

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Meeting
 Wednesday, September 13, 2006 7:00 P.M.
 Bryn Mawr Elementary School

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

Approval of Agenda and August minutes: Approved as written.

In attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Joanna Danks co-Vice President; Ron Sterbenz, Treasurer; Lisa Mills and 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 and Jay Peterson, Area 6 co-Reps; J. Pam Weiner & Mike Pengra, Area 7 co-Reps; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; and JoEllyn Jolstad, Bugle Editor. Also in attendance were: Jim Lemmer, Principal of Bryn Mawr Elementary/Anwatin, and Dick Heglund, Area 6 neighbor.

Principal Lemmer was introduced and welcomed. He reported that enrollment at Bryn Mawr Elementary is higher than projected. Current enrollment is about 260 at BME, 285 at Parkview Montessori. We don't have neighborhood numbers yet, but there are about 40 bus riders being picked up here. Lynda Shaheen introduced herself and told Principal Lemmer a bit about the Schools committee, its goals and purpose.

Report on letter to Park Board & Community Meetings on Comprehensive Plan Marlin/Pam
 Mike Schmidt from the MPRB says they didn't mandate an oversight committee, but rather a 'trails overlay committee' (to survey & evaluate trails). Marlin has opened a dialogue with Mr. Schmidt about BMNA's role as stakeholder and our concerns about what is happening in the sensitive areas of Wirth Park. Pam reported about the MPRB's 'Comprehensive Plan' process. There are 7 'town meetings' scheduled this month, to solicit community input into the planning. A map and questionnaire was mailed to all Minneapolis residents and should have arrived by Sept. 15th. Citizens are encouraged to fill out a questionnaire, which can also be found/filled out online at <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org> (preferred for ease of analysis) or picked up at any of the 49 recreation centers in Minneapolis. There will also be 'Community Leaders workshops' and Focus groups, whose members will be chosen by Park Board Commissioners.

Committee Reports

Budgeting and Fundraising Committee (Lisa Mills & Ron Sterbenz, chairs)

Harvest dinner – Joanna is leading this event again this year. The committee endorsed and the Board approved her proposal that this year we hold a 'chili cook-off' as part of the event. We will still have the potluck and kid-oriented activities, and BMNA will provide cornbread, cheese & sour cream to go with the chili. As always, volunteers are needed, especially for setup starting at 5pm - dinner will be at 6. There will be a notice/article in the October Bugle.

The committee had its first full meeting 8-31-06. In attendance were; Lisa Mills, Ron Sterbenz, Joanna Danks, Marlin Possehl, Ed Juda and Vida Ditter.

Budgeting

Ron explained that, currently, the money we raise in membership donations covers only about 2/3 of our expenses. To make up the difference, we borrow from our NRP dollars (which will not be available in a couple of years).

Expenses include, but are not limited to: Paying the Neighborhood Organizer (currently Vida Ditter) 75% of whose salary is currently paid by NRP dollars; paying the Bugle Editor and the publisher/distributor (who collates and delivers papers to the neighborhood volunteers who bring them house to house); paying for storage of BMNA documents/supplies; paying an accounting firm to handle tax-related and other financial issues; buying ice cream & toppings, tablecloths, etc. and renting

tables/chairs and a band for the ice cream social; buying meat and other supplies for the Harvest Dinner and Annual Meeting.

Fundraising

First of all, we discussed the need to educate our neighbors about what the BMNA actually does for them, and why we need to do fundraising. We'll propose a regular column in the Bugle, titled something like 'Your BMNA [Dollars?] at Work.'

Next, we discussed the need for an actual budget, which we have not had before. We need to know just what funds we'll need to raise. Ron is working on a budget, based on past and projected expenses, and will present it to the Board for approval.

Finally, as NRP dollars are phased out and we are on our own, financially, we discussed the need to have more substantial fundraising plans in place.

The committee will focus on 3 distinct areas for raising operating and project funds, and form subcommittees to focus on each one. The three areas are:

1. Membership
2. Events
3. Grants

1. For Membership, we discussed the need to get more organized around that. Currently, we do not track how much people give, and we do not have a system for reminding them when it's time to renew. We also don't have a suggested donation amount on the membership form, which might be something to add. In general, Area reps have not been door-knocking or dropping materials door-to-door, although that is among their responsibilities. There are probably other things we could do, as well, which the subcommittee can discuss.

2. With Events, we discussed ways to make them less costly, or even revenue generators. For instance, we've heard of other neighborhoods/cities who have 'ice cream tasting/contest' type socials, and get sponsorship/donations from several ice cream companies. We are pursuing something like this for next year's Ice Cream Social. For the Harvest Dinner, we'll try a 'chili cook-off' this year, with prizes for the winners, along with their pictures and recipes in the Bugle. We hope this will generate more interest & participation in the event, along with saving some money. We brainstormed some other fundraising ideas, some of which we'll discuss in more detail in the future.

3. Several Board members/neighbors have experience in applying for Grants, and have volunteered to assist us in identifying and applying for appropriate grants for the BMNA. We hope to secure these grants to set up a sustaining fund, like an endowment, which we could use to help the BMNA not only continue to operate, but to expand our role in Bryn Mawr in the future. Once NRP Phase 2 is over, there will be many areas in which the BMNA could step in and assist the neighborhood and its residents, if we have the funding.

The regular Budgeting & Fundraising Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each month, at the Bryn Mawr Elementary School, room to be determined. We are still hoping to recruit more members from the BMNA membership at large (non-Board members).

NRP Housing Committee (Rob Harris, Chair)

The August 21st meeting was productive. In attendance were Mark Holmberg, Marlin Possehl, Vida Ditter, and Rob Harris plus Stacy Sorenson from the Mpls. NRP. We reviewed lessons learned from the Phase 1 strategies & actions, and discussed which Phase 1 programs we could repeat for Phase 2. We also reviewed a variety of documents from the NRP and records from the CEE that showed the success metrics for the Phase 1 programs. Our budget is comparatively small in Phase 2, so we need to find ways to stretch our funds and benefit the greatest number of people. To that end, we all agreed that we should focus our efforts in the next few meetings on identifying potential program partners who could help us leverage the NRP Housing funds as seed money for larger programs. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16 at the Bryn Mawr School, Room 136. Don Synder from the Mps NRP will join us and provide us with recommendations on potential external organizations the Housing Committee could partner with, to execute our Phase 2 strategies. All are welcome to join us. Note that

the September Housing Committee meeting happened after the September BMNA meeting occurred, so a summary of that meeting will be provided to the BMNA Board in October and published in the November edition of the Bugle.

NRP Downtown Bryn Mawr Committee (Greg Lecker, Chair)

The Downtown Committee hopes to accomplish two items this fall or early spring 2007:

1) Replacing a few diseased trees and adding a few more new trees, and 2) testing one or more building-mounted light fixtures on the commercial buildings in downtown Bryn Mawr (to address commerce and safety issues).

The committee proposed that the neighborhood set a policy prohibiting signs (house for sale, campaign signs) in our downtown Bryn Mawr boulevard planting beds. The Board voted to support a position that signage should be discouraged in all public planting areas in the neighborhood. In addition, it should be noted that the city of Minneapolis has an ordinance prohibiting real estate signage on the boulevards: Mpls. City Ordinance 543.300: Real estate signs. (a) Location. Real estate signs are allowed as a permitted encroachment in the required front yard. No real estate sign shall be closer than eight (8) feet to any other zoning lot. No real estate sign shall be placed on the public right-of-way, including boulevard trees and utility poles. City Ordinance 543.260 places the same restrictions on political signs. The MPRB prohibits all signs on Park land.

NRP Traffic Committee – (Steve Maurelli, Chair)

Steve Maurelli and Rob Harris met on August 29th and September 6th to observe traffic at the temporary 4-way stop signs at Penn & South Cedar Lake Rd, and measure the speed of traffic on Penn.

The vast majority of drivers are obeying the 4-way stops and yielding to pedestrians. The calls and e-mails thus far overwhelmingly support the 4-way stops.

Traffic speed was measured near the intersections of Penn & Hawthorn, and Penn & Mt View. Results showed that about 35% of Penn Ave traffic is traveling at speeds over 35mph and at least 10% of traffic is traveling at speeds over 40 mph. It was notable that many tow trucks from the Bryn Mawr Mobile station and delivery trucks were speeding, as were many school buses. The Traffic Committee will consider approaching the bus companies, neighborhood businesses and the Mobile station, and request that they talk to their bus, delivery and tow truck drivers (respectively) to get these drivers to slow down.

The Traffic Committee will continue to work on the following:

- Ask the City to install speed measurement devices (“tubes”) at several points on Penn Ave between Mt View and Chestnut (Vida to coordinate). We will collect the data captured by these and compare it against the data documented in the July 2005 report from the City and our observations in August/September 2006.
- Have the city provide one or two “speed wagons” in October to help us measure the speed of traffic on Penn (already agreed to by the City).
- Install permanent, pole-mounted speed stations that display the speed of oncoming cars. (These have been shown to help slow down traffic.)
- The Traffic Committee will meet next on Monday, October 2, at the Bryn Mawr School, Room 136.

Schools Committee development – Lynda Shaheen

Lynda is actively recruiting volunteers, hopefully to represent all Areas of the neighborhood. She has completed the committee guidelines and other documentation, but will wait for the full committee to approve, before presenting them to the Board.

Discussion Items:

Taking over Bryn Mawr Garage Sale Management: There is a Cub Scout troop starting up in Bryn Mawr again, and so the Boy Scout troop may not fold and may want to retain at least part of the Garage Sale management. We will follow up with the Scouts.

NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11 2006, Bryn Mawr Elementary *

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 26 th , Thursday	Share the Harvest Potluck & Chili Cook-off
December 9 th , Saturday	Saturnalia Winter Fest