

PPERRIA News – October 2008

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting

Monday, October 27th

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: 6:30–7:00 pm.

If you have special needs requiring accommodation, contact
Joyce Barta at bartajm@yahoo.com or 378-9268.
We will make every attempt to meet that need.

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NOTE:

At the October meeting we will be voting on two proposed amendments to the PPERRIA bylaws. (See p. 5 inside) We encourage board members to come, as a quorum of 27 must be present for the vote to even be brought up.

November 2008 Staff Report

This month contractor's services were paid from the Citizen Participation Grant funds. \$58 remains in that fund for staff.

<u>Contractors' services:</u>	<u>Hours billed:</u>	<u>Total Expense</u>
J Barta	30.75	\$738.00

Notes from the president:

BYLAWS

When we passed the sweeping changes to the PPERRIA bylaws at our June meeting, there were two issues we agreed to revisit in the fall. We now have two new proposals related to those issues. One of them addresses the eligibility for membership on the Board of Directors and the other revisits the question of the size of the board. (See pages 5 & 6 of this issue for the formal proposal)

The first proposal would limit board membership to residents. The June revision of the bylaws opens PPERRIA membership to business owners or their representative. Therefore a business owner or business representative could be elected to the Board of Directors. Some members feel however that PPERRIA is a resident organization and should not have business representation on the board since they already have their own associations (the Southeast Business Association and the Stadium Village Business Association).

PPERRIA represents the best interests of the entire neighborhood, and the Board of Directors represents the membership. Since the PPERRIA membership elects the board, they can simply not vote for non-residents if they do not want them on the Board. Some other neighborhood groups do have business representation on their boards. In some cases a designated percentage of board positions are reserved for members of the business community – usually 10 or 20%. PPERRIA itself has frequently had members of the business community serve on its committees – most notably the Zoning committee – where business representatives have often added valuable input. The current proposal would change the bylaws to prevent members of the business community from serving on the Board under any circumstances, although committee membership would still be allowed.

The second proposal would reduce the current 40-member board to 30. Why change? The basic problem is finding 40 people who are willing to commit to serving on the Board. Although there are only 10 meetings a year, and three excused absences are allowed, it has been difficult for nominating committees to find willing candidates. However, meeting attendance does not seem to be a problem for PPERRIA, we nearly always have 40 or more in attendance at the monthly meetings, even when Board attendance averages less than 30. Some make the plausible case that meeting attendance is strong because the board is large. If so, a smaller board would probably mean lower meeting attendance.

We need the Board of Directors in attendance to conduct PPERRIA business. How do we get a majority of board members to attend? One obvious way is to have a smaller, more dedicated Board. We voted down a more drastic reduction to 20 Board members. Also rejected was a motion to make the board size variable, to be determined periodically by the membership. That was considered too uncertain, perhaps too open to mischief.

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The current proposal is a compromise that would set a lower number of board members and presumably help fill the board membership.

DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE

One Saturday last month, the University Alliance sponsored a workshop on community planning featuring neighborhood plans from all the neighborhoods surrounding the University of Minnesota. Each neighborhood is anticipating increases in population over the next decade that will create a demand for more housing and services for a diverse population. PPERRIA, too, has been working with its planning committee to develop a master plan for Prospect Park focusing on the future. What are the things we need to preserve? What are the things that define the character of Prospect Park? What's missing? What do we want for our neighborhood that would make it an even better place to live? How do we deal with the transitions and edges with the University, the LRT, the freeway, the gateway with St Paul, and the industrial development in the SE Minneapolis Industrial Area north of University Avenue? We will be hearing more about this in the months ahead.

What do we want for our neighborhood that would make it an even better place to live?

Meanwhile the Minneapolis Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recently approved a nomination for Prospect Park to be considered a local Historic District. This allows the HPC staff to study whether Prospect Park is eligible. It also confers an interim protection requiring a review by the HPC for demolition permits. This is a status we thought we already had when we entered the application process to be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places eight years ago. While in the application process, the law provides interim protection (as if we were already designated) until the process is complete. We believed that this applied to both federal and local regulations. However with recent turnovers at the HPC it was not possible for them to locate any record that we were in the process of Historic Designation, and therefore considered us not eligible for interim protection.

This came to PPERRIA's attention this summer when the condemned building at 2001 Franklin Ave was demolished by the city. Under the interim protection the HPC staff would have reviewed the demolition permit before it could be issued. In this case the house was in extremely poor condition, but it was also a contributing property on the application for National Registry designation. Moreover it was the earliest the earliest example of ranch-style architecture in the city and might have been preserved.

Although PPERRIA has no plans to pursue a local designation at this time, the interim protection may lend credibility to our application for National designation and it provides some respite from changes while we work out a master plan that can help guide any future changes for our neighborhood.

.....Dick Poppele

**PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2008, 7 p.m., Prospect Park United Methodist Church**

President Dick Poppele called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. following a social gathering . President Poppele welcomed visitors and new members. Anne Wade, the new principal at Pratt Elementary School spoke briefly about the school opening, announcing that there were 163 students, with a capacity of 188. Chad Koppe, the new pastor at PPUMC could not attend. He and his wife and children will be moving to the Prospect Park rectory early in 2009.

1. The amended agenda was on motion of Tony Garmers.

2. The July minutes were approved on motion of Walt Jacobs.

3. School Referendum. Judy Farmer, former School Board Member, spoke to the group about the School Referendum that will be before the voters in November. The 2000 Referendum expires in 2009. 18 percent of Minneapolis residents have school age children. The last referendum passed with 73 percent of the voters approval. It is anticipated that passage will be more difficult this year. The referendum calls for 60 million dollars per year. Passage would add to property taxes in the amount of approximately \$17 per month on a \$250,000 house. It requires the majority of those voting on the issue to pass a referendum. Uses of the funds will include reducing class sizes, increasing early literature with students reaching grade level in reading by Grade 3, ready to take algebra by 8th grade, provide math and science text books and technology resources. Referendum funds usage would be overseen by a volunteer outside advisory committee, including John Gunyou and Jay Kiedrowski. Claudia Fuentes, a Pratt Parent, urged members to take yard signs supporting the referendum, and spoke of the need for funds for a music teacher, a volunteer coordinator and liaison and text books. Claudia works in the Mayor's office, and reported that Mayor Rybak supports the referendum. A member requested that a speaker against the referendum be given an opportunity to address PPERRIA. There is no knowledge of an organized group publicly in opposition to the referendum. If there is knowledge of someone who would like to address PPERRIA, time will be afforded.

4. University Development in Prospect Park. President Poppele reported on Biomedical research facilities and East Gateway buildings on 6th street which are currently under construction, and other projects newly approved expanding eastward along the transit way. There will be 700 new employees. Structured parking will be built. This expansion will create a diverse market for house in this area. M Flats on University Avenue at Arthur Avenue is currently one-half occupied. The Motley Area is to be the home of an Ambulatory Care Center. Those clinics currently in the Phillips-Wangensteen building will be moved to this facility, which will be on the block bounded by Ontario, Erie, Fulton and Essex.

Construction is anticipated in 9 months. This development will have no underground parking because of the high water table in the area. The University has no present plans to expand south of Fulton St. The Minneapolis Planning Commission has approved the plans for Campus Crossroads (the development on Washington Avenue east of the recruiting station an north of the parking ram between Oak Street and Ontario).

5. Young Women's Mentoring Program. Jennie Zickert spoke about a Young Women's Mentoring Program that deals with multicultural youth programs and leadership development.

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They sponsor 1 week camps in the summer, girls development programs at Luxton. The program office is at 27th and University Avenue. The program is funded by grants from foundations, Excel energy. There is a staff of 8 persons.

6. Livability Report: Joe Ring reported on the Franklin Avenue parking study, and expects a meeting with Franklin Avenue residents to get their opinions on traffic calming possibilities. St. Anthony Park is doing the same. Residents on Arthur, Bedford, Clarence and Orlin Avenues are gathering statistics on traffic and parking. The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be making a decision on the permanence of the I-94 lanes added as a result of the I-35 bridge closing, continuing its study until July 2009. If the lanes become permanent, a sound wall on the west side of the freeway in the East River Terrace and Mews area could become a reality. A Historic Preservation Commission hearing on September 15 unanimously approved the request for Local Historic Preservation Status for the Prospect Park area, and putting interim protection in place. City staff will study the proposal, which could take up to 18 months before final approval of the request.

7. Zoning Committee Report: Florence Littman reported that Campus Pizza is requesting a full liquor license. The U of M Physicians located at 720 University Avenue are requesting 3 signs. The church group that has purchased the property at 64 Bedford has received 3 opinions from 3 planners on their need to provide parking space.

8. Announcements: PPUMC has planned a benefit to be held September 28 in honor of Tom SenGupta, proprietor of Schneider Drug, with proceeds to be donated to Southeast Seniors. The Neighborhood Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 28. Help was sought, particularly from young people. The Garden Club meeting is scheduled for September 24 at Karen Murdock’s house.

A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Adams. Passed without noes.

Respectfully submitted,

Betts Zerby, Secretary

Richard Poppele, President

Note:

At the request of president Poppele, I developed – in consultation with a small group of interested PPERRIA members – the amendment below which:

- 1 Would require that all members of the Board of Directors must reside within the geographic boundaries of PPERRIA; and*
- 2. Would reduce the size of the Board of Directors from the present 40 members to 30 members.*

On September 8, 2008, the PPERRIA Executive Committee reviewed the amendments and voted to forward them to the PPERRIA membership without recommendation. They also suggested that the two be voted on separately, and that the residence requirement for board membership be taken up first.

The amendments are to be acted on at the regular PPERRIA meeting on October 27, 2008.

.....Dean A. Lund (Continued next page)

BYLAWS OF THE
PROSPECT PARK EAST RIVER ROAD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Proposed Amendment of **Article IV: Board of Directors and Officers: Board of Directors**

1. The following sentence would be added: All Directors must reside within the boundaries of PPERRIA.

2. This paragraph would be deleted: ~~At the first meeting of the Corporation, 20 members with terms expiring April '81 and 20 members with terms expiring April '82 will be elected. Thereafter, at each Annual Meeting, the Corporation shall elect twenty (20) of its members to serve for a two-year term as Directors of the Corporation. At any time there shall be forty (40) Directors of the Corporation.~~

To be replaced by: At each Annual Meeting the Corporation shall elect fifteen (15) of its members to serve for a two-year term – which begins with the first Board of Directors meeting after the Annual Meeting – as Directors of the Corporation. At any time there shall be thirty (30) Directors of the Corporation.

In 2009, only 15 members will be elected to fill the vacancies created by 20 members of the Corporation with terms expiring in 2009, and in 2010 only 15 members of the Corporation will be elected to fill the vacancies created by 20 members of the Corporation with terms expiring in 2010.

PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs

4 th Street Committee	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net	378-9429
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Executive	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu	378-9242
Finance	Tony Garmers	tggarmers@msn.com	378-2656
Housing	Roger Kiemele	kiemele@earthlink.net	331-5106
Livability (Subcommittees listed below, designated by *)	Joe Ring	jring@visi.com	379-4587
Membership	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net	378-9429
Personnel	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Transit	John DeWitt	jdewitt@comcast.net	338-1871
Zoning & Land Use	Florence Littman Phil Anderson	littm005@umn.edu philanne@ties2.net	331-2970 627-9471
Zoning Subcommittee: Planning	Dick Gilyard	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net	

Other PPERIA Committees or Task Forces and Chairs			
By-laws Task Force	Paul Zerby	pgzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
*Community Events	Gratia Reynolds	grandmagratia@yahoo.com	331-5312
East River Gorge Park	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
*Environment	Dean Abrahamson	deanabra@umn.edu	923-9449
*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@mn.rr.com	338-1871

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To put an event on the PPERIA calendar contact Joyce Barta at bartajm@yahoo.com or 378-9268 by Thursday, November 6

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Thursday, 7 pm October 16	Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt.	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436
Tuesday, 7 pm October 21	(Tentative) Zoning and Planning Committee Meeting at PPUMC.	Florence Littman 331-2970
Thursday, 10:45 am October 23	JOY field trip to Pine Tree Apple Orchard. Meet at Pratt. Call for details.	Roberta Mark 331-6621
Monday, 7 pm October 27	PPERIA Board of Directors and Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.	Dick Poppele 378-9242
Friday, 11 am October 31	JOY Book Club at Applebee's on Washington Ave. Call for details.	Roberta Mark 331-6621
Friday, 6 pm October 31	Halloween Party at Luxton	Choua Thao 370-4925
Saturday 9 am-3 pm November 1	Prospect Park United Methodist Church Bazaar at PPUMC, 22 Orlin Ave SE. Handcrafted treasures, jewelry, photographs, note cards paintings by local artists, fair trade items. Baked goods and lunches.	PPUMC Office 378-2380
Tuesday 7 am-8 pm November 4	Election Day	City of Mpls 333-6319 voter info
Wednesday, 7 pm November 5	Luxton Park Council Meeting at Luxton Park	Jim Widder 331-6129
Monday, 11:30 am November 10	Joy Potluck at Pratt	Roberta Mark 331-6621 or Pratt Office 378-2380

Prospect Park East River Road
Improvement Assoc.
66 SE Malcolm Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55414
612-331-2970 (voicemail only)
<http://pperr.org/>

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IS YOUR PPERRIA MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

Check the mailing label on this newsletter – if the “Membership Renewed” box is empty, you need to renew for 2008-09. You can find a membership form on the PPERRIA web site, or come to the next meeting and fill one out there. If you’d prefer, a membership form can be mailed to you. Call or e-mail:

Julie Wallace
Membership Chair
612-378-9429
jwallace3@comcast.net.

If you’d prefer NO paper newsletter but, rather, to have the PDF sent to your e-mail address each month, contact Julie’s e-mail with that request. OR, for a form to fill out and mail in, go to <http://www.pperr.org/pperria/membership-form.pdf>

.....Julia (Julie) Wallace

We’re on the Web!

See us at:

<http://pperr.org>