

## **BMNA Meeting: June 14, 2006**

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

#### **Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm**

Approval of Agenda and May minutes: Approved as written.

- Welcome new members: Ed Juda, Co-Vice President; Lisa Mills and Mike Roth, Co-Secretaries, Jay Petersen and Carey Sirianni, Co-Area 6; and Rob Harris, NRP Chair
- 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.; Lynda Shaheen, Area 2 Rep.; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Robert Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Barry Schade, Carey Sirianni, and Jay Peterson, Area 6 co-Reps; J. Pam Weiner and Steve Harvey, 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, Juneteenth organizer Roderick Southall, and several visitors from the neighborhood, including; Bob Reilly, Brenda Beyer & Bob Miller, Area 6; and outgoing Secretary Tammy Lindahl from Area 5, who came to pass the torch (and some of her wisdom) on to Lisa & Mike.

### **City Council Report – CM Lisa Goodman**

- Lunch with Lisa was not held in June. It will resume July 28<sup>th</sup>, with former U.S. Senator from MN, David Durenberger. Senator Durenberger is now a nationally recognized expert on Health Care policy, and will be discussing the implementation of Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit. Lunches are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.
- Final work on Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge (Brownie Bridge) is underway and should be completed in the next week or so. The new pedestrian walkway on Ewing is made of a special kind of concrete which may appear ‘unfinished’ to some people, but it is purposely porous, to prevent runoff and protect the adjacent wetlands from pollution.
- Lisa was asked to comment on whether “McMansions” could be prevented or controlled in our neighborhood. She talked about drawing up a neighborhood development plan, as has been done in other areas. However, as long as the owner meets the City’s zoning requirements, there isn’t much that the BMNA can do to prevent development which is seen as not in keeping with the character of Bryn Mawr. Most of Bryn Mawr is zoned ‘R2’ for predominantly single and duplex housing, where homes cannot be built over 35 feet high, or closer than 5 feet from their property line. There are also limits as to how close a home can be to the street or sidewalk, as compared to its immediate neighbors. It was discussed that people who wish to move into Bryn Mawr generally do so because they appreciate the character of the neighborhood, and that it might be best to just discuss with them the concerns of the community and hope that they will wish to be ‘good neighbors.’
- The Minneapolis Police will be conducting a Citizens’ Academy. It is a 10-week course beginning in September and will be held Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 9:00pm. The first class will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at the Minneapolis Armory, 1025 Broadway St. NE. Questions? Please call Crime Prevention Specialist Carol Oosterhuis at 612.673.2874.

#### **National Night Out**

Will be held August 1<sup>st</sup> and street closing will be FREE this year if you apply by July 18<sup>th</sup>. If you want to close your street, you are encouraged to first use the City’s website or call 612.673.3000.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- Ron Sterbenz, Treasurer, handed out statistics on membership for the last several years, along with financials for the Bugle. Ron is working on completing the filing for 501(c)3 status for the BMNA.
- Discussion about cost of accounting and auditing services and how to proceed.
- Discussion about whether the BMNA should have a fundraising committee. Jessica moved that we create such a committee and Pam 2<sup>nd</sup>ed the motion. Motion approved on a voice vote. Lisa Mills agreed to organize the committee, and Joanna Danks offered to help.

### **Membership drive and Ice cream Social update**

- Joanna Danks, co-VP, reported on new memberships received so far this year, and efforts to recruit new members in the neighborhood. Planning for the Ice Cream Social, 6:30 pm on July 26, is underway, and 'advance' funds were approved to purchase supplies. There will be a 2006 membership table at the event.

### **Land Use Committee**

- Land Use Committee members from even-numbered Areas are up for re-appointment to 2-year terms. Renewing members are Dan Claar (Area 2) and Michael Martens (Area 6). New member volunteer is Kevin Johnson, Area 4. Jessica moved to accept all the appointments, Jay 2<sup>nd</sup>ed and members approved on a voice vote.
- LUC recommended approval of a variance for 444 Upton Avenue South – an expansion of the house and building an attached garage. Jay moved that we approve of the variance, Barry 2<sup>nd</sup>, the motion passed on a voice vote.

### **Juneteenth Report**

Roderick Southall presented information about logistics for the festival including parking restrictions, street closings, and cleanup plans. The celebration was to be held in Wirth Park on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from early morning until late evening and include live entertainment on 3 stages as well as fun family activities and 'fair food' for sale. Juneteenth organizers worked on addressing Bryn Mawr concerns such as trash, noise and parking.

### **NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program)**

Report from Rob Harris, Chair.

- Greg Lecker worked with Rob Harris to ensure a smooth transition of the NRP Chair, including the handover of 'voluminous documentation' that Greg had accumulated over his years of service. Together, they prepared an NRP Action Plan and Budget Summary, which Rob presented to the Board. He also reminded us that the NRP Phase 2 Action Plan is available on the BMNA.org website, as well as on the NRP website at <http://www.nrp.org/R2/Neighborhoods/Phase2Plans/07.pdf>.
- The largest allocation of funds for Bryn Mawr's NRP Phase 2 Plan is for housing. Several individuals have expressed interest in joining the Housing Committee, and Rob will send out invitations to those and others who have been recommended to him. Still more volunteers are needed. Rob will also invite Stacey Sorenson and representatives from CPED (Community Planning and Economic Development Department) to attend future meetings, to review housing programs and share success stories from other neighborhoods.
- Target stormwater issues at Brownie Lake: Ed Juda, Greg Lecker and Vida Ditter met with representatives of the Target Financial Building (Area 2). In the last couple of years, Target's Facilities team has been challenged by increasing stormwater runoff and erosion of

the hillside, which threatens to create a mini 'delta' between Target and Brownie Lake. Target's civil engineers and landscape architects are working toward designing and implementing a solution by Fall 2006.

- Target has generously agreed to consider allowing the BMNA to build a canoe rack on their land. Rob and NRP Park & Rec Committee will find out when the rack might become available and how neighbors can obtain space on the rack for their canoes.
- Neighborhood volunteers have proposed that "Cedar Lake Pocket Park" be the new name for the "Reserve Block 40" 'tot-lot' in Area 1, and the BMNA Board supports the name change. The re-naming process will take some time. Rachel Banken will take the lead on getting the name approved through the MPRB process.
- The Bryn Mawr Garden Tour planning is in full swing – buy your tickets now! Kudos to the planning committee; Carolyn Jensen, Stephanie Brody, Sotera Tschetter, Linda Beauvais, Vida Ditter and Karen Soderberg.
- Tour de Mawr: The Parks and Recreation Committee worked with the Cedar Lake Park Association and other Bryn Mawr neighbors to organize the first annual Tour de Mawr, a leisurely bicycle tour of the many bike trails that encircle the Bryn Mawr neighborhood. The committee hopes this will become an annual event. Special thanks go to Greg Lecker, Neil Trembly, Dick Heglund, Ed Juda and Dick Adair for their efforts.
- Bicycle trail construction at the northwest corner of the Cedar Lake Parkway bridge has begun and is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2006.
- Mountain Biking at Brownie Lake? The Cedar Lake Park Association reports in its magazine that "There is an extensive network of environmentally unfriendly bike trails through these woods [west side of Brownie Lake]. MORC [MN Off-Road Cycling], fresh from the success of the off-road trail area in Wirth Park near the Par 3 golf course, has plans to restore or remove many of these trails. This will be done in coordination with MPRB." Several BMNA members visited the trail area in Wirth Park and reported that it was very nicely done. Vida recommended that the BMNA should ask MPRB to name the BMNA as a 'stakeholder' for the Brownie Lake area, so that the BMNA can be a part of any major change to Brownie Lake and surrounding hillsides and trail (BMNA has been clearing buckthorn around the lake for the past 2 years). The BMNA approved a motion to do so. Rob Harris offered to act as a liaison between the BMNA, MPRB and MORC, and recommended that we perhaps ask MORC to present their plans for trails around Brownie Lake to the BMNA Board. It was pointed out that many people walk around Brownie Lake, and it should be considered how a trail would impact the pedestrians. It was also mentioned that consideration must be made about how the mountain bikers will get from the Wirth Park trails to the Brownie Lake trails. It has been observed in the past that some cyclists do not use the roadway, but instead improperly ride through South Wirth and the Quaking Bog area, where no cycling is permitted, causing damage to these beautiful and fragile areas and creating illegal trails which contribute to erosion problems in the park.  
Rob followed up with the MPRB and will provide an update in his NRP report.

### **Traffic/Transportation Committee**

Vida Ditter and Rob Harris represented Bryn Mawr and the NRP Traffic/Transportation Committee at the Downtown Minneapolis Freeway Study Focus Group Meeting on June 12. See Rob's NRP update in the Bugle for more detail and the minutes for that meeting.

### **School/Park & Recreation/Community Committee**

- It was discussed that the schools are an integral and important part of Bryn Mawr, and the BMNA should work to strengthen the relationship between the schools and the

neighborhood. Barry moved and Jay 2<sup>nd</sup> a motion to form a separate Bryn Mawr NRP School Committee. The motion was approved, and Lynda Shaheen agreed to organize the committee, to include BMNA members and other interested neighbors.

### **Other Business**

- The Board voted to approve BMNA sponsorship of the Bryn Mawr Garden Tour and Saturnalia celebration.
- A training session for new BMNA Board members was scheduled for Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Held over for July'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, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.**