

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, June 13th, 2007

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm

Approval of Agenda and May minutes: Approved as written.

Attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Ed Juda, Vice President; Ron Sterbenz & Chad Smude, co-treasurers; Lisa Mills, Secretary; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Alan Torborg, Area 4 Rep.; Carey Sirianni, Jay Peterson and Barry Scahde, Area 6 Reps.; Stephen Harvey, Area 7 Rep.; Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator, and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor. Also in attendance were neighbors Kai Michels, Dick Adair & Matt Stark; John Munger from the City Of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation; and Roderick Southall from Juneteenth.

City Council Report — Council Member Lisa Goodman

Lisa is at a fundraiser for several other neighborhood orgs tonight. No report.

Report/discussion of Juneteenth: Roderic Southall

Traffic concerns: Particularly on Chestnut up around Xerxes, they're tightly managing things like last year, and hope it's as quiet. (See brochure for highlights.) This year, they are staking instead of painting off areas for tents, etc. Everyone is invited to a free pancake breakfast at Lincoln Elementary. The parade is at 10am.

Report/discussion of Loppet/Tri-Loppet

John Munger, Associate chair of City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation (who run the Loppet). He's aware of the controversy in our neighborhood surrounding their organization and the Loppet in Wirth Park. Three main events: The Loppet (last year –10 degrees, still 1500 people came out); the tri-Loppet (June 23rd) swim, run, bike; and the trail Loppet ½ marathon in the Fall (9/26 this year). Also last Saturday in October, annual trails day to help maintain ski trails – they also might be able to help with something the neighborhood would like done out there... They work with kids at Bryn Mawr Elementary throughout the year, then bring them out for the mini-Loppet, and now at Anwatin, too (the Anwatin Ski Team) for a 'junior Loppet' –after school program. They are expanding to other schools as well. As far as trails, they met with concerned citizens including the Friends of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, and Park Board staff. The Park Board people made a recommendation that the MPRB adopted. There is a long-term plan for moving trails further away from the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and separated from walking trails, which will commence when the MPRB comes up with funding. John offers to take neighbors on a hike to view the current and future trail sites. Visiting neighbor Kai strongly encourages the hike. The paved paths are slated to be replaced with (possibly) woodchips, but there may be Americans with Disabilities Act concerns. John is working on getting a map for us of the proposed changes, from the Park Board. Dick Adair stresses the need for a map. Matt Stark requests that entrances to the park be clearly marked on the map. Dick repeated his previous admonition that we need to improve our relations with the MPRB. The last few years, that relationship has degenerated, and it is an important one.

Activity report: Patty Wycoff, NC

The MPRB has vetoed our 'Movies in the Park' plan for this year. Patty has another suggestion: A cookout in the park. If we sell stuff (food) we have to kick back 10% to the MPRB. Maybe a chalk art (on the sidewalk) contest and a car wash in the parking lot. Tot pool to stay open late.

Whatever our event, it will be on Sunday August 12th.

Patty went to a meeting of Minneapolis Neighborhood Coordinators last night and got lots of ideas for activities we can do as a neighborhood...

The inaugural Bryn Mawr Youth Council meeting will be June 13th.

BMNA Committee Reports

Budgeting & Fundraising Committee – Ron Sterbenz and Lisa Mills

Treasurer's Report accepted unanimously by the Board.

Report on Upton Garden project: Chad Smude

Perennials salvaged. Weedkiller sprayed. Gopher State One Call notified, came and marked off 'don't dig' spots. Topsoil this weekend. Then staking the week after, end of June start planting. \$300 donated so far, plus some plants. Some nearby neighbors have expressed concern over noise/disruption during the project. The city ordinance says we can operate machinery, etc. from 7 am until 10 pm every day of the week, but we've tried to be considerate and not start anything until 9am on the weekends. It is a short-term project, so hopefully the disruption will be minimal.

Ice Cream Social: Ed Juda

We have serious ice cream this time, from 5 or 6 different vendors. Street closing permit has been requested. Activities will include face stamping. A MFD fire engine will be on site. The Executive Board has approved additional sandwich board signs to advertise the ice cream event in the neighborhood.

Land Use Committee

There was a variance request, but Marlin couldn't reach anyone about their meeting report and they didn't call him. He will follow up.

Web site redesign committee.

New committee consists of Rob, Ed, Marlin, Ron, Alan, Lisa & Jay so far, and looking for neighborhood volunteers. We might have NRP communication/administrative funds. We'll meet, devise a plan, and report back at November's Planning meeting. The project is not in the budget for this year, but hopefully for next.

BMNA NRP Committees Reports – Rob Harris

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee met on May 21st to review & prioritize applicants for the BMNA Home Improvement Program. The administrator, CEE, identified 24 applicants and the CEE project Manager, Jim Hasnik, helped the Committee prioritize them. Of the 24 applicants, at least 10 will get funds. The CEE contacted those who would be awarded and those would be put on a waiting list. If any awardees were to drop out, the next neighbor on the waiting list would be awarded funds.

Traffic Committee

Penn/Cedar Lake Rd intersection. We are still waiting for the city to respond with a budgetary estimate on the Committee's proposal for new street lamps, improved crosswalks with bike path demarcation, and more visible stop signs.

Sidewalks

Many streets in Bryn Mawr are without sidewalks, and it is part of the Phase 2 NRP Action Plan (and budget) to ensure pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood. The Committee discovered that some of our streets missing sidewalks did not show up on the city's formal "master plan" for sidewalks & walking paths (e.g., the I-394 South Frontage Rd). This is important because if a street missing a sidewalk is not identified on the city's master plan map, the city will not put resources to install a sidewalk there. Rob and Marlin sent formal letters, on behalf of the Traffic Committee and BMNA, to Anna Flintoff (who is in charge of the City's Master Plan for sidewalks and walking paths) requesting that Bryn Mawr's streets be included in the city's master plan. Specifically, we identified two stretches of road as top priorities: 1) I-394 South Frontage Rd., from the Penn Ave bridge to Thomas Ave; and 2) Chestnut Ave, from Penn to Washburn Ave. Anna responded that all of our streets were now in the master plan and that these two stretches of road were considered high priority streets for having sidewalks installed.

NRP budget

The public works department submitted in May 2007 an invoice for approximately \$2,000 for services they provided in 2006 (i.e., against an NRP Phase 1 project), which means the Phase I leftover funds we can apply to Phase 2 will be diminished by approximately \$2,000. The Bryn Mawr NRP Committee Chairs will meet to determine which Phase 2 categories must be reduced to meet the new budget. The good news is we still have over \$60,000 left over from Phase 1 that we can apply to Phase 2, and this money would not be affected if the NRP program were to be discontinued.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Canoe Rack on Brownie Lake. We are working with the Park Board and Target on a plan to improve Brownie Lake. The proposed project will involve removing invasive species, improving the trails and adding a canoe rack. Rob, Tracy Nordstrom (our Park Board Rep.), Rick Carter, Ed Juda and others will meet in June to move things forward.

Schools Committee – Lynda Shaheen

Didn't meet.

Discussion Items:

We need to fill Greg Lecker's representative position on the Bassett Creek ROC Board. The Nominations Committee will work on this and report back to the Board.

Barry Schade spoke briefly about a City Of Minneapolis program entitled "*Mobilizing Citizens for Grassroots Climate Change*." The program will offer micro grants to support efforts that focus on community based options, engaging Minneapolis residents to take concrete actions to reduce their global warming footprint. They'll provide grants of up to \$1,000 to groups with ideas to positively affect climate change. The BMNA could do a project to encourage neighbors to conserve energy, which will save them money and also save energy. For instance, as part of the project, we could publish a column in the Bugle with energy conservation tips, etc. The Board voted to have Barry write a grant proposal on our behalf.

JoEllyn has brought a request to the Editorial Board, from a neighbor who wishes to publish an article/editorial. The Editorial Board will take the matter under advisement.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2007
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tour de Mawr Bicycle Ride Sat, June 23
Ice Cream Social Wed, July 18