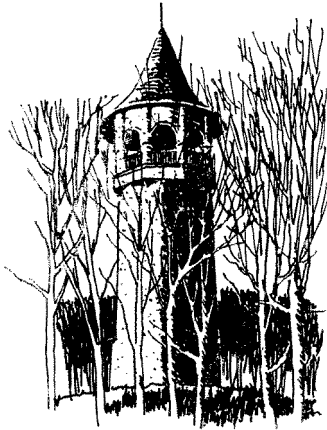


PPERRIA News – June 2009

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting Monday, June 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 bartajm@yahoo.com or 378-9268
We will make every attempt to meet that need.*

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June Meeting Agenda:

The main event of the evening will be **Triangles** – specifically, those on the south side of University Avenue at Clarence and at Malcolm. With the advent of the Central Corridor LRT, the only certainty is that they will be altered – or gone. These relics – especially the one at Malcolm with its iconic “Prospect Park” Rock – have acted as Gateways to the neighborhood for more than a century. Representatives from several public entities will be there to answer questions and listen to our concerns. As usual, PPERRIA channels your wishes in negotiating with the city to maintain this legacy in some form. Add your voice to the discussion by attending (and by maintaining your membership eligibility, if it has lapsed). In past years, several local amenities (such as triangles) have been altered or “disappeared” to meet the city’s notion of improving safety and traffic flow. The results haven’t always been happy. The June 2009 PPERRIA meeting is our chance to achieve a favorable result.

Also, the NRP Phase 2 Plan allocated funding in the amount of \$27,229.00 for PPERRIA administration. Of that, \$18,829.00 remains un-contracted. A motion has been made to release these funds for contracting. We will vote on the motion.

Notes from the President:

Prospect Park is a Historic District. So what, you ask? What does that mean?

Prospect Park streets were first laid out in the 1880's by real estate developer Louis Ménége. During the late 19th and most of the 20th century the variety in home styles reflected urban demographics and the architectural tastes of the time.

The distinguishing characteristics of Prospect Park today are the result of continuous additions to the residential housing stock. They include a large number of architect-designed homes and an array of buildings representing the architectural styles that were popular during the 20th century. It provides a living record of how urban communities in Minneapolis developed over the 100-plus years of the city's existence.

The value of this historic record is in offering a guide to the future by providing standards of quality and diversity essential to a healthy, vibrant neighborhood. As we build on this historic base, we can maintain the character that makes this neighborhood unique.

In 2000, as part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP), the community sought recognition by applying to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The idea was to provide protection for the neighborhood from irresponsible development that was beginning to challenge our residential character. The protection offered by national listing is nominal – it applies only when proposed changes are financed wholly or in part by Federal funds. Large, transformative developments that could threaten the neighborhood are most likely to fall in that category. Moreover, national designation is likely to have the indirect effect of discouraging unwanted developments. For example, Pratt school is a part of the national application and a developer declined to purchase the property when the School District offered it for sale. Today the Water Tower, Tower Hill Park and the old Station 19 fire station are listed on the National Register.

We are now in the final stages of the long application process for national historic recognition. It is expected that the State Historic Preservation Office will forward our completed application to the U.S. Department of Interior following its October 2009 Review Board meeting.

Additionally, we applied last fall for Minneapolis City recognition as a local historic district. This local designation is separate from the national designation: The local application affords interim protection from the demolition of properties listed in our national application without a prior review by the city's Heritage Preservation Commission. One such house (on Franklin Avenue) was demolished by the city last summer when we lacked such interim protection.

Preservation guidelines typically apply to exteriors only.....

Local designation also helps preserve dwellings in the neighborhood by applying a set of design guidelines to any requests for altering a property that would require a city permit. Preservation guidelines typically apply to exteriors only, and interior remodeling is not affected. This will be so for Prospect Park as well.

Design Guidelines are key to how restrictive or unrestrictive the process will become. We are currently forming a task force (resident architects, planners, homeowners and city consultants) led by Bob Roscoe, to formulate guidelines for us to consider. Bob is a long-time resident of Prospect Park who served on the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission from 1980 to 2001; he chaired the Commission for two separate periods during those years. This will be an open process that can help us decide how best to meet the challenges of future development and demographic changes.

Stay tuned.

.....Dick Poppele

PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm Monday May 18, 2009, and the agenda was approved. **NOTE:** The April 2009 meeting minutes in the May 2009 newsletter were incorrect, so we deferred approval of those minutes. The correct minutes of the meeting appear below, and will be posted on the PPERRIA website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The neighborhood cleanup will take place on Saturday, September 26, a week after the Pratt Boot Sale, so there is no conflict between the two events this year.
- The Pratt Ice Cream Social will take place next Friday, May 29.
- At the PPERRIA meeting in June we will vote on whether to release \$18,829 funds from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Phase 2. The money will be used for Administration. A 30-day notice prior to a Board meeting vote is required for release of NRP funds. The action is motivated by the fact that NRP is going out of business and we want to make sure that we get the money into PPERRIA's hands before that happens.
- John Wike announced that the annual Garden Walk will take place on June 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. It will include a plant sale at Pratt.
- Christina Larson is seeking local (Prospect Park) musical talent for a possible August concert. She requested recommendations and passed around a clipboard.
- Lois Willand announced that Glendale is starting an initiative to get residents to grow some of their own food. This is in conjunction with a summer nutrition program. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society is offering 3-foot-by-3-foot cedar boxes for raised beds. These can be purchased for \$20 apiece and include the soil for growing things. She requested that members contact her if they wish to donate a box. Shovels and gardening gloves are also needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Joe Ring announced that the **Livability Committee** will meet this coming Thursday, May 21, at 7 pm at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. The landscape triangles in the Park will be the subject of discussion at the June PPERRIA meeting. Joe hopes that Jack Byers from the city historic preservation office will come and possibly also a representative from the Metropolitan Council. The city of Minneapolis is in the process of looking into various parking problems. The State Historic Preservation Office will do a study of traffic issues that will arise with the coming construction of the Light Rail Transit line down University Avenue.
- Betts Zerby from the **Membership Committee** reported that 128 people are current members. 87 of last year's members have not yet renewed their memberships. She reported that the cost to print and send a newsletter is 84 cents. She would like to see this cost reduced and hopes to coax many members to receive their newsletter via email. Those members who would like to receive an e-newsletter should contact Betts at ejzerby@yahoo.com Carla Urban said that she prefers a paper copy delivered via the mail because she gets too many emails already and is more likely to read the newsletter if she receives it in the mail.
- John Dewitt of the **Transit Committee** reported on the "betterments" which will be required when the U of M turns its stretch of Washington Avenue into a transit mall. One thing that will be affected is the intersection of Franklin Avenue/27th Avenue/East River Road. There is a big push to redesign this intersection, which has long been a bottleneck in the neighborhood. John DeWitt, John Wicks, and Dan Cross are on the steering committee that is meeting to discuss the future of this intersection. Three plans for improvement of this bottleneck have been suggested:

(Concluded next page)

1. Single-lane roundabout
2. Two-lane roundabout
3. Change to a 4-leg intersection rather than the current 5-leg one, with northbound traffic on the River Road south of Franklin being re-routed onto Thornton

John D. noted that, while the U of M may wish to increase the flow of cars through the intersection, the neighbors are also interested in better safety for pedestrians and bikes. A study has shown the movement of 500 bikes or pedestrians at this intersection between 4 and 6 p.m. Dick Poppele recommended “intelligent” signaling for the intersection, so that, for instance, the traffic light would turn green if a car comes into the intersection when no other car is present. It is expensive for cars to idle at the intersection and the tailpipe emissions add to global warming. Such a system could be adapted to current needs as they are likely to change over time. Dick Gilyard noted that construction of the Washington Avenue transit way would begin in two years. Andy Mickel made a motion to urge our representatives on the steering committee to consider “adaptive intelligent signaling,” rather than as an alternative to major redesign and reconstruction on the intersection. The motion passed without dissent. It was reported that several neighborhoods on the eastern end of the Central Corridor LRT have filed a “Title 6” complaint about the LRT line based on the “environmental justice” issue. This is a part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that tries to ensure that minority neighborhoods are treated fairly. The opening date for the LRT line is March 17, 2014. Contracts will start this coming August 7th.

- Phil Anderson reported on two projects before the **Zoning Committee**. The Committee recommended approval for construction on a garage at 68 Barton, but it is not known whether that project received approval from the Historic Preservation Committee of the city. Phil and Rachel Ramadhyani have worked with the property owner at 64 Bedford on a landscape plan for the property. Karen Murdock reported on a Zoning Planning Regulatory Review (ZPRR) Committee meeting she went to last week at the U of M. ZPRR (formed in August 2008) has come out with a document giving its recommendations for changes in the neighborhoods around the U of M. Most of the recommendations deal with parking and rental properties. One recommendation is to amend the city zoning code to require construction of one off-street parking space for each two bedrooms in a housing unit. The current requirement is one space per housing unit. However, this provision is often exploited in the building of mini-dorms with four housing units, each consisting of five bedrooms.

PPERIA ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE CHARGES AND APPROVALS:

Dick Poppele presented a chart showing the organizational structure of PPERIA and its partners, such as Pratt Council and the University Alliance. He presented a document: “Recommendations for committees 2009—2010.” The Executive Committee of PPERIA includes the chairs of the neighborhood standing committees, so it is important to determine what the standing committees are. Proposed new committees are Administration (replacing the former Finance and Personnel Committees), Communication, Development, and Historic District.

John Wicks expressed concern that the proliferation of committees could lead to conflict among them. A motion to accept the proposed standing committees and charges for the current fiscal year passed without dissent.

A document showing the charge of each committee and its current members was next discussed, with attendees given the opportunity to volunteer to join the new or existing committees.

STAFF REPORT:

Joyce Barta worked 30 hours in the past month because of the demands of the Annual Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Murdock, PPERIA Secretary

(The minutes of our April 2009 meeting appearing in our last issue [May 2009] were incorrect. The correct minutes follow – along with a dope-slap for the editor)

Minutes of the PPERIA Annual Membership and Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2009, 7 pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church

President Dick Poppele called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:05 pm. President Poppele welcomed visitors and new members.

1. **Announcements:** Susan Larson-Fleming reported that the Bridge newspaper would be discontinuing publication of a paper version, and would be offering an on-line weekly. She said that they need to acquire e-mail addresses of 10,000 persons to make the e-mail version viable. She also reported that the Pratt school children's parents had been informed that the Minneapolis Public School Staff was recommending the closure of Pratt School in 2010. Several other schools are also recommended for closing. The School Board will be acting on the staff recommendation on May 26.
2. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Dick Kain. Passed without noes.
3. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Steve Cross. Passed without noes.
4. **Budget:** Lois Willand presented the budget for the coming year. Lois has served as treasurer for 9 years, and Steve Cross, who was president at the time Lois took over the job, expressed his and the organizations appreciation for Lois' service. The budget was approved without noes.
5. **Election:** Andy Michel, chair of the nominating committee presented the committee's slate for board members. No nominations were made from the floor.
4. **Recess:** The meeting was recessed for the members to have time to review the presentations of the various organizations who had prepared exhibits for the meeting, including University District Alliance – Cunningham report, Central Corridor Streetscape, Franklin Ave River Road intersection, Franklin Ave pedestrian – bicycle study, University Campus Plan and Motley development, Campus Crossroads, Capstone project HHH Student on 29th Ave development, Grand Round missing link on 27th Ave, Granary Road Construction, Luxton Book Exchange, Rapson Memorial.
5. **Election Results:** The body elected board members Dean Abrahamson, Steve Cross, Tony & Greta Garmers, Dick Gilyard, John Holmquist, Tamara Johnson, Dick Kain, Roger Kiemele, Ginia Klamecki, Mary Alice Kopf, Susan Larson Fleming, Dean and Janet Lund, Ann Munt, Rob Nordin, Dan Peters, Dick and Meredith Poppele, Jerry and Margie Stein, Carla and John Urban, John & Wendy Wike, and Lois Willand. Alternates are Ken Cassibo, Steve Ficker, and Peter LaSha.
7. **Flowers and vegetables:** In line with the green theme of the evening, pansies, begonias and vegetable plants, as well as vegetable seeds were available for members to take home. As usual, flowers were available for all to take home. Special gifts of flowers were made to long-time Board members who are retiring from the board: Tom Kilton, and Susan Larson-Fleming were presented with large geraniums, and Committee Chairs were given other perennials.
8. **Recognitions:** Karen Murdock presented recognitions to various members of PPERIA, thanking them for their work in serving the group. Specially honored was Lois Willand, the outgoing long-time Treasurer. Also recognized were Dick Poppele, president; Betts Zerby, Secretary; Dean Abrahamson, Book Exchange; Joe Ring, Livability Committee; Dick Gilyard, Planning; Florence Littman, Zoning; Phil Anderson, University United and DCC; Tony Garmers, Finance; John DeWitt, Transportation; Susan Larson-Fleming, Education; Mary Alice Kopf, Garden Club; John Holmquist, Newsletter; Julie Wallace, Membership; Andy Michel, Webmaster; and Roger Kiemele, Housing. All were presented with plants.
9. **School Motion:** Paul Zerby moved adoption of a resolution: Resolved that the membership of PPERIA expresses its sense of outrage that once again our Pratt Neighborhood school is being put on the chopping

block of numeric formulae and expediency. We express our strong support for the efforts of our education committee to keep our neighborhood school alive and direct them to report back to this body at its next meeting. Passed without noes.

President Poppele declared the annual meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of PPERRIA will be May 18,2009, to avoid the Memorial Day weekend.

Respectfully submitted,

Betts Zerby, Secretary

Richard Poppele, President

June 2009 PPERRIA Staff Report from 5/2/09 to 6/6/09

This month, the contractor's services were paid by PPERRIA using Citizen Participation funds and budgeted PPERRIA funds. Staff hours from May 2 through June 6, 2009 totaled 27.75 for a cost of \$666. \$596 was paid from Citizen Participation funds. \$70 was paid from PPERRIA funds. Total Citizen Participation funds available for 2009: \$2000. \$0 remains. Total PPERRIA funds budgeted for 2009: \$1000. \$930 remains.

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To include items in the PPERRIA calendar, contact Joyce Barta at bartajm@yahoo.com or 378-9268 by **Thursday, July 9th**.

Date and Time		Event and Location	Whom to contact	
Tuesday, June 16	7:30 pm	Community Concert at Pratt outdoor amphitheater featuring Claudia Schmidt.	Gratia Reynolds	331-5312
Monday, June 22	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.	Dick Poppele	378-9242
Wednesday, June 24	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Garden Club meeting at the home of Pam Harris, 120 Orlin Av SE	Kent Petterson Pam Harris	332-1821 331-6626
Wednesday, July 8	5:00 pm	Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrishia Collins	342-1952
Monday, July 13	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele	378-9242
Tuesday, July 14	7:30 pm	Community Concert at Pratt outdoor amphitheater featuring The Eddies.	Gratia Reynolds	331-5312
Wednesday, July 22	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Garden Club meeting at the home of Mary Alice Kopf, 137 Warwick ST SE	Kent Petterson Mary Alice Kopf	332-1821 379-7436
Monday, July 27	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.	Dick Poppele	378-9242

PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs

Executive	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu	378-9242
Administration			
Communication	Lois Willand	loiswilland@gmail.com	397-9697
Development	Rob Nordin	nordin@macalester.edu	331-1766
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Historic District	Joe Ring	joering@tds.net	379-4587
Livability (Subcommittees listed below, designated by *)			
*Community Events	Gratia Reynolds	grandmagratia@yahoo.com	331-5312
*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@mn.rr.com	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 Phil Anderson	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

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

REMEMBER: History (and neighborhood character) is made by those who show up.

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: UPDATE on STATUS of PRATT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In April, 2009, the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Board of Directors heard a proposal for reducing MPS costs. It included a recommendation to close Pratt Community School effective September 2010.

At a meeting on May 5, 2009, school board members directed staff to revise the proposal in several major respects, and the Board postponed final action. At this time, MPS intends to present a revised proposal in early July, with final Board action to occur in September.

Each restructuring proposal by MPS staff in recent years has recommended closing Pratt, because Pratt does not “fit the mold” of the larger-school model that staff believes is more cost-efficient. On each occasion, the MPS Board rejected the recommendation citing Pratt’s record of academic achievement among a student body of ethnic and socioeconomic diversity, and because of Pratt’s strong community support. Currently, the Pratt community and MPS representatives are exploring opportunities for Pratt under new state and federal initiatives to foster and support “innovative” schools.

.....Excerpted from information supplied by Pratt Parent Teachers Organization