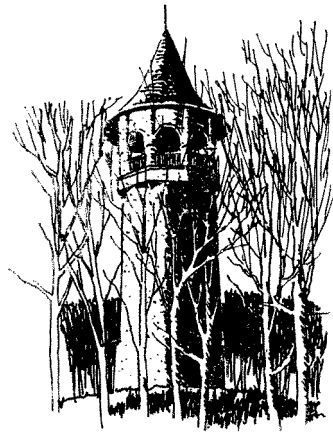


PPERRIA News – February 2010

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting
Monday, February 22nd
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Prospect Park United Methodist Church
Corner of Orlin and Malcolm Avenues S.E.

Come early for treats and talk – 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

*If you have special needs requiring accommodation, contact
Joyce Barta at 612-859-4960, or go to: bartajm@yahoo.com.
We will make every attempt to meet that need.*

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AGENDA

Our February PPERRIA meeting will air the usual concerns. But it focuses on the question of Local Historic District Designation for Prospect Park. In his “Notes from the President,” on the following pages, Dick Poppele teases out the complexities involved, and tells the individual efforts expended to date. Then he highlights the kind of questions we each must bring to the discussion if we’re to reach an enlightened conclusion.

(With the concurrence of Steve Ficker, the Affordable Housing item promised for February will be continued to next month.)

Notes from the President

The Heritage Preservation Commission will decide on the status of Prospect Park as a Local Historic District of Minneapolis next month.

- In fall 2008, Prospect Park applied for local historic designation for the area that was nominated for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. This includes properties between University Avenue SE and Interstate 94, and between Williams Avenue and Emerald Street (see the Historic Survey report at <http://www.pperr.org/about/livability.html>)
- Prospect Park has been under “interim protection” since the nomination. The one-year interim period was extended 6 months, to March 2010, to allow for the staff to make a determination of eligibility for becoming a local historic district.
- Interim protection means that all building permits must be submitted first to the heritage preservation staff for conformity with the preservation guidelines before a permit can be issued.
- The preservation guidelines in force during interim protection are the *Secretary of Interior Guidelines for Rehabilitation* (see below). Once a local district has been designated by the City, specific guidelines are adopted for that district, and these will apply in subsequent heritage preservation reviews for building permits.

Design Guidelines for Prospect Park

Mid-way through the interim process, PPERRIA formed a task group to prepare Design Guidelines for Prospect Park. The group is headed by Bob Roscoe (Prospect Park resident and former member of the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission) and consists of four members of the neighborhood plus Robin Garwood from Councilmember Gordon's office and Aaron Hanauer from the heritage preservation staff. After many meetings and much deliberation, the task force issued a DRAFT proposal for Prospect Park Design Guidelines on February 1st. See <http://www.pperr.org/about/pdfs/PP->

[DesignGuidelines-2010-02.pdf](#). (You'll find the Secretary of Interior Guidelines in Appendix 2.)

The Prospect Park Design Guidelines represent the neighborhood vision. The intent of the guidelines is “to protect historic resources and to preserve and reinforce the character-defining elements of existing structures, while encouraging creative and imaginative work that is respectful of its context and will enrich the vitality of the neighborhood.”

A feature of the proposed guidelines is its provision for a PPERRIA Historic District Design Review committee to assist property owners in the application and interpretation of the guidelines for the heritage preservation staff. This PPERRIA review would normally be the first step for any property owner planning work requiring a City building permit.

What can you do?

1. If you live in the proposed historic district, read the proposed Prospect Park Design Guidelines and send your comments to Bob Roscoe to share them with the PPERRIA task force (Broscoe@earthlink.net).
2. Attend the February PPERRIA meeting on Monday February 22.
3. Attend the Heritage Preservation Commission meeting on March 2 to participate in discussions with the commissioners.

Our February PPERRIA meeting will include a presentation from the heritage preservation staff about what it means to be a historic district in Minneapolis. There will be ample opportunity for your questions to the staff and to Councilmember Gordon, and more information about the designation process.

The meeting agenda for the Heritage Preservation Commission on Tuesday March 2 is still under discussion. The staff is expected to report that Prospect Park is eligible for local designation. While

under interim status several residents have applied for building permits, and many of them are not happy with the city's interpretation and enforcement of design guidelines.

My perspectives

Heritage Preservation is about preserving historic resources, usually about specific buildings. While that may be part of what a neighborhood would like to achieve, it can also prevent modifications of existing structures that may not conform to their current form, appearance, or historic origins.

The concept of preserving character-defining elements of a whole neighborhood is more general, and it may not be strictly applied to each individual property in the neighborhood. A key part of the proposed Prospect Park Design Guidelines is that they would apply only to those parts of a property that are visible from the public domain. And even then, as long as a proposed rehab or modification

does not alter the building's architectural integrity it would not be subject to further review under the guidelines.

Some questions that we should address are:

-
- What role does the community play in the decision to designate Prospect Park as a local historic district?
- What is the status of the community-written design guidelines after historic designation?
- What would be the community role in the interpretation of guidelines?
- Are there alternatives to the designation as a historic district that would provide the same kind of design review outlined in the Prospect Park Design Guidelines?

.....Dick Poppele

**PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2010
Prospect Park United Methodist Church**

The January meeting was called to order by President Dick Poppele at 7:04 PM. There were no new members to introduce. And the agenda was approved with two changes. Bob Roscoe deleted 6-3 (position on proposed neighborhood petition on historic district). Karen Murdock will give the Zoning Committee report. Steve Ficker asked that time be set aside to discuss affordable housing. Dick P. said that would be an agenda item in the February board meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were approved with no corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Diane Moe, the new director of Luxton Park, introduced herself. She announced that the "Fire and Ice" festival will be February 6 from 6 to 8 PM. There will be no Christmas tree burning, as the Fire Marshall has vetoed this long-time tradition.
- Lois Willand said that a few books from the Luxton Book Exchange were available at the back table for this meeting. People can borrow these books for free and there is no time limit on how long they can be taken. She said the Book Exchange would welcome newly-published books.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (action):

Dick P. asked that the membership approve the release of \$10,362 from Neighborhood Revitalization Program Phase I funds to be used for improvements at Pratt School. The resolution carried unanimously and can be considered a vote of the PPERRIA Board of Directors, a quorum of the board being present.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE (action):

Joe Ring put forward two proposals:

1. Request that the Board modify the charge to the HDC to include that the HDC be “charged with the task of assisting property owners with compliance with the historic district ordinance, if the historic district is approved.” This proposal was approved unanimously and can be considered a vote of the Board of Directors.
2. Request that the Board provide that “a dedicated fund be set aside for property owners seeking Certificate of Appropriateness or Certificate of No Change if the historic district is approved.” Approximately \$800 is left over in the budget line used to fund the Hess-Roice study of the neighborhood. A Certificate of No Change or Appropriateness costs from \$500 to \$750. The dedicated fund would be used to help defray this cost for low-income homeowners. Dick Poppele spoke in favor of the motion, saying that “we should not be penalizing people who are doing the right thing” and expressing a concern that, with the high cost of getting a Certificate, some homeowners might try to do repairs or changes to their homes without obtaining permission. The resolution was approved unanimously and can be considered a vote by the Board of Directors.

Cam Gordon, 2nd district City Council member, spoke about the proposed historic district. He said the process of approving the district was “taking a lot longer than we had hoped.” He wants to set up some sort of structure or mechanism to get community feedback on the proposal. Cam said he wants to play “a supportive role” in the process of designating the historic district but he does not want to take a leadership role on this issue. He will meet this week with Jack Byers and Aaron Hanauer from the city’s Heritage Preservation Commission.

Dick Poppele said that the proposed Design Guidelines have been sent to HPC staff for comment and will be posted on the PPERRIA website.

The question was raised about whether property owners could vote to accept or reject the guidelines. Cam wondered how this could be done. Could a phone bank be set up? Would every person in the Park get a vote or only property owners? Should only those who own “contributing properties” in the historic district get a vote? Or all who live in Prospect Park?

Dick P. said that a list of “contributing properties” is posted on the PPERRIA website. Joe Ring pointed out that not all properties in the district area are “contributing properties.”

Dan Peters asked, “If we don’t make the March timeline, what happens?” and said that we should not “leap into” the historic designation process.

Peter LaSha passed out a list of guidelines, prepared by Andy Mickel, on home improvement loans and large-scale restoration improvements to houses in Prospect Park. Peter pointed out that a lot of famous *people* have lived in Prospect Park over the years, even if some of the houses they have lived in cannot be considered historic.

Dick Gilyard (who is a member of the PPERRIA task group which is drafting Prospect Park design principles) said that the committee hoped to make its design guidelines “more flexible” than those of the city of Minneapolis. He said “we don’t want to freeze-dry the neighborhood just the way it is” but that we want to preserve the “character-defining” pieces of the neighborhood while also encouraging flexibility and creativity. (The PPERRIA task group includes Bob Roscoe [chair], Dick Gilyard, Mary-Alice Kopf, Richard Adams, Dick Poppele, and Phil Anderson from Prospect Park, Aaron Hanauer of the city of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and Robin Garwood, assistant to Council member Cam Gordon). Comments on the proposed design guidelines may be emailed to Bob Roscoe at: broscoe@earthlink.net

STREET RESURFACING

Karen Murdock reported on the street paving project which will take place for most Prospect Park streets in the summer of 2010. The resurfacing will take two days for each stretch of street. Homeowners will have the cost of the project added to their taxes. An average assessment of a lot of 5600 feet will be \$1064, which will be paid over 5 years, for an average tax hike of about \$200 per year for those five years.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Dick P. reported that Betts Zerby has been named to chair the Nominating Committee to select new Board of Directors and PPERRIA Officer candidates. Betts asked for other volunteers for this committee.

Andy Mickel asked if a person could be on the Nominating Committee if he/she was running for re-election to the Board. Dick P. said he thought this was not against the PPERRIA bylaws.

ZONING COMMITTEE:

Karen Murdock gave the Zoning Committee report. The owner of 1101 East River Road is asking for a variance to allow him to expand the house and make it into a duplex. The city Zoning Board of Adjustment will hear the appeal at a meeting on January 28. Karen promised that several residents of the area will go down and testify against this proposed variance.

Frank Zaragosa commented that too many conflicts were being generated in Prospect Park over issues of parking and zoning. He felt that city technocrats were making policy and that this could be dangerous.

Dick P. reported on the "Campus Crossroads" project in Stadium Village at Oak Street and Washington Avenue. This project, which is being carried out by OPUS, has been scaled back. It will now be six stories instead of eight and will not include the Oak Street Cinema. Frank Z. asked how Motley residents who are not PPERRIA members could find out more about this project. Dick P. recommended that they talk to Becky Lorenz of the Motley Crew.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Dick Gilyard reported that the "Motley Crew" held a meeting with the U of M in November. (The U of M Master Plan declared the area south of Fulton Street to be a "joint planning area" between the U of M and the neighborhood.)

A subcommittee of the Planning Committee met with landowners and the Center for Metropolitan Design and discussed the issue of creating an "urban village" near the 29th Street LRT station.

The Planning Committee is working on setting up a relationship with the Seward Redesign Group.

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE:

Carla Urban reported that a meeting has been set up for January 30 from 9 to 10:30 am between neighborhood residents along East River Terrace who are interested in getting a sound wall along Interstate 94 and our legislators Phyllis Kahn and Larry Pogemiller.

A "parking summit" dealing with neighborhood parking issues will be held some time in the near future.

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) has grants available and wants to work with neighborhood organizations. A request for proposal for home energy audits is due March 1.

HOUSING COMMITTEE:

Dick Poppele reported on the revolving loan program for home improvements. The budget for this program was \$85,000. To date, \$57,000 has been awarded in low-interest loans and deferred loans (if a deferred loan recipient lives in a house in Prospect Park for five years, the loan is forgiven). Eight loans have been made and have been used to insulate houses, put in new windows, new heating systems, siding, and roofs, and bring plumbing up to code. The program is currently generating about \$4,800 per year in income for PPERRIA housing programs. The remaining \$27,000 in the loan program has been frozen until the PPERRIA membership can discuss the issue of affordable housing.

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT ALLIANCE;

Dick Poppele said that the Alliance is prepared to set up a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors (made up of member organizations including the city of Minneapolis, the U of M, neighborhood organizations, business associations, and Augsburg College). Dick is serving as the Prospect Park representative on the Alliance. He asked that he receive an official vote from PPERRIA approving his appointment to the Alliance

Board and that Dick Gilyard be designated as the alternate. This was approved unanimously and can be considered a vote of the PPERIA BoD.

STAFF REPORT: Joyce Barta said the Staff Report is in the January newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murdock, PPERIA Secretary

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To include items in the PPERIA calendar, contact Joyce Barta at bartajm@yahoo.com or 378-9268 by **Thurs, March 11th**.

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Thursday, February 18	7:00 - 8:30 pm Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt.	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436 Pratt Office 668-1122
Monday, February 22	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm PPERIA Board of Directors & Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.	Dick Poppele 378-9242
Wednesday, February 24	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Garden Club meeting. Location to be announced.	Kent Petterson 332-1821
Tuesday, March 2	7:00 pm (Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Florence Littman 331-2970 Phil Anderson 627-9471
Monday, March 8	12:00 – 2:00 pm JOY Potluck at Pratt, room 10B. Blood pressure checks at 12 – 12:30, lunch and program 12:30 – 2.	
Monday, March 8	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm PPERIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele 378-9242
Thursday, March 18	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436 Pratt Office 668-1122
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January PPERIA Staff Report 1/1/2010 – 1/31/2010

Staff hours from January 1 through January 31, 2010 totaled 26.75 hours for a cost of \$642. This was paid using NRP 2 funds allocated to Administration. Contract C-25154 (11-1-07) between NRP and PPERIA contained \$27,229 for Administration, of which \$20,000 was designated for Staff and \$7229 for other administrative costs. \$13,529.40 remains for staff; \$7126.42 remains for other administrative costs.

PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs

Administration	Tony Garmers	tggarmers@msn.com	378-2656
Communication	Lois Willand	loiswilland@gmail.com	378-9697
Development	Rob Nordin	nordin@macalester.edu	331-1766
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Executive	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu	378-9242
Historic District	Joe Ring	joering@tds.net	379-4587
Livability (Subcommittees listed below, designated by *)	Carla Urban, Co-chair Tom Kilton, Co-chair	dewey002@umn.edu tom@tomkilton.com	379-8083 339-3064
*Community Events	Jan Kilton	jkilton@comcast.net	339-3064
*Community and River Gorge Cleanup	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
*Environment	Dean Abrahamson	deanabra@umn.edu	623-9449
*History Project	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
*Landscape, Garden Club	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@earthlink.net	379-7436
*Landscape Subcommittee: Tree Health Project	Paula Denman	pjdenman@comcast.net	338-1871
Membership	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
Planning	Dick Gilyard	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net	362-8995
Transit	John DeWitt	jdewitt@comcast.net	338-1871
Zoning & Land Use	Florence Littman, Co-chair Phil Anderson, Co-chair	littm005@umn.edu phil.ann.anderson@gmail.com	331-2970

Other PPERRIA Committees and Task Forces

4 th Street	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net	378-9429
Luxton Book Exchange	Dean Abrahamson	deanabra@umn.edu	623-9449
Motley Crew	Rebakah Lorence	rlorance@mm.com	331-2464
Nominating Committee	Andy Mickel	andym@pperr.net	331-8396
Sound Wall	Dorothy Davey	tom4dotd@aol.com	331-8418

The following are not PPERRIA Committees, but they have PPERRIA representatives:

Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG)	Dean Abrahamson, Florence Littman
Southeast Minneapolis Committee on Learning (SEMCOL)	Susan Larson Fleming, David Galle, Jakki Kydd-Fidelman, Susan Gottlieb
Southeast Economic Development Committee (SEED)	Dean Lund, Julie Wallace, John Kari
District Councils Collaborative (DCC)	Phil Anderson
University District Partnership Alliance	Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard

Prospect Park East River Road
Improvement Association, Inc.
66 SE Malcolm Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612/331-2970 (voice mail)

We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://pperr.org>

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FYI:

Give or take, the Book Exchange at Luxton is a wonderful resource
You're invited

The PPERRIA Nominations Committee for 2010 has openings – See Betts Zerby
(Yes, you can nominate yourself)

Kudos to Andy Mickel for our new, improved web page – now with a link to draft design guidelines for
a local historic district, and to the new Facebook

Upcoming neighborhood meetings (no firm dates yet):

- A parking summit
- Informational sessions on this summer's street repaving

Remember:

What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today