

PPERRIA News – April 2010

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



ANNUAL MEETING of the PPERRIA Board and Membership Monday, April 26th

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 bartajm@yahoo.com.*

We will make every attempt to meet that need.

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Annual meeting agenda

Election of board members and officers
Posters to peruse
Eat and drink
Recognition of worthy works

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN THE COMING WEEKS:

- Low-cost home energy audits
- Close-to-home disposal of hazardous materials
- Resurfacing of our streets – a short-term inconvenience for a long-term improvement
- And, continued discussion of local parking problems

Notes from the President

Help Wanted:
Openings available now!
Compensation - your contribution
to community welfare
Benefits - improvements in
neighborhood livability

This is a call for help and for a more diverse representation from the neighborhood in PPERRIA affairs.

- **Join a PPERRIA committee**
- **Become a Board member**
- **Help lead the organization as an officer or committee chair.**

April 26 is PPERRIA's annual meeting. It's where we gather to elect members of our community to take responsibility for the local organization, and to represent their neighbors on issues that increasingly confront our neighborhood.

It is not in the community's interest to always rely on the same, relatively small group of volunteers. And while there may be a certain wisdom in having the constancy of a leadership of gray-headed retirees, it's also important that younger residents, and their concerns and aspirations, be represented at all levels of the organization. I think we have made recent progress in achieving this goal, but the PPERRIA leadership (Board and Officers) are not yet representative of the demographics of this neighborhood.

As I have noted several times in this column, we continue to face many challenges as a neighborhood. But given the demands many of us have on our time and energy, it is difficult to see how we can all be active participants. Being a proactive community is

hard and time-consuming work. However, we are blessed with enormous resources in the people of this neighborhood. And our challenge is to find out how to tap into them for our mutual benefit.

I have proposed that we make more effective use of staff to help our many volunteers, but there's never been a great deal of enthusiasm for this approach. Prospect Park residents are generally proud of past accomplishments and the success they have had with an all-volunteer organization. They wonder whether a paid staff could better serve them.

I believe that if we are to really engage the concerned and talented residents in this neighborhood, we will need some way to support their efforts and not demand so much of their time. In addition to the various specific tasks – such as zoning review and neighborhood clean-ups – to be an effective organization requires coordinated efforts and easy communication. And this requires leadership and workers.

We can all play a part. And many do, as we will see at the annual meeting were we will again be showing off many of the goings-on in Prospect Park. These include PPERRIA projects and the latest plans:

- For the LRT
- For the Franklin and River Road intersection
- For proposed new buildings

And also neighborhood projects such as SE Seniors, Meals-on-Wheels, Garden Club, and many more.

No speeches. Just posters, displays, friends old and new, and munchies.

See you at the Annual Meeting.

.....Dick Poppele

PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2010 Prospect Park United Methodist Church

The March meeting was called to order by President Dick Poppele at 7:00 PM.
The agenda was approved with no changes.
The minutes of the February 2010 meeting were approved with no corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Phil Anderson announced a meeting of Minneapolis and Saint Paul community groups on March 28 from 2 to 4 PM at 1080 University Avenue in St. Paul (just east of Lexington Avenue). The purpose will be to write a draft agreement about the construction of the coming Light Rail Transit (LRT) line along University. Cam Gordon will represent the Minneapolis City Council. Dick Poppele said that Governor Pawlenty has removed some transit items from the recent bonding bill, but this will not affect LRT.
- Dick Poppele told members that Florence Littman's mother died last night. Tony Garmers said the wife of local realtor Don Wilson had also recently passed away.
- Meredith Poppele passed around a list for people to sign up to bring refreshments to upcoming PPERRIA meetings.
- Mary-Alice Kopf introduced new neighbors Christina and Scott Baldwin (who bought Chuck and Rose Maguire's house) and Kathy Fish, who has moved to a house on Arthur Avenue.

HOUSING COMMITTEE:

Dick P. gave background information on the neighborhood's commitment to affordable housing. The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP-Phase II) called for \$152,000 for housing grants and affordable housing. However, only 70% of the money originally promised by the city (about \$85,000) was made available to the Prospect Park neighborhood, leaving only about \$85,000 for housing. At a meeting in July 2007 it was decided to allocate these funds to housing grants and loans. In November 2009 the money in this program not already promised (\$20,000 to \$25,000) was frozen.

Dick Gilyard said that "affordable" means housing for people of modest incomes. He said that Transit Oriented Development along the coming LRT line would have a requirement that 20% of new housing be affordable. The Housing Committee met with three developers of affordable housing: Project for Pride in Living (PPL), the Housing Alliance, and Habitat for Humanity. Asked if \$25,000 would have a meaningful impact on a new development that might cost millions, Chris Wilson of PPL, in a presentation to the PPERRIA Executive Committee two weeks ago, said such a slight sum would be meaningful because it was important that a neighborhood show support for new affordable housing to be built there.

Steve Ficker added that there was a formula to determine what housing was "affordable." If housing costs no more than 30% of your income, it is affordable to you. The definition of "poor" is a person making less than 50% of the median income in a metropolitan area. Steve F. said that this neighborhood made a decision five years ago to support affordable housing, but since then this goal has become "secondary" to that of making loans to homeowners.

A motion on affordable housing was offered:

"Resolved that the funds in the housing rehabilitation fund (approximately \$25,000) be released to be awarded for loans and grants except for \$5000, which shall be reserved for use in Affordable Housing in accordance with the adopted NRP-II Action Plan. Also reserved for Affordable Housing Fund:

1. the return of principal from the housing rehabilitation loans, and
2. any additional funds that may be coming to the Prospect Park neighborhood through NRP-II

Dick Poppele said that approximately \$5000 per year was coming into PPERRIA through the revolving loan funds.

Steve Cross said that he was "personally involved" with the housing issue, since he was co-chairman (with Dick Poppele) of the NRP-II Action Plan committee. He said a neighborhood meeting had been held in Luxton Park but that the resulting plan did not contain anything related to affordable housing because developers of such housing wanted a large financial commitment from the neighborhood, on the order of \$500,000. Cross said that Prospect Park is "almost fully constructed," with very few empty lots. Therefore, existing housing would have to be torn down if Prospect Park wanted to create affordable housing. He was against the motion, since he felt that this action "sequesters \$5000 in a fund that will never be used."

Dick Gilyard said that the advent of LRT will change things in Prospect Park. "The density of this neighborhood will increase" and the area north of University Avenue will be transformed. He said that most new residential projects in the

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United States are “mixed income” developments such as the new project near Van Cleve Park in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, or high-end condominiums, not stand-alone “affordable housing.”

Steve F. pointed out that affordable housing developers get their funding from many different sources.

Joe Ring offered an amendment that development “be in compliance with the 29th Avenue plan.” This was accepted as a friendly amendment. Steve F. pointed out that the 29th Avenue Plan does not include affordable housing.

David Coats spoke against the motion, saying, “I don’t think we should rely on money that we don’t have.” He pointed out that the subject of affordable is “a moral/ethical issue” as well as an economic one and that having a diversity of housing available to people of different income levels “makes the neighborhood more vibrant, more interesting, and more livable.” He said low-income housing would not result in a decline of property values if the affordable housing was “scattered site.”

Dick Kain said that Chris Wilson of PPL said that PPL would not need money for five years if PPL were to develop affordable housing here and that the neighborhood could “help other people in the meantime” with the revolving fund.

Steve F. showed an overhead transparency of part of the PPERRIA website, showing that two of the five bullet points concerning housing in the NRP-II action plan had been omitted. Steve F. offered the following substitute motion: “Bring back \$10,000 from the CEE Home Improvement Loan Program and reserve these funds for affordable housing. Also reserved for affordable housing will be

1. principal income from the CEE Home Improvement loans, and
2. any additional funds that may be coming to the Prospect Park neighborhood through NRP-II.

At least half of the reserved affordable housing funds shall be spent for the construction of additional units of affordable housing by non-profit entities in PPERR. The units must be affordable for those with incomes at or below 30% of the Minneapolis Median Income (MMI). Housing developments of three or more units must provide at least 15% of those units at a cost that is affordable at or below 30% of MMI, as required in PPERRIA’s Action Plan.”

The motion was seconded by David Coats.

Dick Kain spoke against the amendment, saying that the resolution was too specific and might turn off some developers. Steve F. said that the Housing Alliance and PPL could meet these standards.

A vote of the membership was taken, with the amendment to the motion being turned down. A vote of the Board of Directors was called for, with the same result. The original motion on affordable housing as amended was passed unanimously and can be considered a vote of the PPERRIA Board of Directors, a quorum of the board being present.

EMERALD ASH BORER (information):

Ralph Sievert, director of forestry, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Forestry Division, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the tree-killing insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Prospect Park is “ground zero for Minneapolis,” since this insect was recently discovered in PP, the first place in Minneapolis to see an infestation. EAB kills all trees in the genus Fraxinus but does not kill “mountain ash” trees (which are not a true ash).

The EAB is native to China and was first discovered in this country in 2002 in Detroit, Michigan. It is thought that the insect had come into the country in wooden shipping crates. Since 2002 the EAB has spread through Ohio and west all the way to Minnesota. The main means of transport is through cut firewood. The insect kills the tree by tunneling through the phloem layer, the living layer just below the bark.

The EAB presents a significant threat to the Minneapolis urban forest. Nineteen per cent of the boulevard trees in Minneapolis are ash, even though Minneapolis stopped planting ash trees in 2007. The EAB, Sievert said, could be “a 27-million-dollar problem” for the city, since that would be the cost for cutting down the ash trees, removing the old stumps, and replanting new trees.

Sievert estimated there are about 600 boulevard ash trees in Prospect Park. All ash trees are threatened, since experience from Ohio suggests that eradication of the EAB does not work and that devastation is inevitable. Many elm trees, killed by the Dutch elm disease of past decades, were replaced by ash trees.

Most trees in Prospect Park confirmed as infected with EAB are found on Tower Hill. The infected trees will be cut down this week. Trees marked with green rings will be removed by the Park Board. However, ash trees on private property killed by the EAB must be either removed by the owner or left to fall down naturally. Some short trees that can fit under utility wires are crabapples and “Prairie Gem” pear trees.

The city will not work on controlling EAB from May 1 till Labor Day since such work could accelerate the spread of the insect.

Sievert said he thought that chemical treatment would not be practical for ash trees in natural areas, since chemicals must be injected into the soil or into the tree every two years, and must be done by a certified applicator, but such treatment might work to save individual trees in a person’s yard.

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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE (action):

The city department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) recommended extending the period of interim protection for the Prospect Park application for local historic district designation until the city Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) has acted upon the local study, or for a period of six months (until September 13, 2010), whichever comes first. The city Heritage Preservation Commission approved this recommendation at its March 2 hearing.

The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission plans to do a walking tour of Prospect Park at their business meeting on March 23. They hope to get feedback from the neighborhood at that time. Dick Poppele said that “the more we can talk to them [HPC commissioners] the better.” He objected to the “rigidity” of historic guidelines from the Secretary of the Interior. The decision of the HPC to extend interim protection has been appealed to the Zoning and Planning subcommittee of City Council, which will hear the appeal on April 8.

COMMITTEE UPDATES –

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Betts Zerby reported that half of the PPERRIA Board of Directors is up for re-election at the Annual Meeting in April. Five new people have been nominated to the Board. All officers and committee chairs must be on the Board of Directors.

ZONING COMMITTEE:

Karen Murdock reported on two possible new developments in the neighborhood. A group home for adults with high-functioning autism (Asperger’s syndrome), a residence called “Stepping Stones,” is proposed for a site on 27th Avenue across from Glendale. Being near public transportation is important since few people with Asperger’s drive cars.

Curt Gunsbury, a developer, would like to build a residential building called “Solhem East Bank” at 2328 Delaware Street Southeast (at Huron Boulevard, just south of Arby’s). The site was formerly owned by Gopher Oil and the soil is polluted. Gunsbury’s group won a grant to clean up the site. The site is roughly triangular in shape and the proposed building would be Prospect Park’s answer to the Flatiron Building. A sub-committee of the PP Zoning Committee (Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard, John Weeks, and Karen Murdock) will meet with Gunsbury and his architects this week to discuss the proposed development. Murdock said she is opposed to the parking variance requested by Solhem. A new “University overlay district” of the zoning code went into effect last August. Under the provisions of the new overlay district, new residential development near the U of M requires one off-street parking slot for every two beds in the development. Solhem is requesting that required parking on their site be reduced.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Dick Gilyard reported that the PP Planning Committee has formed a partnership with Seward Redesign and will work with this group to improve the facades of buildings along University Avenue. Through this partnership, we were awarded a \$50,000 “Great Streets” grant by the city of Minneapolis.

The PP Planning Committee hopes to make the Motley Neighborhood a “joint planning” area with the U of M.

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE:

Carla Urban reported on the “Parking Summit” held March 18. Some participants favored new Critical Parking Areas (CPAs) but had questions about CPAs. Carla said an expert from the city will be brought in to address these questions.

A collection of household hazardous waste for residents of neighborhoods around the U of M will be taken in May. The collection site will be in the Como neighborhood.

The annual River Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 17. Volunteers should meet at 9 AM at the east end of the Franklin Avenue bridge.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murdock, PPERRIA Secretary

**COUNCIL ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
APPROVES PPERRIA APPEAL.**

At a hearing on April 8, the city council zoning and planning (Z&P) committee upheld PPERRIA's appeal of the March 2 ruling by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC ruling mandated that PPERRIA continue seeking historic preservation for Prospect Park. It also extended for six months an interim moratorium on demolition permits, all contrary to PPERRIA's stated request at the March 2 meeting with the HPC.

HPC representatives were present at the April 8 hearing. Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard and Joe Ring spoke for PPERRIA, as did councilperson Cam Gordon (who was there as a member of the Z&P committee). The Z&P committee's action followed a 4-1 vote. The release from interim protection should become official at the City Council's next meeting two weeks hence.

As stated in Dick Poppele's "Notes," in your March PPERRIA NEWS, we will now evaluate instead the feasibility of a "Neighborhood Conservation District" (NCD) for Prospect Park.

(In a late-breaking development, PPERRIA now has the CURA grant we need to examine the NCD option. This will proceed after the City Council vote becomes official.)

FREEWAY SOUNDWALLS UPDATE

MNDot tells us that a soundwall to buffer residents of East River Mews from Freeway noise, although warranted by recorded sound levels, is not feasible at this time because of the added costs of reinforcing an existing retaining wall.

However a soundwall for East River Terrace looks possible, but not yet certain. As proposed, it would extend from Cabrini Church to Shriner's Hospital. Project managers are collecting input from citizens. And the more positive comments received, the more likely it will be built.

You can show your support by contacting the project engineer Scott A. Pederson. Go to Scott.pedersen@state.mn.us

.....Dorothy Davey

A new Glendale residents council

Yes, indeed, there is a new residents' council in Glendale. However, the Glendale Residents' Organization (GRO), as formerly constituted and known, is for all purposes, officially defunct.

We are now called the Glendale Residents Council (GRC) with new officers, of which I am currently the president.

The newly elected officers took office early this year and the council has since been reorganizing and working on putting a set of new bylaws in place for our residents. We are hoping to have the final draft ready this month and ready to adopt hopefully sometime in May. Our general residents meetings are currently scheduled for the 4th Friday of every month at 3:30pm at Luxton Park.

.....Henry Keshi

Celebrate your neighbors

What makes our neighborhood great? Many things come to mind – the lure our winding streets, Tower Hill, interesting homes and more.

However, one major factor is the residents who are active in our neighborhood. They work hard to keep the neighborhood strong and vibrant. Some have spent years in volunteer work that maintains our community vitality.

Our annual meeting is your chance to give these hardworking neighbors the public recognition they deserve. We will have a "Thank You" board at the meeting where you can post your comments.

.....Lois Willand

SIDNEY PRATT:

YOUR neighborhood school
AND neighborhood resource
AND it's not solely for kids!

March 2010 PPERRIA Staff Report 3/1/2010 – 3/31/2010

Staff hours from March 1 through March 31, 2010 totaled 27.25 hours for a cost of \$654. This was paid using NRP 2 funds allocated to Administration.

Contract C-25154 (11-1-07) between NRP and PPERRIA contained \$27,229 for Administration, of which \$20,000 was designated for Staff and \$7229 for other administrative costs. \$12,137.40 remains for staff.

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 **Thurs, April 11th**.

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Thursday, April 15	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt School.	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436 Pratt Office 668-1122
Saturday April 17	9:30 am - noon Mississippi River Cleanup - Meet on E River Parkway near the Franklin Bridge.	Tom Kilton 339-3064
Monday, April 26	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership ANNUAL MEETING at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele 378-9242
Wednesday, April 28	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Garden Club meeting. Location to be announced.	Kent Petterson 332-1821
Tuesday, May 4	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Florence Littman 331-2970
Monday, May 10	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, May 10	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele 378-9242
Sunday, May 16	3:00 pm Mostly Madrigals , an a cappella vocal ensemble, at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Stephen Houtz at Stephen@stephenhoutz. com
Thursday, May 20	7:00 - 8:30 pm Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt School.	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436 Pratt Office 668-1122
Sunday, May 23	3:00 pm Prospect Park Community Choir Spring Concert at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Curt Oliver 763/208-6556
Monday, May 24	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, May 26	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Garden Club meeting. Location to be announced.	Kent Petterson 332-1821

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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FYI:

- They're back:**
- Tower Decals for your car, or any window pane
 - Easy to apply – easy to remove
 - Get them at the annual meeting

Tuesday summer concerts – this year June 15 and July 13 – don't just happen. Your Community Concert committee does the groundwork, but needs a little help on and around each performance day. Three or four good people; that's all.
.....Please contact me, **Jan Kilton**: 339-3064, or jkilton@comcast.net.

It's the PPERRIA mantra:
What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today