. Come out and meet your neighbors!
- The City of Minneapolis has developed an emergency plan in case of a flu pandemic, including a handout on what citizens can do in case of an outbreak. There is a special state website with information about the Avian Flu, at www.birdflu.state.mn.us and information on preparing a household emergency plan can be found on the city's website, at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/emergency - the information is available in several languages. General tips to limit the spread of germs include frequent hand-washing with soap (not anti-bacterial), covering your cough or sneeze (with your elbow) and staying at home if you are sick.
- There is a possible 'Heat Emergency' this coming weekend, and Lisa reminded us to look out for our neighbors, particularly those who are elderly or otherwise more vulnerable.
- The annual City of Mpls. drinking water quality report is out and the city is very proud of it. Our water is again cleaner than most bottled water! It was remarked that Lynn Rosetto Kasper did an on-air (unscientific) taste test a few years ago, and our water beat Dasani, Evian and Chippewa bottled waters for taste.
- A developer has approached Lisa's office about a possible new rental development at the Palm Brothers site. The initial plan for the building is 4 stories high and covers only 60% of the land, with plenty of green space. The developer in question owns lots of rentals in Mpls. and has been a responsible and responsive landlord, so Lisa encouraged him to work with an architect to develop a plan, and bring it before the BMNA for discussion. She gave the developer several names of local architects to contact.
- A neighbor asked about getting additional stop signs to control traffic through Bryn Mawr. Lisa said that neighbors can petition her office directly for such signs, and such requests are often granted if there are valid safety concerns and agreement among most of the nearby neighbors.

Lisa will not be at our next meeting, as she has a family commitment.

Ice cream Social update (Janna Danks, co-VP)

- The 2006 Ice Cream Social will be at 6:30 pm on July 19. The committee has procured supplies and has hired a local band, "Umbrella Bed," to entertain. As always, volunteers are needed, especially for setup before the event.
- There will be a 2006 membership table at the event.

Land Use Committee (Vida Ditter)

- A variance was requested for Edmund Place in Area 2, for an elevator which will encroach upon the easement line of the property. LUC recommended approval, and the Board approved the variance on a voice vote.
- LUC wants to know whether the Board wants them to approve 'conditional use permits.' The Board requested clarification of the differences between a 'conditional use' permit and a variance. Vida will check with our planner and we'll take up the issue at August's meeting.

Mpls Park & Rec Board Commissioner Tracy Nordstrom's Visit

- There's a day-to-day manager for the 4th & 6th districts/operations to call. His name is Paul Hokeness and he can be reached through the main Park Board number, 612-230-6400, or his email is phokeness@minneapolisparks.org. If you see graffiti, wonder about a bench that needs replacing, or what's going on here or there – contact Paul. You can also contact Tracy at tnordstrom@minneapolisparks.org or 612-386-6257.
- There will be a first public meeting concerning Reclamation of the South Wirth Oak Savannah on Monday, July 17th at the Kenwood Community Center. Buckthorn removal is the biggest issue, as out-of-control Buckthorn threatens existing trees and prevents new trees from taking root. Money has been budgeted by the MPRB (\$50,000/yr for 5 years) to assist in the effort.
- Tracy discussed the MPRB's development of a long-range Comprehensive Plan for Minneapolis Parks, which is just getting underway. There will be at least half a dozen large public meetings to discuss what is and should be happening in the park system, with notice of the meetings placed in the Bugle and other local papers and on the MPRB's website. The last time a long-range plan was drawn up for the park system was in 1964, so it is definitely time for updated planning. There'll also be written, internet and phone surveys and focus groups – what should be done about/with/in the parks? Once they draft a plan, they'll be inviting public comment. The process will take a year and a half or more, but it'll be a 100 year plan.
- Several neighbors questioned Tracy about the increasingly destructive recreational use that has been permitted in South Wirth Park. Tracy was unaware of some of the events that have happened, as they have been permitted through administrators in the Mayor's office, rather than through the Park Board. She will look into why the BMNA, although officially recognized as a stakeholder in what happens in South Wirth, has not been consulted about many of these events. She also mentioned that concerned neighbors should definitely attend the MPRB's planning meetings to voice their concerns about the best way to preserve the parks for all citizens – a balance needs to be struck between allowing as many residents as possible to use the parks, while protecting the natural environment and fragile habitats that make the parks so enticing. Vida requested that we have Park Board representation on the Bassett Creek Valley Redevelopment Oversight Committee (ROC), particularly so that the MPRB takes ROC's plan into consideration when developing their Comprehensive Plan for the Parks.

Fundraising Committee (Lisa Mills)

- Lisa and Ron Sterbenz had an initial meeting to discuss goals and recruiting for the committee. Vida mentioned that she has 'committee setup' info to share, and another meeting will be called to go over the information. BMNA folks will be copied on the time/place in case they'll come. Rachel Banken has grant writing experience, and offered to help in that area. We're still looking for neighborhood volunteers for this important committee!

NRP Update for July 12, 2006

- **NRP Budget Update** (Rob Harris, NRP Chair)
Rob and Greg will meet with Stacy Sorenson of the NRP on Monday, July 17 at 6:30PM at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church to review the final NRP Phase 1 budget (December, 2005), and to determine exactly how much money is left to apply to our Bryn Mawr NRP strategies. Good news: there is some money left over!

- **Housing Committee** (Rob)

The kick off meeting for the NRP Housing Committee is scheduled for next Monday, July 17. We will spend the first few meetings reviewing the existing strategies and brainstorming on implementation plans. More volunteers are sought to work with the committee.

- **Administration** (Vida)

Vida led the New Board Member training session for new members of the BMNA, where members reviewed the history of the BMNA and the Bryn Mawr NRP Phase 1 efforts, and briefly discussed some of the issues the BMNA and NRP have addressed throughout the years (and, in some cases, continue to address). Very informative!

- **Downtown Bryn Mawr Committee** (Greg)

The Garden Club, the Downtown Bryn Mawr committee, and the BMNBA (BM Neighborhood Business Committee) are producing the Bryn Mawr Garden Tour this Saturday. Fourteen private gardens will be featured.

Business owners and volunteers continue to maintain the downtown gardens -- weeding and watering. On Monday, July 10, we obtained seven new flats of the annual flowers to be planted in these beds, just in time for the Garden Tour!

Greg and Steve from the Bryn Mawr Market installed the two remaining park benches at the corner of Penn and Cedar Lake Rd on Wednesday, July 12.

On August 19, downtown Bryn Mawr will be a tour stop on the Twin Cities community gardening tour, featuring over 50 gardens!

- **Schools Committee** (Vida Ditter reporting on behalf of Lynda Shaheen)

Lynda and Vida met and discussed the charter and formal process for establishing this separate committee. Lynda is still looking for more volunteers!

BMNA.org website 'Welcome to Bryn Mawr' page may link to BME web site (under development). The BMNA website contains links to the Minneapolis Public Schools, but should emphasize that Bryn Mawr Elementary, Parkview Montessori and Anwatin are right in our neighborhood. Two of the committee's stated goals are funded by NRP dollars; promoting safety and arts/sports at the neighborhood schools. There is a new principal at BME/Parkview Montessori, James Lemmer. He plans to attend the September BMNA meeting.

- **Park-Recreation-Community Committee** (Ed Juda)

Tour de Mawr was attended by ~20 people over two days, and was well received. We hope to organize this event biannually, possibly as both Spring and Fall bicycle rides.

Gateway signpost finials (top) have been painted silver. Thanks to Greg Lecker, Dick Adair, Paul Ragozzino, Ed Juda, and Kevina Munnich! An update to these signs was tested and is under review. Last Saturday, July 8, volunteers worked on the Upton Gateway Garden; further sprucing up is planned on Thursday, July 13th at 7pm.

Garlic Mustard has been weeded and some ferns planted at the Bassett Creek Park woodland restoration, south of Glenwood and west of Fruen Mill.

A new bench and additional invasive species removal is planned at the falls of Bassett Creek for a Saturday in August or September.

There is need for continued weeding and watering at the I-394/Penn Ave medians and gardens.

The bicycle trail over the northwest corner of Cedar Lake Parkway bridge (i.e., the "Brownie Lake Bridge") is complete! However, the trail between the Brownie Lake Bridge and the Theo Wirth/394 Bridge is in rough shape and may pose a safety hazard to riders. The P-R-C committee will work with the MPRB on getting this 500-ft section upgraded.

Mountain Biking at Brownie Lake: Update from last meeting (published in July Bugle): Word began circulating around Bryn Mawr that the MPRB had approved the proposal from Minnesota Off-road Cyclist Association (MOCA) to install new bike paths, and that implementation would begin soon on

their plan. However, Jennifer Ringold of the MPRB told Rob that the MPRB has decided to take no action at this time on MOCA's plan, nor do they have plans to create any other new trails around Brownie Lake.

- **Traffic/Transportation Committee & Issues Update (Rob)**

Rob will meet with Steve Maurelli, Chair of the NRP Traffic/Transportation Committee, on July 18 and include update in the NRP report for August. Rob will also provide an update for the August edition of the Bugle.

Announcements/New Business

- The city is installing new overhead traffic signals at Penn Ave. and Cedar Lake Road. In the meantime, there are temporary stop signs at the corner. Several neighbors have approached Lisa Goodman's office, commenting that the stop signs seem to have calmed things down at that intersection and asking that we keep the stop signs, in lieu of new signals. Vida has approached the City and they are considering the request.

- We heard from neighbors with issues around Juneteenth and the closing of Area 7 for that day. They feel embarrassed that their mostly-white area closes itself off to the African American celebrators – no parking anywhere, etc... It was explained that it is the Juneteenth organizers who close the streets, to protect people walking into and out of the festival, control the volume of traffic (especially for the parade areas) and to allow access to shuttles and emergency vehicles. Last year, there were over 50,000 people at the festival.

***We want the Juneteenth revelers to know that Bryn Mawr welcomes them, and for our neighbors to know that we aren't closing ourselves off to them – they are asking to close streets for the above reasons.

Held over for August's meeting

- Discussion about BMNA taking over management of the Bryn Mawr Garage Sale.
- Discussion about writing impact statements to judges on criminals who have been active in Bryn Mawr and about increased buyback police protection this summer.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 9th at 7pm, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.