

Sep, 2000 PPERRIA Newsletter



- 2* Minutes of the July 24 PPERRIA Meeting - Dan Patenaude
- 5* How Can We Make Monthly Meetings Even Better?
- Harrison Nelson
- 5* New Treasurer To Be Elected - Steve Cross
- 5* Southeast Way to Grow Kindergarten Zone - Robin Fisher
- 6* CUE Awards Nominations Accepted Now - Susan Gottlieb
- 6* Final Punchlist on New Lighting Prepared - H. Nelson
- 6* Reminder About Paying Lighting Special Assessment
- Susan Gottlieb
- 7* PPERRIA Membership Approaches Record Levels
- Andy Mickel and Cheryl Vollhaber
- 7* Prospect Park Neighborhood Association - Steve Cross
- 7* September, 2000 PPERRIA NRP Contractor Activities
Report - Susan Gottlieb
- 8* Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

Editor's Note: To add any news or info to the next newsletter, contact me at 331-8396 and either E-mail me at andym@mr.net or provide content on floppy disk using nearly

any Mac, UNIX or Wintel text format. - Andy Mickel

Note from the President

Dear PPERRIA members and PPERR neighbors,

At this month's meeting we will be electing a new treasurer. Several important informational items are on the agenda. It also looks as if we will have the first of what may turn out to be several debates in the coming years about LRT through the neighborhood. In October, we hope to hear a progress report on preparations for NRP II. It is possible that actual work may begin on NRP II as early as next January.

We also have some exciting news that it looks as if the Panelcraft Building on University Avenue will be bought by the Textile Center. It will provide a home for people all over the metropolitan area who do quilting, weaving, and other textile arts.

We hope you'll come to all the Fall meetings.

Thanks, Steve Cross

PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting Notice and Agenda

Our September PPERRIA Meeting is Monday, the 25th, 7 p.m.

at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church (ground floor) SE Malcolm @ SE Orlin Aves.

1. Welcome.
2. Approve agenda/last meeting's minutes.
3. Presentations/Informational items.
4. Motions for Consideration:

Decision	Development of ground rules for even better meetings.
Decision	Nomination of new Treasurer.
Information	Update on Unocal Housing Development Project
Information	Update on Light Rail Transit (by councilmember Campbell)

5. New/Old Business. 6. Meeting Evaluation 7. Adjourn.

PPERRIA Committees and Chairs

Community Events	Lois Willand	378-9697
East River Gorge Park	Tom Kilton	339-3064
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	331-8819
Environment	Bill Kahn	378-5287
Executive	Steve Cross	376-0094
Glendale/Prospect Park	Jerry Stein	623-0588
History Project	Florence Littman	331-2970
Holiday Cards	Mary Alice Kopf	379-7436
Housing:		
Co-liaisons Housing	Florence Littman	331-2970
	Sally Bell	623-0390
Housing Improvement	Andy Mickel	331-8396
Fourth Street Housing	Mike & Mary Huss	379-3362
Unocal Oil Housing	Dean Lund	378-2486
Landscape	Karen Murdock	340-1338
Membership	Dan Patenaude	378-3038
Safety & Security	Harrison Nelson	378-5377
Tower Hill Park	Susan Thrash	379-4587
Transportation	Eleanor Montgomery	378-2714
Zoning & Plan Review	Florence Littman	331-2970

Minutes of July 24 PPERRIA Meeting - Dan Patenaude

1. The 7/24/2000 Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association Inc. (PPERRIA) Board of Directors/Membership/Neighborhood (B/M/N) meeting was called to order by Steve Cross, PPERRIA President, at 7 PM at the Prospect Park United Methodist church (PPUMC), Orlin/Malcolm SE. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present. Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: "To accept the agenda as available at the meeting." See attached. There were no additions and/or corrections to the agenda.
2. The report by our Minneapolis Police SAFE unit was tabled to the next PPERRIA B/M/N meeting.
3. Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: "To accept the minutes of the 6/26/2000 PPERRIA B/M/N meeting as published in the July 2000 PPERRIA Newsletter."
4. Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: "That PPERRIA supports the closing of Malcolm Avenue SE between Sidney Place SE and Orlin Avenue SE by the Minneapolis School's during public school days at Pratt School for recess, estimated one hour per school day during recess. The Minneapolis Public Schools will be responsible for the closing." Susan Larson-Fleming, PPERRIA/NRP Education and Human Services Committee Co-Chair, reviewed the request by the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) for PPERRIA's support. Council Member Joan Campbell supports the request. MPS is in discussion with the Minneapolis Traffic Department

regarding the issue and all implementation issues. As there is no scheduled PPERRIA B/M/N meeting in August 2000 and school starts in early September 2000, before the scheduled September 2000 PPERRIA B/M/N meeting, it is necessary to present this issue at the July 2000 PPERRIA B/M/N meeting with the understanding that any unresolved items and/or unexpected issues will be dealt with by the PPERRIA Executive Committee and presented at the next scheduled PPERRIA B/M/N meeting. The temporary closing of this part of a neighborhood street has been talked through several times in previous years. There were discussions about the public school at Pratt, including the use of Tower Hill as additional recess space. There is likely approval of this issue by the Minneapolis City Council as, in 1974, the City Council passed a motion of support of this specific street closing issue. Parts of neighborhood streets have been temporary closed in the past: i.e. Pratt Ice Cream Social, National Night Out, block parties/concerts, tree trimming, etc. As with most issues, the "devil is in the details" and neighborhood traffic must be addressed as well as those drivers who use Prospect Park as a shortcut. The PPERRIA/NRP Education and Human Services Committee is to review the issue after six months of operation.

5. Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: "To use the remainder of funds in the PPERRIA/NRP Action Plan Housing B.2 (Motley Homebuyers Assistance Loan/Grant Program) to establish a Motley Resident Homeowners Home Improvement Loan/Grant Program) with the following guidelines: A) All remaining funds in the strategy will be used to fund home improvements with an option to accept homebuyer applicants; B) The funds in this strategy will apply only to the Motley area; C) The income limit for eligibility is up to 90% of the Minneapolis median income; D) Only owner-occupied, pre-1940 houses in the Motley area will be eligible. E) Home improvement loan/grants will range from \$1,000 minimum to \$5,000 maximum per property; F) No owner match will be required for the loan/grants; G) Eligible types of improvement to be financed include interior and/or exterior; H) Ineligible types of improvements to be financed include Jacuzzi, swimming pools, sauna, greenhouse, etc.; I) Work is permitted by owner/occupant (sweat-equity); J. Terms of repayment of loan/grant are identical to the homebuyers loan/grant: a graduated forgiveness if the homeowner resides at least 3-7 years from loan/grant issuance date and 100% grant after 7 full years from loan/grant issuance date by the individual(s) who signed for the loan/grant. The loan/grants are not transferable from the original loan/grant recipient; K) PPERRIA's responsibility will be to select a loan/grant program administrator (to be determined through a request for proposal process in late Summer/Fall 2000). Loan/grant administrator's responsibility will be to administer the program, select loan/grant recipients (by means determined by PPERRIA, will suggest using a beginning and end date for submission of applications and then a random lottery system), monitor compliance, etc.; L) Estimated funds available for the program (after payment of administrative fees on a per-loan/grant basis) are: \$60,000 to \$63,000." Andy Mickel, PPERRIA Housing Improvement Committee Chair, provided copies of the motion and spoke to the motion. This is the only strategy of the PPERRIA/NRP that addresses the over-riding issue (housing) in the Motley Neighborhood. There were no home improvement strategies included in the current PPERRIA/NRP Action Plan. The original owner/occupant purchase program has not worked primarily due to the non-cooperation of the large land owners in Motley as properties have been put up for sale by these land owners. There are a few owner-occupied properties in the neighborhood that are not for sale. An amended motion was presented to assist these owner-occupied properties and remain in their properties. It was felt that if a property was homesteaded, it would be eligible for consideration of a loan/grant, although this issue needs to be further thought through; B) It was asked if this program is fiscally responsible due to the limited resources and would it achieve its goals? C) It was expressed that PPERRIA is a neighborhood organization and this program is unfair to the whole neighborhood by being limited only to Motley; D) It was asked, if the owner/occupant purchase program failed, will this not also fail? E) An owner/occupant of Prospect Park indicated that they were told that it was crazy to over-improve their property, but soon at least four other neighbors had started improvements: F) If we do not take care of the edges, there will not be a center; G) Council Member Campbell reported that Como, Seward, and Marcy Holmes have similar programs. Amendments that passed were: a) No scale for loan/grant, use loan up to seven years and grant after seven years; b) To call question and close debate. Amendment that did not pass was: Limit each property to a maximum of \$5000 for purchase and/or improvement.

6. Announcements: Remember National Night Out, 8/1/2000-the first Tuesday in August; the Pratt Boot Sale, 9/16/2000 and the deadline of 7/31/2000 for nominations for CUE awards (Committee on Urban Environment). Information available at sign in table. Kimberly Rowe, Community Presentation Program/Hennepin County

Health Department, reviewed information available at the meeting regarding all types of substance abuse. Alcohol being the one that most affects the near neighbors. Also reviewed were the "party house" policies of the Minneapolis Police Department and the recently adopted PPERRIA Policies. Info available at the sign up table.

7. Florence Littman, PPERRIA Zoning Committee Chair, reviewed the impact of the recent change of meeting dates by the Minneapolis City Council Planning and Zoning Committees which now meets on the same date as the PPERRIA Executive Committee and PPERRIA B/M/N meeting; on how PPERRIA considers an issue: PPERRIA Committee review/recommendation; PPERRIA Executive Committee review/recommendation and PPERRIA B/M/N review/decision. The city meeting date change could not permit timely consideration of an issue. The current meeting dates of the Executive Committee and B/M/N meeting were chosen long ago to minimize conflict with other relevant meeting dates and have been long used by all in establishing individual calendars. Rather than change the current PPERRIA meeting dates, 2nd and 4th Mondays, the PPERRIA Zoning Committee will review alternate ways for timely resolution of issues affected by the city meeting date change: i.e. request an earlier agenda, Council Member request to postpone, alternate internal consideration by PPERRIA, see ~~agenda~~

Florence Littman, PPERRIA Zoning Committee Chair, reviewed the items before the PPERRIA Zoning committee since the last PPERRIA B/M/N meeting: A) Supported was a request for a variance required for a bay window. The neighbors did not object; B) Supported was a conditional use permit by Affinity Plus (aka State Capitol Credit Union) (University Avenue SE and 25th Avenue SE) for parking on a lot south of their recently constructed building. Affinity Plus will purchase the lot and use it for overflow parking by themselves and the motel to the west. Although Affinity does not now need all 42 parking spaces, the current owner will not subdivide the lot and Affinity must buy the lot as is. C) The Ronald MacDonald House (Oak St. SE and East River Road SE) has purchased three houses adjacent to their campus and will remove the houses and use the lots for surface parking. It is PPERRIA's position not to support surface parking if housing is removed from the lots. PPERRIA, along with the city, has been unable able to persuade Ronald MacDonald to revise their parking plans to include underground parking. D) The question of the Hubbard (KSTP) site (north of the present campus and up to the University of Minnesota Transitway) that was to be used for Hubbard expansion no longer planned needs to be discussed. In addition to a proposed use this site also has earlier been indicated as possible for use in the light rail proposals. Council Member Joan Campbell reported that she is on the Central Corridor Transit Management Group and they have scheduled meetings regarding this issue for 9/2000. It was recommended that PPERRIA consider updating its position on this issue and publish the position. Campbell indicated that she will invite KSTP to update the neighborhood on their plans, etc. at the 9/2000 PPERRIA B/M/N meeting.

9. Susan Gottlieb, PPERRIA/NRP Coordinator, reviewed the July 2000 PPERRIA/NRP Contractor activities as published in the July 2000 PPERRIA Newsletter. Contractor billing: Susan Gottlieb, 6/10/2000 to 7/7/2000 for \$328.00. Remaining for contractor billing is \$2,423.89.

10. Old business: A) Susan Thrash, PPERRIA Tower Hill Park Committee Co-Chair, provided copies of that committee's 7/2000 report. It is her intent to have a written report available at each PPERRIA B/M/N meeting. Of specific concern is the talk of development by both private and city, of the Franklin/Emerald common boundary of Minneapolis/St. Paul and Prospect Park. If necessary, an environmental impact study would be requested if there are federal funds involved. The ongoing historic district feasibility study would permit the study request. B) During the repair of I-94 it has been noticed that there is significant noise reduction when the lanes are under repair. This is being added to the ongoing report and request for noise walls on the south side of I-94. C) Motion made, seconded and passed with some noes: "That the President of PPERRIA send a letter to the City of Minneapolis that the city be sure the installation of the sidewalk lighting be in agreement with the specifications indicated in the contract with the city and NSP." Several concerns about the current lights were talked about at length. It was requested that concerns and/or comments should be written and sent to the PPERRIA/NRP Safety and Security Committee, Harrison Nelson, Chair, 1827 Franklin Ave SE or <Hnelson@techarchgroup.com> It was also pointed out that the installation is not complete due to weather and lack of electricians and that the city has comprehensive policies and procedures that are followed before there are payments on contracts.

New business: 1) Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: That the PPERRIA President send to KSTP that on two recent occasions, 5 am outside music and helicopter flying over the neighborhood, KSTP has been a less than neighborly neighbor." 2) Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: To refer to the PPERRIA Executive Committee the request by Paul Scheurer the issue of the refinancing of the Motley Student Cooperative

at 635 Erie Street SE as the property has received funding from the PPERRIA/NRP Motley Housing Loan/Grant program and to make a recommendation at the 9/2000 PPERRIA B/M/N meeting".

Motion made, seconded and passed without noes: "To adjourn". Daniel Patenaude, PPERRIA Secretary. Comments and/or corrections to 117 Arthur Avenue SE or marko001@po.metrostate.edu

How Can We Make Monthly Meetings Even Better? - Harrison Nelson

We're looking for ideas on ways to improve PPERRIA meetings.

In what ways do we want to improve meetings?

The answer is in *any* way.

The intent is to adopt some special rules of the day for each of the next several monthly meetings. The rules will only be effective for that meeting so if we decide that we don't like the result, we won't renew them at the next meeting. But, if we do like the result, then those rules we do like will be made permanent rules after the few months of experiment. One of the rules that will be definitely proposed is to add a new item as the last item on the agenda for each meeting. That will be an item called "Meeting Evaluation." It will only last a few minutes but it will be an important few minutes. People will say what they liked about the meeting and what they disliked. With that knowledge, we should be able to repeat the thing that people like and avoid the things that people dislike. So, if you've got ideas on how the meetings can be even better, then call Harrison Nelson at 378-5377.

New Treasurer To Be Elected - Steve Cross

In the last newsletter we said that we needed someone to take over the treasurer's position. It is very good news to announce that we not only have multiple volunteers for the work but that we have some extraordinary people to do the work.

Lois Willand will be nominated as the new treasurer. She will serve from October 1st, when Dave Anderson's resignation becomes effective. At the next board and membership meeting we will go through the nomination ~~and~~ election process.

We also have an informal interim process to deal with the treasury. Lois Willand and Patti Harper are together serving as interim treasurer. Patti operates her own bookkeeping service. She will help Lois on the transition of work from Dave to her. We've also asked her to ensure that we have a good system for providing the Executive Committee with monthly information on the state of the treasury. We expect that when Lois takes ownership of the treasury, everything will be in apple-pie order.

Southeast Way to Grow Kindergarten Zone - Robin Fisher

Southeast Way To Grow is once again running Kindergarten Zone. This is a program open to all Southeast area children beginning Kindergarten this fall who have not had a preschool experience. Kindergarten Zone runs August 21-25 from 9:00-11:30am at Tuttle School, 1042 18th Avenue SE. Children will learn about Kindergarten routines, expectations, and the city they live in during this fun program. This full-week introduction to Kindergarten is taught by an experienced Minneapolis Public Schools Kindergarten teacher and includes a practice bus ride, enrichment topics for parents, and a free backpack and school supplies. Transportation to and from the

program is available and some parent involvement is requested. Kindergarten Zone is free and open to the public, but advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Southeast Way To Grow at 617-1163. - Robin Fisher

CUE Awards Nominations Accepted Now - Susan Gottlieb

The Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) is once again accepting nominations for the 2000 CUE Awards. Awards are given for significant achievement in urban, architectural, or environmental design, historic preservation, streetscape beautification, neighborhood improvement, parks and open spaces and public art. If you know of a project which qualifies, call 673-3014 for a nomination form, or E-mail: CUE@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Final Punchlist on New Lighting Is Being Prepared - Harrison Nelson

A light-by-light inspection is now going on in the neighborhood on the new streetlights. Some checks take place in the daytime and some at night. The purpose is to find anything that needs fixing before the project is completed and the contractor paid. We had indicated before that the contractor was trying to ferret out problems and fix them but the check by the people in the neighborhood would come. *Now* is that time. Anyone aware of any problems that need fixing should call:

Harrison Nelson (Safety and Security Committee Chair) at 378-5377.

Joan Campbell (City Council Member) at 673-2202, or

John Hotvet (City Traffic Coordinator) at 673-5750. (Note: that is a new number for John Hotvet.)

Obviously, we already know of fixes needed, but we'd rather get duplicate information than miss anything.

There is one area that the inspectors are unlikely to find and everyone's help is needed. That is on finding any lights that are "cycling." That means the light is on for some period of time then are off for some period of time. If you are aware of any lights doing that, please call your report in to any of the people listed above.

The external lenses causing light "streaking" will be changed out at city expense and, hopefully, soon. Any delay will be due to the time spent determining the appropriate change for to achieve best light projection. One kind of change will be tested in the neighborhood adjacent to Franklin Ave. Call Harrison or John to find out exactly where and tell him what your reactions are.

There are concerns in some areas that the lights are too far apart. If you are aware of any such areas, please let any one of the above people know.

We are working with NSP and the city to get the old high-level lights turned off before their removal starts. That will give us an opportunity to see what the effects will be in advance of their permanent .

Reminder About Paying Lighting Special Assessment - Susan Gottlieb

The city tax assessor gave notice of the maximum estimated special assessment for the new lights in the letter from the City Clerk of April 28, 1999, which was sent to every property owner in the Prospect Park lighting area. If you remember, the City Clerk's office gave two options for payment of the special assessment:

1) pay the entire assessment in full (without interest) through December 31, 2000, or

2) if the assessment is not paid in full by that date, it will automatically be added to the real estate tax statement of the property, beginning in 2001, and will be paid in 20 equal yearly installments of principal plus interest. Any assessment of \$125 or less would be collected in full in the year 2001.

If you choose to pay via #1 above, you need to contact the Minneapolis City Engineer's Special Assessment Office, 309 2nd Ave. S., Room 201, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2268 or call 673-2401 and request a bill. Prepayment is made to the Minneapolis Finance Department and must be paid no later than December 31, 2000 to be interest-free. Remember, the amount noted on the letter of 4/28/99 was only a **maximum estimate**. According to the city lighting engineer, the actual assessment is estimated to be somewhat less.

PPERRIA Membership Approaches Record Levels - Andy Mickel and Cheryl Vollhaber

The current membership roster shows 247 households. That compares to 263 households at the end of the last fiscal year on May 1, 2000. Since that was a record number it looks as if we may actually exceed that number by the end of this month. Prior to the recent changes in the bylaws, there was basically one vote per household. So those numbers are an "apples to apples" comparison of our membership numbers.

But the membership was changed by the bylaw amendments so that everyone in a household is considered a member. Using that definition, PPERRIA has 383 voting members. That number is probably a more accurate statement of our effective membership than the old "households."

Prospect Park Neighborhood Association - Steve Cross

We have heard some questions regarding the new Prospect Park Neighborhood Association. One is what is our policy regarding the new organization? The answer is that both on a formal and informal basis, we have no policy. We don't need one.

Can or should PPERRIA members also join PPNA? Again, PPERRIA has no formal or informal policy on what organizations anybody joins. We suspect that people would make up their own minds anyway and resent the fact that we tried to tell them what groups they should or shouldn't join.

Has PPNA forced changes in PPERRIA and at City Hall? On that, we can only remind everyone that some people take credit for the rain in a good crop year.

September 2000 PPERRIA NRP Contractor Activities - Susan Gottlieb

Reporting period: August 7, 2000 through September 8, 2000. Major activities and results:

Supported communication between Housing Committee & city on Bedford Townhomes project		Supported various PPERRIA committees and the Executive Committee	
Worked to implement safety & security sidewalk lighting initiative in neighborhood		Maintained the neighborhood calendar	
Supported production of PPERRIA newsletter		Worked to implement signage in neighborhood	
Expense for contractors' services:	Hours billed	Total expense	% of total contr. Budget
Totals 8/7/00->9/8/00	17.25	\$276.00	.2%
Totals 10/18/95->3/10/00	7,028.10	\$117,438.80*	98.3%
Totals 10/18/95->4/7/00	7,045.35	\$117,714.80*	98.5%

Total PPERRIA NRP budget for independent contractor services = \$119,522.69; \$1,807.89 remains.

*Note: These amounts correspond to Treasurer's Report of 11/9/99.

NOTE: THE ONLY REMAINING CONTRACTORS INCLUDE SUSAN GOTTLIEB AND PAULA DENMAN. THEIR CONTRACTS WILL EXPIRE 10/31/00.

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Tuesday, 7:00 pm September 19	(tentative) Zoning & Planning Comm. meeting at Pros. Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Wednesday, 6-8 pm September 21	Pratt Council meeting at Pratt Community Center (childcare & rides available)	Susan Larson-Fleming 331-8819
Monday, 7:00 pm September 25	PPERRIA Board / Membership meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross 376-0094
Wednesday, 7:30 pm October 4	Luxton Park Council meeting at Luxton Park building	Jim Oberly 379-3397
Tuesday, (note) 7:00 pm October 10	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross 376-0094
Wednesday, 5:00 pm October 11	Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Shirley Davis 342-1965
Tuesday, 7:00 pm October 17	(tentative) Zoning & Planning Comm. meeting at Pros. Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Monday, 7:00 pm October 23	PPERRIA Board / Membership meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross 376-0094

Day and Time	Recurring Community Events	Whom to contact
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1 to 4 pm	Food donations can be dropped off at the Care & Share Food Shelf at 92 St. Mary's	Contact Ginia Klamecki at 331-7056 for options
Tuesdays, 4 - 5 pm 1 st Monday 11:15 am 4 th Wednesday 9:45 am	Bookmobile at Luxton Park Bookmobile at Pratt Community Center Bookmobile at Univ. Good Samaritan Center	Contact Susan Larson-Fleming at 331-8819 for more information
Tuesdays 7:00 pm	Community Choir at PPUMC	Connie Balcom 332-5239

To include items in PPERRIA calendar, contact Susan Gottlieb at 331-2104 by **Friday, October 6, 2000.**

PPERRIA Web Site: <http://tcfreenet.org/org/pperria/>

Prospect Park East River Road
Improvement Association, Inc.
66 SE Malcolm Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612/331-2970 (voice mail)

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Minneapolis, MN Permit No. 2993
--