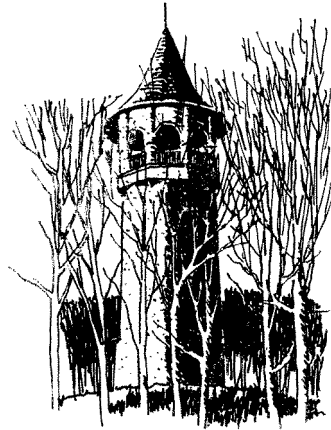


# PPERRIA News – March 2012

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



## PPERRIA Board / Membership Meeting

Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

7:00 – 9:00 pm

**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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### MARCH AGENDA:

- Budget for next year
- Nominating committee
- I-94 Sound wall issues

### Your current PPERRIA officers:

**President:** Dick Poppele – 378-9242.....dick@umn.edu  
**V. President:** Christina Larson – 651-329-2784...larsonchristina@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Karen Murdock – 340-1338.....murdock1212@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Currently vacant –.....The President and V. President  
are filling in until the next treasurer is chosen

**Visit the PPERRIA Office, at the corner of Arthur and University Avenues**

Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm

Come in and browse the wall exhibits showing the current Master Plan layouts

*(If you have questions or want further details – call project manager Brian Golberg at 612.710.2860)*

## Notes from the President

It is budget time again as we prepare for PPERRIA's annual meeting in April. You may recall that we recently received *Citizen Participation Program* funds from the Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR).

It's about \$40,000 per year, and it replaces staff support funding we were getting from NRP (which no longer exists), as well as new program funding we used in hiring neighborhood consultants. [Steve Cross (PPERRIA past president) reestablished neighborhood block clubs, and Jim Widder firmed up relationships with neighborhood businesses.] The funding also supported the Prospect Park 2020 project, PPERRIA's effort to shape new development in the area along our section of the light rail corridor.

The City tells us this funding will continue as 3-year block grants. Nevertheless we can't depend on it since, as a new City program, it could change in coming years.

And that brings us to the PPERRIA budget. Income has traditionally been both from member donations and City support. The split had been about 60% donations and 40% City. This year it was closer to 15% and 85% respectively.

***This means that residents and businesses now have relatively less invested in our neighborhood destiny.***

Grant funds (City) primarily support ongoing tasks. They do not allow for building reserve funds for unexpected situations. For example, the recently constructed sound wall on I-94 has caused serious problems for residents. PPERRIA will likely incur major expenses in getting any fair mediation.

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We will address this issue at the PPERRIA Annual Meeting on April 23rd, where we will announce the kick-off of a *Neighborhood Investment Fund* to raise the money for building a reserve fund. The goal is to give us the resources for realizing our long-term vision for the neighborhood. This fund will allow us to have "skin in the game," and not simply be the victim of outside forces.

We have seen this principle at play in this year's efforts at directing development around the Prospect Park LRT station. The Prospect Park 2020 project got \$60,000 in funding for hiring consultants and for playing a proactive role because PPERRIA put up \$5000 from its reserve funds as a part of the grant application. Here's an example of how reserve funds can be leveraged – and it has worked:

- As a direct result of PPERRIA's efforts, the Textile Center elected not only to stay in the neighborhood, but also to undertake a major expansion in the station area.
- Cornerstone Developers, who share PPERRIA's vision for new development, recently acquired control of a major site next to the new station.

Prospect Park has a reputation for being a great place to live – for being an active neighborhood that works together to make a difference. PPERRIA has been effective over the years solely as a volunteer organization. Today, however, situations tend to evolve quickly and with more complexity. It is now more than ever necessary to rely on professional consultants for defining neighborhood interests and for advocating to local government and developers. Short of setting up a PPERRIA office with a regular staff, we must give our volunteer organization of committees and task groups the capacity to employ professional help when it is needed.

The *Neighborhood Investment Fund* will be a 2- or 3-year campaign to raise a significant reserve fund. It will offer opportunities to invest through both pledges and donations. The emphasis will be on participation – at every level – to attain maximum buy-in from residents and businesses for the sake of our future.

.....Dick Poppele

# PPERIA Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2012, Prospect Park United Methodist Church

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Senator Kari Dziedzic gives update on I-94 sound wall**
- **Update on Light Rail construction along University Avenue**
- **Walkability Survey distributed**
- **Board votes to oppose State marriage amendment**

The monthly meeting of the Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association was called to order by President Dick Poppele at 7:04 PM. He thanked Betts Zerby for providing brownies, cookies and fruit for refreshments.

Guests in attendance included Aaron DuBois (*The Minnesota Daily*), Jay Gabler (*Twin Cities Daily Planet*), Anne White (District Councils Collaborative), and Kari Dziedzic (our new state senator).

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present. Unless otherwise noted, a separate Board vote was not taken on issues on which the membership voted. Unanimous votes of the membership can be considered a vote of the full Board of Directors when a quorum of the Board is present.

The agenda was approved as published.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved with one spelling change.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

## UPDATE ON SOUND WALL

Kari Dziedzic, our new state senator from Senate District 59, introduced herself. She won office in a January special election to replace Larry Pogemiller. Dziedzic said she sits on Senate committees on the environment and jobs/economic development and on a subcommittee on government reform. In response to neighborhood complaints that the new sound wall along the south side of Interstate 94 has increased the level of noise in the hill area of Prospect Park, Kari said she has driven and walked along several local sound walls and has traded emails and phone calls to MnDoT on the subject. The State Patrol has monitored speeds along the Prospect Park section of I-94. It is hoped that if traffic speeds can be reduced, the sound level will also be reduced. Some large trucks are down-shifting to avoid using their brakes and this down-shifting of gears is noisy. Kari reported that MnDoT has agreed to send representatives to a meeting with some people from Prospect Park. Bob Sikora volunteered to coordinate this meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Kilton said the annual Earth Day River Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 21. Volunteers should come to the Franklin Avenue bridge/East River Road intersection at 9:30 AM.

John Orrison said that summer concerts will be held June 20, July 17 and August 14. He said the concert series would be requesting financial support from PPERIA, as usual.

Jay Gabler, the associate editor of the "Twin Cities Daily Planet," introduced himself. The "Daily Planet" is a non-profit online news source covering the Twin Cities. The link for news of the University district is <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/universitydistrictnews>. A free email newsletter covering the University district will be sent out every two weeks. Prospect Park residents are encouraged to subscribe to this service and also to contribute to it. Jay encouraged members to "share what you know about your neighborhood with us." Andy Mickel said there is an icon on the PPERIA website that goes to the "Daily Planet" website. John Cushing said that several photographers in Prospect Park are each taking one photograph per day in the Park this year.

## UPDATE ON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

Jessica Hill from the Central Corridor Project Office gave a PowerPoint presentation on the schedule for the 2012 construction of the LRT line as it passes through Prospect Park. New construction will begin March 1 unless there is a blizzard before then. Jessica introduced Charlene Zimmer, who works with Ames-McCrosson, the contractor for the Minneapolis side of the LRT line. Most construction on the Central Corridor will be finished in 2012. The year 2013 will see testing and the line will open for passengers in 2014.

Phase 1 of construction will take place on the north side of University Avenue, Phase 2 on the south side. The small parking lot in front of Overflow Coffee will be closed permanently. The parking lot off 4<sup>th</sup> Street will stay open through construction.

Each business along the Central Corridor has been given an "access map" can be posted on a website and/or handed out in paper form. Gravel paths across construction areas will provide access for businesses and residents. The Construction Hotline is (651) 602-1404. Jessica encouraged PP residents to use this hotline and/or take photos of trucks

that are parked where they shouldn't be during the LRT construction. Jessica's presentation from January is posted on the PPERRIA website and her presentation from tonight's meeting will also be posted there.

During LRT construction the U of M Transit way will be completely repaved and bike traffic encouraged.

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

Gary Braley of Meals on Wheels left literature on the program. Meals on Wheels is a nation-wide program, with each local community running its own operations. On December 1, 2011, programs in Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis merged. Meals for both neighborhoods are now distributed out of an office at Lowry and Central. About 120 to 160 meals are delivered each day. All drivers are volunteers. Gary encouraged PPERRIA members to encourage their neighbors and friends who are homebound seniors to apply to receive meals by calling (612) 789-6548.

### **WALKABILITY SURVEY**

Phil Anderson, who is PPERRIA's representative to the District Councils Collaborative, said that the DCC started in March 2006 and now includes 13 member neighborhoods in St. Paul and Minneapolis along the Central Corridor LRT line. Its purpose is to facilitate community involvement. One of its achievements has been to get three stations added to the line, at Western, Victoria, and Hamline. The DCC has also advocated for pedestrian-friendly design for the line and the stations. The DCC is now conducting listening sessions for neighbors along the line.

Anne White passed out a draft of a walkability survey which is in the development process. Some of the walking routes to the LRT stations are rather treacherous and the DCC wants to correct this situation. On May 6, the DCC wants to get 100 people to walk to each LRT station in or near Prospect Park (the 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue station and the Westgate station), in groups, discussing things they see along the route. Such walking-talking groups have been dubbed "Jane's Walks" in honor of Jane Jacobs, the famous urban-planning guru. The DCC hopes that these walks and the surveys will help to set priorities to make repairs and improvements to walking routes to the stations. John Wicks asked if the two cities had committed any money to making improvements. Anne said that they had not yet done so, but both Minneapolis and St. Paul want to get lists of priorities and get people in their communities enthused about walking. John O. asked if copies of the final report would come to the neighborhoods along the line and Anne said they would. John O. said that people of all ages should be encouraged to participate in the survey. John DeWitt said that most of Prospect Park is a very walkable community, but that crossing University Avenue on foot (as will be required for almost all PP residents to get to the stations) is a big problem.

### **STATEMENT of OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL TRANSIT BILL**

At the meeting of the PPERRIA Executive Committee on February 13, the following resolution was passed: "The Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association strongly opposes the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee proposal to divert \$25 billion in dedicated fuels tax revenues from the Mass Transit Account. This represents nearly 50 percent of the federal investment in public transit authorized by the House surface transportation bill. This drastic change will clearly put public transportation projects at risk. This proposal seeks to undo nearly 30 years of overwhelming bipartisan support for dedicated federal investment in public transit. PPERRIA calls on Congress to continue the long-standing highway and public transit financing partnership in place today so that our country can continue to create American jobs and foster economic growth, as well as rebuild our aging infrastructure and meet the growing demand for improved and expanded transportation." A letter, signed by President Dick Poppele, on behalf of the PPERRIA Executive Committee, was sent to U.S. representative Keith Ellison, urging him to vote against the House proposal.

### **RESOLUTION on PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MINNESOTA STATE CONSTITUTION**

Steve Cross and Paul Zerby drafted the following resolution regarding the so-called "Marriage Amendment" to the Minnesota Constitution: "Whereas, in November, 2012, the people will vote on a proposal to amend the Minnesota State Constitution to say that: 'Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.' And whereas, among the specific purposes of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association (PPERRIA), as stated in its Bylaws, is to promote 'the health, safety and general welfare of the residents within the association's geographic jurisdiction;' And whereas, PPERRIA stands in support of our neighbors, friends and families who would be adversely affected by passage of this change to the Minnesota State Constitution; Now therefore, be it resolved, that PPERRIA opposes the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment. And be it further resolved, that the President and Secretary of PPERRIA are authorized and directed to send copies of this resolution to whatever individuals and organizations they deem useful in defeating said proposal to amend the Minnesota Constitution."

Dick P. said that a Board vote would be taken on this resolution but the vote would be taken by paper ballot, not by show of hands.

Tom Kilton said he supports PPERRIA's efforts to inform citizens about important issues but that members had only heard one side of this issue. Tony Garmers said that if an issue was sufficiently divisive as to require a secret ballot,

perhaps we should not be involved in it. He said that “amendments to the Constitution are also a lousy way to budget.” Paul Z. said that what we are voting on is a clarification of the resolution adopted last month. Karen Murdock read the section of last month’s minutes which dealt with the discussion on this amendment. The resolution, which was passed in January by both a membership vote and a Board vote, read as follows: “PPERRIA takes a position opposing the denial of civil rights to gay and lesbian citizens.” Lois Willand said that PPERRIA should spend its time discussing things that are clearly neighborhood issues. Steve C. said that the PPERRIA bylaws state that we are concerned with the “general welfare” of neighborhood residents and the proposed marriage amendment affects the welfare of some Prospect Park residents.

Paul Z. said that the PP neighborhood is remarkable and that “there is no place better to live, period.” He said that a neighborhood is its people and the people of PP are intelligent, informed, and diverse. He urged the Board to vote in favor of the proposed resolution “out of simple human dignity” and to show that we are a welcoming neighborhood. Betts Z. said she thought this was “an inappropriate thing for the organization to be doing.” David Coats said that “we represent the people in the neighborhood” and that many entities in the city, such as churches, are taking stands on the marriage amendment issue. Dick P. said that if Board members felt that the organization should not be discussing the issue at all, they should vote “no” on the ballot.

Paper ballots were collected from members of the Board (each “joint member” such as married couples only got one vote). The resolution passed on a vote of 19 to 6, with one abstention. A quorum of the Board is 20 members, so this vote can be considered a Board vote.

## **PPERRIA COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Zoning and Land Use Committee** – John Wicks said that the Committee met on February 21. Its rules of procedure are “close to a resolution.” A plan has been presented for development of the Huron/Washington/University site (currently occupied by Arby’s). The proposal is for a student housing project of 1200 bedrooms, with 30,000 square feet of retail on the ground floor. The developers are seeking a parking variance from the required ½ off-street parking space per bedroom down to 3/10ths of a space per bedroom. A subcommittee of the Zoning Committee consisting of Dick Gilyard, Clay Lambert, Dick Brownlee and John Wicks has been formed to look at this proposed project. The Profile Center has applied for a “Class B” liquor license (permitting live entertainment). The “maximum occupancy limits” for single-family houses will be discussed at a meeting with Cam Gordon next month. Dick G. expressed an interest in forming a Housing Committee.

**Historic District Committee** – Joe Ring said that Charlene Roise of Hess Roise and Co. has prepared a chart comparing Prospect Park to several other neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Cam Gordon said he met with Diane Hofstede (Ward 3) and is convinced that the city does have the authority to create conservation districts but that doing so is “going to be a long process.”

**Master Plan and Transit Committee** – Dick Gilyard said that the three types of parking crucial to the neighborhood are residential, commercial and University-related. Prospect Park 2020 is seeking ongoing funding. The American Craft Council is considering relocating to this area.

**Organizational Development Committee** – Dick P. said the committee is trying to build up a “reserve fund” of money that could be used by PPERRIA to address issues as they arise. For example, if PPERRIA had such a fund, a sound engineer could be hired to address the sound wall issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The PPERRIA Annual Meeting will be held April 23 in the Profile Center. Dick P. is seeking volunteers to organize this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Murdock, PPERRIA Secretary

**<http://pperr.org>**

Have you visited our PPERRIA Website lately? We benefit from the work of some very bright volunteers, led by our venerable WebMaster Andy Mickel. While on the subject, the Website could use more photos. Andy says: Submit them on CDs, flashdrives, or other device amenable to electronic transfer.

## PPERRIA SCHE DULE OF NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

(Formerly known as “the PPERRIA Neighborhood Calendar”)

*To include items in the PPERRIA schedule, contact Joyce Barta by **Wed, April 4<sup>th</sup>** at [bartajm@yahoo.com](mailto:bartajm@yahoo.com) or 612-859-4960*

**Communications Committee meetings:** Thursdays, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church – Call Lois Willand at 378-9697.

**PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership meetings:** Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church – Call Dick Poppele at 378-9242. The PPERRIA Annual meeting is Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Administration Committee meetings:** Usually the first Thursday of the month, but the next meeting will be Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE – Call Christina Larson at 651-329-2784

**Organizational Development Committee meetings (Tentative):** Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE – Call Dick Poppele 378-9242.

**PPERRIA Executive Committee meetings:** Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE – Call President Dick Poppele at 378-9242.

**Garden Club Potluck meetings:** Wednesdays, March 28<sup>th</sup> (at the home of Jean Bauer, 209 Bedford Street SE, 379-7380), and April 25<sup>th</sup> (at the home of Martha Joy and John Cushing, 17 Seymour, 379-4757), 6:30pm.

**Glendale Residents Council meeting:** Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm. Luxton Park – Contact Henry Keshi, [keshi@minn.net](mailto:keshi@minn.net).

**Zoning & Planning Committee meeting (Tentative):** Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE – Contact Dick Brownlee at 339-2472.

“Do more than belong: participate.” .....*William Arthur Ward*

COMING IN APRIL

The PPERRIA Annual Meeting April 23rd – Details in the April NEWS

## PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs

Administration	Christina Larson	larsonchristina@gmail.com	651-329-2784
Executive	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu	378-9242
Historic District	Joe Ring	joering@tds.net	379-4587
Master Planning	Dick Gilyard	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net	362-8995
Membership and Communication	Betts Zerby, Co-chair Lois Willand, Co-chair	ejzerby@yahoo.com loiswilland@gmail.com	379-8095 378-9697
Organizational Development			
Transit	John DeWitt	jdewitt@comcast.net	338-1871
Zoning & Land Use	Dick Brownlee	dickbrownl@mac.com	339-2472

### Other PPERRIA Committees and Task Groups

4 <sup>th</sup> Street, and LRT Const. Communcation	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net	378-9429
Luxton Book Exchange	Meredith Poppele	mbpopp@comcast.net	378 9242
Motley Crew	Rebekah Lorence	rlorance@mm.com	331-2464
Prospect Park LRT Area Plan	Dick Gilyard John DeWitt Dick Poppele	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net jdewitt@comcast.net dick@umn.edu	362-8995 338-1871 378-9242
Community Events	Marybeth Luing	mb.luing@gmail.com	507-581-0836
Community and River Gorge Cleanup	Tom Kilton	tom.kilton.b1cw@statefarm.com	339-3064
History Project	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
Landscape, Garden Club	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@usiwireless.com	379-7436
Landscape Subcommittee: Tree Health Project	Paula Denman	pjdenman@comcast.net	338-1871

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

Education & Human Services	Contact: Jerry Stein or Chuck Holtman
Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG)	Greg Bernstein, John Kari (Alt.)
Southeast Minneapolis Committee on Learning (SEMCOL)	Susan Gottlieb
District Councils Collaborative (DCC)	Phil Anderson
University District Partnership Alliance	Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard, Alternates: John Kari and Julie Wallace

PPERRIA NEWS welcomes the *TWIN CITIES DAILY PLANET* to the media mix for our neighborhood. Their sub head is "Local News For Global Citizens." You will find their coverage of the University District Neighborhoods at:

<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/universitydistrictnews>

There you'll also find links to their home page and other valuable resources. Make a habit of checking it out.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING RESOURCE FAIR**

**“Nourishing Neighborhoods – Connecting Communities”**

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Neighborhood House, 179 Robie Street, St. Paul 55107

Complete agenda at [www.gardeningmatters.org](http://www.gardeningmatters.org).

Come hear Karen Washington, President of the NYC Community Gardening Coalition talk about her work advocating for New York City community gardens and working in unity. The keynote will be followed by a panel highlighting how local garden projects create community solidarity.

- spoken word • Aztec dance • workshops on gardening and urban farming •
- exhibit tables • and more•

With an emphasis on bringing together community gardeners from across the Twin Cities metro area to encourage shared learning and increased connection. All of it contributing to community garden sustainability.

*Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, and sponsored by Mississippi Market Natural Foods Coop, City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, and other grassroots community partners.*

.....Kara Rud, Gardening Matters

**FREE ARCHITECT CONSULTATIONS**

**Saturday, March 31, at Van Cleve Community Center, 901 15th Ave. SE,**

The University District Alliance will sponsor a free Architect Day on Saturday, March 31, at Van Cleve Community Center for homeowners in Alliance neighborhoods – Como, Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park, and Cedar-Riverside. One-hour consultations will be available with architects, landscape architects, and contractors, to discuss remodeling and landscaping ideas for upgrading homesteaded property.

Consultations will be by appointment only. The registration form and further information can be found at <http://architectday.eventbrite.com/> . This link is on the PPERRIA web page. Reservations are going fast but check the site for possible availability.

.....Julie Wallace



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>***

***CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED***



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***FYI:*** A reminder – The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board decree that the 2012 Earth Day Clean Up will be **Saturday, April 21st, 9:30am to noon**, at more than 40 parks throughout Minneapolis. Our site for this 18th annual cleanup is **East River Parkway and Franklin Avenue**. Join us with your friends and family for a morning of serving the community.

No pre-registration required. This involves picking up trash (gloves and bags provided) in Minneapolis Parks and watersheds. Last year more than 3200 volunteers removed 17,000 pounds of trash during that one day.

The day – beginning with coffee, juice, donuts and bagels – ends about 11:30am with pizza and pop. For more information check [pperr.org/annual](http://pperr.org/annual) events

Tom Kilton 612-339-3064.

***And Remember:***  
***What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today***