

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2007 7:00 P.M.
Bryn Mawr Elementary School

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Approval of Agenda and February minutes: Approved as written.

In attendance: Joanna Danks & Ed Juda co-Vice Presidents; Ron Sterbenz & Chad Smude, co-Treasurers; Lisa Mills, co-Secretary; Rachel Banken, Area 1 Rep.; Jessica Wiley, Area 3 Rep.; Cathy Skalicky, Area 4 Rep.; Robert A. Lindquist, Area 5 Rep.; Carey Sirianni and Jay Peterson Area 6 co-Reps.; Mike Pengra, Area 7 co-Rep; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor; and Vida Ditter in her last Board meeting as Neighborhood Coordinator.

Also in attendance were neighbors Dick Adair, Emily Anderson, Arlene Fried and Clarence Shallbetter; Doug Kress from City Council Representative Lisa Goodman's office; Katie Walker from Hennepin County/SWLRT; Dylan Thomas from the Southwest Journal; Tim Springer from the Midtown Greenway Coalition; and Russ Adams from the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability.

City Council Report — Doug Kress from Lisa Goodman's Office

- Lunch with Lisa will be on March 28th at Terrance Murphy Hall (Rm 252) at the University of St. Thomas at noon. As usual, lunch is ten dollars. The topic is a continuation of last month's discussion about the Downtown Transportation Plan. This month's expert speaker will discuss Streetcars in Downtown.

- The City council has proposed changes to zoning, in part due to citizens' concerns about older homes being razed and replaced with 'McMansions.' The goal is to preserve the residential character of Minneapolis neighborhoods by ensuring that new construction and home additions are compatible with the size of housing in Minneapolis neighborhoods. There will be a series of meetings about the proposed changes that the public can attend this spring. Contact Molly McCartney, Sr. Planner for the city of Mpls, at 612-673-5811 or molly.mccartney@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

- Doug wanted to remind neighbors that their property tax statements this year will include the name and contact information of the Assessor who determined the value of their home for tax purposes. Citizens who have questions or concerns about their tax assessment are encouraged to contact the assessor directly.

Order a tree at a great price to help keep Minneapolis green

The City of Minneapolis is making up to 1,500 trees available to residents for planting this spring. The City Trees program provides a low-cost way for folks to help build the city's urban forest. Healthy trees help improve air quality, fight global warming, keep the city cooler, and cut down on pollution by reducing storm-water runoff. The program is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust, a local non-profit.

The trees cost \$15 each, and are between 6 and 10 feet tall with a 1 ¼-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and the 1,500 trees will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can choose from six tree varieties, including birch, oak, pine, serviceberry, hawthorn, and a disease-resistant elm.

Order online by visiting Tree Trust at www.treetrust.org or pick up an order form from your neighborhood group. To order by phone, call 651-644-5800. Trees must be ordered by April 15, and folks will need to pick the trees between May 19 and May 22 at Lincoln Elementary School, at 2131 12th Ave. North.

New Business

The Board recognized neighbor Arlene Fried, who spoke passionately regarding the proposed Parade Stadium re-build. She said that they've suddenly added \$500,000 worth of 'amenities,' which, contrary to the MPRB's description of it as a 'multi-purpose artificial turf playing field,' really make it a

stadium. She urged us to ask for a 'citizens advisory committee' and an environmental impact study. Among her concerns were that they've got a \$17,000 sound system going in, a proposed contract already negotiated with the MN Thunder professional soccer team, and plans to re-do roads in the area - all without any input from the neighborhoods around the stadium. Ms. Fried asked that we contact the MPRB and formally request that a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) be convened to include the neighborhood in the planning of the stadium. The Board voted to request the CAC, and a seat on that committee, in a letter to Jon Gurban (Superintendent MPRB) and Tracy Nordstrom (our Park Board Rep).

Presentation by Katie Walker from the Southwest Transitway Policy Advisory Committee, about the proposed SW Light Rail Transit lines.

They've narrowed the choice down from 10 LRT several Bus Rapid Transit options, to 3 LRT options, 2 of which impact us. They're keeping neighborhoods affected by those 3 routes informed, so that we can help them with feedback. Ms. Walker stated that they intend to convene a CAC and ask for our participation. The next step in the process is to prepare environmental impact statements – on nature, traffic, noise pollution, etc. If the CAC identifies impacts about which we are concerned, the LRT planners will not only have to consider those impacts, but decide and publish how they will mitigate them.

Of particular interest to Bryn Mawr is the fact that, in 2 of the three lines being considered, they are suggesting stations at both Penn Ave/394 (this one a 'Park & Ride') & Van White/Dunwoody.

Some neighbors came to voice opinions about the LRT:

Clarence Shallbetter raised concerns about the cost of Light Rail Transit to the taxpayers, and whether the benefits, including possibly reduced congestion on I-394, are worth that cost. (Ms. Walker later provided us with data showing that the current rail line in Minneapolis, and others in similar cities, actually cost ½ to 1/3, per rider, of what it costs to subsidize MTC buses.)

Dick Adair pointed out that, in a previous open process, the neighborhood had meetings and decided that part of our NRP Phase 1 money would be spent on promoting transit, including access to light rail. He also urged us to think about what kind of transportation options future generations would have and need, and how the LRT might reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, which will only become more and more scarce and expensive in the future.

A motion was made that we strongly support A and request participation on any CAC.

The vote was SPLIT, and the motion did not pass.

The Board has decided to call a neighborhood meeting on Monday, April 9, at 7pm in the Bryn Mawr Elementary School cafeteria, to solicit input from all neighbors on whether to support one or another of the 3 options. The meeting will NOT be about the relative merits of LRT, since that train has left the station, so to speak.

The Board voted unanimously to formally request that a CAC be formed and that we get a seat on it. We will also send a request to Commissioner Gail Dorfman stating that, if the SW LRT Committee is expanded, the BMNA wishes a spot on that committee.

Detailed information about the SWTPAC and the proposed Light Rail development through Bryn Mawr can be found at www.southwesttransitway.org.

The City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) would like to make a presentation to the Board or the Housing Committee. They wish the BMNA to draft a letter of support, and an article about the group to be placed in the Bugle. The Board voted, upon the recommendation of NRP Housing Committee chair Rob Harris, to invite the group to speak to the NRP Housing Committee.

Committee Reports

NRP Steering Committee - Rob Harris

The BMNA Board voted to accept the Committee's recommendations on where to place the

leftover Phase 1 funds into Phase 2 strategies. The recommendations were first proposed at the February BMNA meeting and published in the March Edition of the Bugle.

Housing Committee – Rob Harris

The brochure and application forms for the Bryn Mawr NRP Home Improvement Program were completed and included in the March edition of the Bugle, so that each home in the neighborhood should have received copies. Applications for the program are due by April 16. An informational meeting for the Home Improvement Program is planned for March 24, 2007 at the Bryn Mawr School. Representatives from the Housing Committee and the program administrator, CEE, will be in attendance to review the program and answer questions. The Housing Committee does not meet in March; its next meeting will be April 16, 2007, at the Bryn Mawr School.

NRP Traffic Committee – Rob Harris

Don Sobania, of the City of Minneapolis, provided the City's traffic speed report for October 2006 and his formal observations of the effectiveness of the four-way stop signs at Penn and South Cedar Lake Rd. Comparing this 2006 report to data captured in 2003, it appears that vehicle speeds have decreased on northbound Penn Ave traffic between Mt View and Cedar Lake Road. However, there was no noticeable change in southbound Penn Ave traffic between Chestnut and Hawthorne, as speeding still occurred frequently on that stretch of Penn. (For reasons Don did not explain, the 2006 report did not measure traffic speeds going south on Penn between Cedar Lake Rd and Mt View and north on Penn between Hawthorne and Chestnut.) The report also showed that the four-way stops at Penn and South Cedar Lake Rd were controlling traffic adequately and that the incidence of traffic accidents had not changed at that intersection since the installation of four-way stop signs. However, the report observed instances where "some short term delivery vehicle parking...seriously reduce[s] the visibility of the stop sign for the northbound traffic." Don offered to participate in a neighborhood meeting and answer any questions Bryn Mawr folks had on the report.

The BMNA declined Don's offer and instead, based upon overwhelmingly favorable feedback from neighbors, voted to make the four-way stop signs permanent at the Penn/Cedar Lake Rd intersection. Doug Kress from Lisa Goodman's office will inform Don of our decision. Doug assured us that the city would work with the BMNA & BMNBA to find the safest and most attractive options for that important corner of Downtown Bryn Mawr.

The Traffic Committee will continue to look at other ways to slow traffic down on Penn Ave, from I-394 to Chestnut, including installing permanent bump-outs, and it will work on ways to make the intersection of Penn and South Cedar Lake Rd more pedestrian-friendly.

Rob Harris submitted a proposal on behalf of the BMNA to Don Pflaum of the City of Minneapolis to apply for funds from the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTP). To learn more about the NTP, go to <http://www.tlcmnnesota.org/Resources/NTP%20Program/ntp.html>. The proposal asked for approximately \$70,000 to install a bike path or sidewalk along the I-394 South Frontage road between the Penn Ave/I-394 bridge and Thomas Ave. This path would connect Area 2 residents to the Cedar Lake Bike Trail. Don reviewed Bryn Mawr's proposal with his Advisory Committee and then agreed to place it on his formal list of projects for consideration by the City. **Bryn Mawr neighbors are encouraged to contact Councilmember Lisa Goodman's office to communicate their support for this proposed bike path/sidewalk.**

NRP Schools Committee (Ed Juda for Lynda Shaheen)

Bryn Mawr Elementary PTO is hosting Family Fun Night on Friday, March 23rd. The PTO requested a contribution toward the fundraiser from the BMNA. It was moved that we contribute \$100 towards their efforts, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NRP Park & Rec Committee (Ed Juda)

In honor of Earth Day (April 22nd), there will be a citywide cleanup of watersheds on Saturday morning, April 21st. Bryn Mawr will be hosting the Basset's Creek cleanup. Details will be in an article in the Bugle. Concurrently, there will also be an organized cleanup effort at Cedar Lake, with meeting/registration in the North parking lot.

On April 28th 10am -12, there will be a group doing cleanup at I-394 and Penn Ave. Meet at 9:45 on the NW corner near the hedges. Trash bags & orange vests will be provided, please dress appropriately for the weather. Come out and join your neighbors in helping to make one of the gateways to Bryn Mawr more attractive, just in time for the Festival of Garage Sales the following weekend.

Budgeting & Fundraising Committee (Ron Sterbenz & Lisa Mills)

The Treasurer presented the updated Budget, which was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Ron reported that we have reached our 2007 monetary goal for fundraising already! However, we have not achieved the participation numbers for which we hope. Ron & Chad will provide up-to-date numbers for the Bugle, but it was about 420 households participating, out of our goal of 625.

In regards to our application for 501(c)(3) status, there were a few changes needed to the BMNA's bylaws and to the Articles of Incorporation. A quorum of the Executive Board made those changes and had their signatures on the Articles notarized, but awaited full Board approval before submitting the changes to the State. The Board voted to approve the changes and to submit the necessary paperwork.

BMNA member Patty Wycoff has agreed to co-chair the BMNA's takeover of management of the annual Festival of Garage Sales (May 5 & 6, this year) with Joanna Danks. The Fundraising committee discussed many ideas for making the sale not only successful for the neighborhood, but a good fundraiser for the BMNA.

Joanna is busy planning the May Member meeting and potluck, which will be her last event as BMNA co-Vice President. As always, she needs volunteers for setup and cleanup.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved.

Next Meeting is the Annual Member Meeting & Potluck, Wednesday May 9th, at 6:00 PM.