PPERRIA News – November 2009
Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association

PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting
Monday, November 23rd
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 378-9268, or go to: bartajm@yahoo.com
We will make every attempt to meet that need.

Reminder: There’s no board meeting and no newsletter in December

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AGENDA for NOVEMBER

• Committee updates
• Neighborhood Heritage Designation update
• Vote on NRP funds transfer
• Vote on suggested By-Laws change
• A friendlier SE Franklin Avenue
Historic preservation has been much on my mind recently. I just returned from a part of the world where historic preservation takes on completely different dimension from here in Minnesota. I was in Rome, the Eternal City with about 3000 years of historic heritage. It has architecture from the earliest pre-Roman periods, from the Roman Empire, from medieval times, from the renaissance, from the baroque, and so on up to the 21st century, all together with modern buildings in a vibrant and bustling city. It is interesting that in addition to this mix, one also finds modern buildings that incorporate some ancient structure as part of their design. The effect is to create new architecture and form that relates strongly to its heritage and highlights it in new and interesting ways.

It brings to mind our plans to have Prospect Park designated as historic district. These plans have been in the works now for several years and were originally intended to prevent radical changes to the neighborhood, such as the possible loss of Pratt Community School. The strategy would also conserve the special historic character of the neighborhood.

The special character of this neighborhood relates to its development and the way that occurred over a century or so. It incorporated a mix of housing styles, many identified with a particular period and many architect-designed. The neighborhood also has many properties that have been modified over the years and again often by architects. All of this took place on a very short time scale compared to Rome, yet the pattern of adding to the fabric of the community over time is similar.

Thus change is part of the history of this neighborhood, and change is likely to continue to be part of its future. Even radical changes may occur as we move ahead. In fact as I have noted many times in this column, events that will inevitably lead to such change are accumulating at an accelerating rate. They include the LRT, which is now a reality with construction actually started in St Paul, the persistent efforts to close Pratt Community School that raise concerns about the building's continued existence, and developers who continue to press for higher density housing.

The long-range plan the neighborhood has been pursuing has been centered on obtaining historic district designation – initially to keep from losing Pratt and also to conserve the historic character of the neighborhood. As I have noted before this had taken two tracks. One is the national designation as a listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. And the other is local designation as a historic district of Minneapolis.

National designation has been proceeding slowly. We originally expected our application to be forwarded to the Dept of Interior by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office last spring. The application was sent to the Department of Interior for comment and they requested that it be modified to include contributing properties built up to 1965 (the year I-94 was built through the neighborhood). This would add about 75 properties to the current list of contributing properties. (which can be found on the PPERRIA website). Now we expect the revised application to be forwarded in March of 2010.

National Recognition does not impose any restrictions on what property owners may do to their property.

Local designation differs completely and it, too, is proceeding, also not very smoothly. Under the “interim protection” afforded by the city to guide the approval of building permits while the application for designation is in progress, many residents have found they have been unable to make some alterations to their homes. Meanwhile PPERRIA has set up a task force to draft a set of design guidelines to be used when we have local designation. At this point in the work of the task force, it is not clear how guidelines would be enforced by the city. Many residents feel that the current enforcement of guidelines during the interim period may be too strict.
The purpose of the design guidelines, I believe, is to preserve the character of the neighborhood as it has developed over the past century, rather than to preserve historic structures in the neighborhood. The current enforcement by the city heritage preservation staff has emphasized the preservation of existing structures with little or no modification allowed. Going ahead this may not accommodate the kind of changes that have been happening and have characterized the neighborhood's history. For example, we may want to embrace new technologies and new designs to improve the livability of our homes. Under today's rules it is difficult to install new energy efficient windows, or a rooftop solar collector.

The goal of the PPERRIA task force is to provide a set of guidelines that will preserve and reinforce the character-defining elements of existing structures while encouraging creative and imaginative work that's respectful of its context and will enrich the vitality of the neighborhood. They will apply only to those aspects of the existing structures that are visible to the public. That is, the outside parts of buildings that can be seen from the street or sidewalk.

_It is very important to keep in mind that the local designation and the design guidelines are completely separate from the National designation._

Now the task force will be meeting with officials from the city to clarify how these PPERRIA-written guidelines are likely to be interpreted by the city staff. We hope to have a full report on this at the November PPERRIA meeting.

…………. Dick Poppele

<<<<<< CALLING ALL BOARD MEMBERS >>>>>>>

By Law Change Proposal
Betts Zerby, Chair
Membership Committee

A concerted membership campaign this year built our numbers to 329 households. or 513 individuals. That's a record – our most ever.

**BUT** – As you know, our by laws require filling out and submitting a written application to renew your membership each year. The main purpose for this was to raise money for the organization via dues. However, the city of Minneapolis now says neighborhood organizations such as PPERRIA cannot charge dues.

**SO** – Without a By Law change, all those 513 memberships will lapse at the Annual Meeting next April. The PPERRIA Membership Committee proposes to change the By Laws so that your membership does not automatically expire every year.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGE** – Would allow your membership to last as long as you remain a resident in our geographic area. We would know if you’ve moved either if we are so informed by e-mail, or when newsletters are returned by the post office. And, memberships could still be solicited year-round.

**OF COURSE** – We’ll need to solicit donations at least annually to support the organization.

*Please come to the November 23rd meeting and vote yes.*

*Approval by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors is required to change the By Laws.*
PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2009
Prospect Park United Methodist Church

The September meeting of the Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association, held in the Prospect Park United Methodist Church, was called to order by Vice President Carla Urban at precisely 7:00 PM. There were no new members to introduce.

The agenda was approved with two additions, Joe Ring's update on triangles and Steve Ficker's update on affordable housing.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Paul Zerby said that he is nearing the end of his second two-year term on the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee. This group gives “a citizen’s take on public health issues” to the Minneapolis City Council. Paul said that he does not plan to serve another term and somebody will be needed to replace him. Residents who might be interested in taking this position should call Cam Gordon’s office at (612) 673-2202.
- Paul Buchanan, the neighborhood liaison from the U of M, announced that two “Feasts of Neighbors” are being held soon in neighborhoods near the U. These are social occasions for students to meet their non-student neighbors. The events will include food, socializing, and information. One event will be held November 21 at Van Cleve Park from 2-5 PM. Another will be held at the University Lutheran Church of Hope in Dinkytown on November 22 from 4 to 7 PM. Prospect Parkers are welcome to come to these. Paul said he hopes that another such event will soon be held in Prospect Park. He can be contacted at neighbor@umn.edu or buch0226@umn.edu.

INFORMATION ON PROJECT 8:
Jasmine Zand, a sophomore at Augsburg College, announced the formation of “Project 8,” a coalition of groups dedicated to helping young people (defined at those between the ages of 6 and 18) in Minneapolis. Project 8 hopes to keep youth from becoming homeless and to provide such things as food, clothing, and college textbooks for them. Project 8 hopes to have a meeting space for the group available by November 15. She said the project could save the city money if “issues with youth” could be resolved before troubled young people got into the juvenile justice system. She asked that people in Prospect Park sign a “commitment form” to support the program with their time or with donations of food etc. “Everyone in this room has something they’re good at,” said Jasmine, and she hoped that the “wisdom of the group” could be used to help young people. She said that, for example, neighbors could teach young people to cook, could provide job opportunities for them in such tasks as shoveling snow, or could volunteer to talk to young people.

UPDATE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, SECOND PRECINCT:
Crime Prevention Specialist Nick Juarez handed out a “snapshot of the neighborhood” including an update on crimes. Most crimes in Prospect Park occur near the U of M. He said that the Minneapolis Police Department publishes a “Community Policing Plan” each year. The goal of the police is “reducing opportunities for crime.”

Two concerns of the neighborhood are graffiti and loud parties. A police officer said that if graffiti “taggers” hit enough buildings, the crime could rise to the level of a felony. The police take pictures of graffiti and can aggregate the signs of “taggers.”

So far in the year 2009, 33 warning letters of “Official Notice of Noisy or Unruly Assembly Violation” have been sent to landlords who own property in Prospect Park. Three of these were repeat offenders. (Nick said that this level of lous parties was actually rather low, since 122 such letters had been sent this year to landlords who own property in the Southeast Como neighborhood.) Nick said that “problem houses” could be controlled if lease agreements would spell out penalties for bad behavior on the part of tenants. Three noisy party violations in a year could result in suspension of the rental license of a landlord.

Nick asked neighbors to determine what issues the Police Department should address. He can be contacted at (612) 297-2797 or by email at Nicholas.juarez@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Carla Urban said that issues of “neighborhood etiquette” were important. These included such issues as removing trash carts from the boulevard strips after pick-up and knowing which days recycling would be picked up.

Peter LaSha said that high turnover in some rental properties means that “you don’t recognize who your neighbors are.” Peggy Rejto asked what was being done to control vagrants who live in open boxcars that are parked along the railroad line abutting the East River Terrace. Nick said that the City Attorney was working to get the police more authority to enforce trespassing laws on property owned by the railroad companies.

Tom Kilton, who lives on the East River Road, said that “event parking” was sometimes a problem. He said that he had house guests for “Marathon Sunday” at the beginning of October and that these visitors could not leave the house because...
the East River Road was blocked off long before the runners came through and the visitors could not park near his house because roads were blocked off for several blocks around him. Nick said he would put Tom in touch with the proper people to deal with this problem.

Carla Urban suggested that the police department put together a flyer detailing parking regulations. She promised that if such a flyer were made available, residents of Prospect Park could be found who would distribute the flyer (for example, putting it under windshield wipers on cars during football games).

**UPDATE ON TRIANGLES AT UNIVERSITY AND CLARENCE AND UNIVERSITY AND MALCOLM:**
Joe Ring reminded residents that the May meeting of PPERRIA had been largely dedicated to a discussion of these two triangles. He showed maps detailing two proposals for the future of these triangles. Across the street from the Malcolm triangle, the turning radius for trucks entering or leaving Malcolm will be increased from 15 feet to 35 feet. This should permit large semi-trailer trucks to make the turn more smoothly than they can now.

**Option 1** would preserve the Malcolm triangle as a triangle. **Option 2** would move the triangle to the east and make it a “bump out” attached to Tower Park. Some discussion ensued, with Dick Gilyard saying that Option 2 would be more “pedestrian friendly.” Florence Littman pointed out that the coming of Light Rail Transit should reduce car traffic in the neighborhood. Betts Zerby moved that we support Option 1. A vote was taken with Option 1 winning by a vote of 20 to 17. Lois Willand said she felt that such a small number of Prospect Park residents should not be allowed to determine the outcome of the question, especially since the issue of triangles had been inserted into the agenda tonight and that therefore neighbors had not known that the subject would be discussed. Joe Ring then revealed that Dennis Gimmestad of the State Historic Preservation Office was in favor of Option 1 and that this choice would almost surely prevail.

Joe said that Jack Byers, head of the city Historic Preservation Commission, had been in favor of the removal of the triangles, but they were preserved since the hill area of Prospect Park is under “interim protection” before being designated an official Historic District. Joe requested that Dick Poppele invite Jack Byers to come to the PPERRIA meeting in November to discuss issues in the local designation process. Florence Littman felt that Jack was “deliberately sabotaging” the effort to get historic designation for the district since home improvement projects were being denied for the most minor changes to a house, such as closing an old coal chute window. Paul Zerby said that Jack was very helpful to him when he (Paul) was on the City Council; he put forward a motion asking that Jack be invited to the November meeting.

Joe felt that Jack was not “conforming to statute” when it came to historic designation and that the Historic Preservation Commission was an “erratic entity” and difficult to deal with.

Cam said that he had scheduled a meeting for November 20 to discuss the “ultimate guidelines” for the historic district. The meeting would include Cam, Jack Byers, and members of the design guidelines committee from Prospect Park (this committee is headed by Bob Roscoe and includes Dick Gilyard, Mary-Alice Kopf, Richard Adams, and Phil Anderson from Prospect Park, and Aaron Howard and Robin Garwood as reps from the city). Dick G. said that he felt some “push back” on the design guidelines was being made by the city representatives. Mary-Alice asked if we knew about design guidelines from other neighborhoods. Joe said that Bob Roscoe had copies of the guidelines from 12 other historic districts in the country.

Paul withdrew his motion but asked that the Design Guidelines Committee be authorized to invite Jack to come to a PPERRIA meeting if they thought it necessary.

**UPDATE ON GAME-DAY PARKING:**
Second Ward City Council member Cam Gordon said that there had been a lot of coverage in the media about game-day parking issues. He said that, contrary to expectations, some local businesses had experienced a decrease rather than an increase in business on days that the Golden Gophers had a home football game in their new TCF Bank Stadium on campus. He said that, due to the expectation of heavy traffic and parking problems, people not planning on attending the game were simply avoiding the area near the stadium on game days.

Cam said that “commercial parking lots” should be discouraged in a pedestrian-oriented overlay zone, which includes the area along University Avenue east of the stadium in Prospect Park. He said the city would be opposed to businesses tearing down existing buildings and replacing these with parking lots. However, he said that the Northstar building ramp was not needed for office workers on weekends and that perhaps this ramp should be allowed to offer parking for football games on Saturdays. In order to discourage visitors from parking in the neighborhood, he said the “Critical Parking Area” that includes the Motley area might be enforced on weekends (the CPA is currently enforced only during weekdays).

Dick Kain suggested that the pedestrian overlay zone not be enforced during home game days. John DeWitt said that “Express Bus” service should be offered to the stadium on game days.

Cam said that he had held a meeting last week with local businesses to discuss the issue of parking on game days. About 30 people attended the meeting, including the head of business licensing for the city of Minneapolis.

Paul Zerby said that cars should not park within five feet of a driveway, by law, but that this regulation was not being enforced. Dick Kain said strict enforcement would be “cost effective” for the city since there were a great number of
illegally parked cars in Prospect Park on game days and the city would make money from writing parking tickets. Florence Littman said that some cars are being illegally parked on front lawns. Clay Lambert, who owns Metro Petro at 27th and University, said that he already has to hold nine separate licenses to operate his business and he would not like to have to obtain another license in order to offer parking on game days. He said he was worried about other “large events” that might be held at the new stadium. One proposal he had heard about was for an outdoor ice hockey event. He said when an outdoor hockey game was played at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, 40,000 fans showed up for the event.

Lois Willand put forward the following proposal:
RESOLVED: that PPERRIA supports allowing our local businesses to offer parking on University of Minnesota game days and special events and supports Council member Cam Gordon’s efforts to develop policies or legal changes that allow this. The proposal passed unanimously and can be considered a vote of the Board of Directors, a quorum being present.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE:
Susan Larson-Fleming announced that the committee will come before PPERRIA next month to ask for the release of $24,000 in NRP funds.

LEARNING DREAMS:
Jerry Stein said that he had been a resident of Prospect Park for 54 years, having moved here at the age of two. He is a graduate of Pratt School. He gave a Power Point presentation on his program, “Learning Dreams,” which has been operating for 15 years. The idea behind the program is to create “a culture of learning” in the neighborhood. Jerry said that “community support” of education should involve more than the Parent-Teacher Association of a school. The “learning life” of a child starts before he/she is of school age; therefore a “community-based approach to learning” is likely to increase test scores and decrease school truancy. Learning Dreams is partially funded by Hennepin County and is supported by the Southeast Minneapolis Council of Learning (SEMCOL). Seed money to start the program came from PPERRIA NRP funds. Jerry used the analogy of cars and roads to explain what Learning Dreams was trying to accomplish. “The problem of the last mile” is a problem with transportation schemes which do not get the traveler to his final destination, but only close to it. In the case of automobiles, paved roads extend all the way to one’s garage, thus eliminating the “problem of the last mile.” However, Jerry said that, in education, schools are like “superhighways” and he hoped that the Learning Dreams program could build the access roads to connect to the schools.

Jerry said that “non-school learning” (such as a cookware store offering cooking classes) was hugely important and he hoped to link such non-school learning to schools. Jerry showed two videos currently posted on his website at www.learningdreams.org.

UPDATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
Steve Ficker passed around a handout showing some of the funds approved by the neighborhood under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. $152,225 had been allocated for “Home Improvement & Affordable Housing.” Steve felt that these funds had not been used for affordable housing at all but only for home improvements. He proposed to bring back $20,000 of the housing funds to be used for affordable housing. He said he felt that the “original intent” of the plan had not been met.

Steve put forward this proposal: “That PPERRIA immediately contact the Center for Energy and Environment and request that CEE not spend any more PPERRIA NRP Housing Funds before the upcoming November 2009 PPERRIA Membership Meeting.”

Joyce Barta said that information on the NRP2 program was on the PPERRIA website. The plan includes three housing objectives. She said that the funds available would not be sufficient to build any housing. She said she had not been able to reach NRP administrators to ask about housing proposals.

Carla Urban said that requests for home improvement funds had increased in the past few months. Florence Littman said that developers did not want to build affordable housing in Prospect Park but only student housing. She said that, even if affordable housing was a priority, there were no empty lots in the neighborhood to build houses on.

Steve F. said that two developers had given presentations to the Planning Committee and that many opportunities existed to use NRP funds to encourage affordability. For example “extras” such as handicapped accessibility could be funded for $20,000.

Paul Zerby and David Coats raised the issue of projects that had already been approved but not yet paid for. David proposed an amendment that these projects be funded.

With the friendly amendment, Steve’s proposal passed by a vote of 19 to 9.
COMMITTEE UPDATES:
It being rather late in the evening, Carla asked that chairs of the various committees send her updates which will be included in the minutes of this meeting rather than presenting them at this time.

Betts Zerby announced that the Membership Committee would propose a change in PPERRIA bylaws at November’s meeting. Currently, membership must be renewed each year. Betts thinks this provision should be changed and that members should be automatically renewed every year unless they opt out. She encouraged Board of Directors members to come to the November meeting, since a vote of 27 BoD members is needed to effect a bylaw change.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murdock
PPERRIA Secretary

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, Jan. 7th.

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<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event and Location</th>
<th>Whom to contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 19</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 23</td>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>PPERRIA Board of Directors &amp; Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 2</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Luxton Park Council at Luxton Park</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 9</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.</td>
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<td>Monday, December 14</td>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 15</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>(Tentative) Zoning &amp; Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 17</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 6</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Luxton Park Council at Luxton Park</td>
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<td>Monday, January 11</td>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 13</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary’s Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 21</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 25</td>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>PPERRIA Board of Directors &amp; Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 1</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Zoning &amp; Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.</td>
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November 2009 PPERRIA Staff Report 10/9/09-11/6/09

Staff hours from October 9 through November 6, 2009 totaled 15.5 for a cost of $372. This was paid using NRP 2 funds allocated to Administration. NRP Contract C-25154 (11-1-07) with PPERRIA contained $9000 for Administration, including $7000 for Staff; of which $2257.40 remains. Another $18,229 was recently allocated to Administration and is currently in the process of being contracted.

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<td>*Landscape, Garden Club</td>
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**Other PPERRIA Committees and Task Forces**

| 4th Street | Julie Wallace | jwallace3@comcast.net | 378-9429 |
| Luxton Book Exchange | Dean Abrahamson | deanabra@umn.edu | 623-9449 |
| Motley Crew | Rebakah Lorence | florence@mn.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
FYI: In honoring the notion that all are entitled to their say, discussion of an agenda item will often go beyond its allotted time. How can we achieve better agenda control?

The November 9 meeting of the PPERRIA executive committee approved the following motion:

• Agenda items for the monthly membership and board meeting are set at the executive meeting, which is held two weeks prior to the monthly general meeting.
• Additional agenda items may be requested of the president up to the Thursday preceding the monthly general meeting.
• Late-arriving requests for new agenda items received after the Thursday preceding the monthly meeting may be accepted by the president, but are not guaranteed discussion at that membership meeting. And, if they are, they will be taken up only after all the scheduled items have been heard.

 .........................Lois Willand

Be part of a PPERRIA committee! Remember:

What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today