

PPERRIA News – January 2010

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting
Monday, January 25th
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 go to: bartajm@yahoo.com.
We will make every attempt to meet that need.*

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AGENDA for January 2010

- Historic Neighborhood Designation
A few resolutions
- Zoning and land use
- NRP funds release
- Prospect Park streets resurfacing
- General updates (housing)

Notes from the President

Greetings. I hope your 2010 is off to a great start, albeit with the knowledge that the New Year will bring challenges for our neighborhood.

PPERRIA enters 2010 with over 500 members, the most ever. It represents a significant level of interest in neighborhood issues and was achieved through the hard work of our membership committee, chaired by Betts Zerby. Betts will now chair the committee to nominate members for positions on the Board of Directors, and for a slate of officers for 2010/11. Elections will take place at the annual meeting on the fourth Monday in April.

A first order of business ... is the question of local historic designation

A first order of business for the neighborhood in 2010 is the question of local historic designation. Keep in mind that there are two, separate parts to this:

- Listing on the National Register of Historic Places (still pending till later this year) and,
- Local Historic Designation (to be decided in March)

A PPERRIA task force is currently writing the Design Guidelines that would govern how the City enforces building codes if we were to become a local Historic District. Check the PPERRIA website for details, including a copy of the current draft of the Design Guidelines.

Planning for the future continues as an important part of PPERRIA's agenda and its partnership with the University District Alliance. For example, we now have an opportunity to work with the University and the City to develop a plan for the Motley neighborhood. This is significant because Motley represents a major interface between the University and the Prospect Park neighborhood. It has been a site of community/university tension for decades. These efforts have begun and are promising.

Last summer offered a peek at the future in a workshop set up by the University District Alliance. The themes were *Demographics* – what we will look like as a population in coming years – and *Sustainability* – what is possible and what other communities are doing to create a sustainable environment and save energy. Last month the Alliance sponsored a roundtable in Prospect Park, attended by about 20 residents and business owners, to discuss the workshop and ask how the Alliance can help Prospect Park meet the issues it faces. Pratt School's role in the future of the neighborhood was a major topic of discussion. This touched on Pratt's importance to the community, and the ways in which it can continue to attract students. Plans were set in motion for the University to partner in this endeavor.

Of immediate concern is the University Avenue Corridor. Work on the LRT line has started in St. Paul and we will see LRT-related construction on the University's Minneapolis campus this summer. Final plans are now being prepared for stations and streetscapes in our neighborhood. We can expect that construction to start in 2011.

Meantime, developers will be taking advantage of the opportunities for transit-oriented development. Some has already begun and PPERRIA committees are currently meeting with property owners and potential developers. We're also disseminating the outlines of PPERRIA's Urban Village concept for residential and retail development at the 29th Avenue Station.

Finally, this summer the City will be resurfacing the streets in Prospect Park. These were paved in 1977, and are now on the City's schedule for resurfacing – and some clearly need it. The project will include all of Prospect Park except for the East River Parkway, East River Terrace and the Motley neighborhood. The City will convene a residents' meeting soon, and will announce work schedules later this spring...

.....Dick Poppele

PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2009 Prospect Park United Methodist Church

The November meeting was called to order by President Dick Poppele at 7:03 PM.

There were no new members to introduce. And the agenda was approved with two changes: 1) Bob Sykora is sick and cannot be here to give an update the major renovations going on at his house (1717 Franklin), and 2) John DeWitt will give a report on the Transit Committee.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Steve Ficker amended the section of the minutes on affordable housing. Change “to be used for affordable housing” to “to be used to construct affordable housing.” Change “to encourage affordability” to “to build affordable housing.” David Coats had moved the acceptance of Steve’s motion at the October meeting. His motion was that Steve Ficker’s proposal on affordable housing be adopted “with the exclusion of those projects already encumbered.” Although Steve’s motion passed, there was no Board vote taken on the motion. Dick Poppele said that the issue of affordable housing will be part of the next PPERRIA meeting, which will be held in January (there being no Board meeting in December).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Susan Larson-Fleming announced that she has copies of the “Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning Report to the Neighborhoods 2008—2009.”
- Karen Murdock passed around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer to bring refreshment to the PPERRIA meeting in 2010.
- Joyce Barta announced that 29 members of the PPERRIA Board of Directors were present at the meeting. 27 members must vote in favor of any change to the bylaws of the organization.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (action):

Betts Zerby proposed a change to the PPERRIA bylaws. She passed out copies of the proposed change and the reasons the Membership Committee wants the change: *“Under our current rules, members must submit a completed application form each year to continue their membership. It’s called an ‘Opt-In’ system. Too many unwittingly lose their membership when they fail to submit this annual application form. The membership committee thinks this is a burdensome requirement, especially since we can no longer ask for annual dues. The proposed revision should simplify and increase membership. If approved, to become effective it must be passed before the annual meeting in 2010.”*

The proposed addition to the by-laws submitted by Betts reads as follows:

“C. Membership—Persons shall become members from the next meeting following approval of the completed membership application by the membership committee. The committee shall have no more than 30 days to determine eligibility, grant or deny the application and, if granted, add the name to the PPERRIA membership roster. A membership is effective until a member resigns or moves from the membership eligibility area. (See Art. III A) An annual donation to defray the costs of the organization is requested from members, but is not required.”

Peter LaSha proposed that “to defray the costs” be changed to “to help defray the costs.” Betts accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Andy Mickel asked how PPERRIA would collect money. Betts said this would be up to the Development Committee. Dick P. said there would probably be an annual fundraising drive.

Steve Ficker said that a 30-day waiting period could be used arbitrarily to prevent new members from voting on an issue and that this proviso is “stacked against new members.” Dick P. said this provision is so that the association can check and make sure that new members do live in the Prospect Park neighborhood. A change to the bylaws last year permitted “business membership” for those who own businesses in Prospect Park but do not themselves live here.

A roll-call vote of the Board of Directors was taken on the motion. The motion passed 29-0.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (action):

Susan Larson-Fleming said that a recent change in the way the Minneapolis school district “map” will allow students who live in the Seward neighborhood to attend Pratt. Susan presented the following motion:

The PPERRIA NRP/Education Committee wishes to release \$24,000 of its allocated funds for improvement projects to the Pratt facility.

The money will be used for playground equipment, landscaping, and programming at Pratt. This is not “new” money. The money has already been allocated from NRP-1 for improvements at Pratt. However, PPERRIA rules require that the release of the funds be voted on at a Board of Directors meeting.

The motion passed unanimously and can therefore be considered a Board vote.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORT (information):

Bob Roscoe is chairman of a committee formed several months ago to prepare “design guidelines” for the proposed historic district in the hill area of Prospect Park. The committee includes Roscoe, Dick Gilyard, Mary-Alice Kopf, Richard Adams, Dick Poppele, and Phil Anderson from Prospect Park and Aaron Hanauer of the city of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and Robin Garwood, assistant to Council member Cam Gordon as reps from the city.

Cam Gordon scheduled a meeting held November 20 to discuss the “ultimate guidelines” for the historic district. Those attending this meeting included Cam, Jack Byers (head of the city Heritage Preservation Commission), and members of the design guidelines committee from Prospect Park.

Bob Roscoe presented copies of the draft “Design Guidelines” (Prospect Park Design Principles). He said the major goal was to preserve “character-defining elements” of existing structures. Bob himself served on the HPC for 21 years. He said that, in that time, the HPC received approximately 80 applications per year for proposed changes to buildings in historic districts; of those 80, only about 5 were denied by HPC. The guidelines apply only to the exterior of structures, those things that can be seen from the street.

Any exterior work must be approved by the HPC and Planning Department staff. The homeowner must receive either a “Certificate of No Change” (for minor alterations such as window repair) or a “Certificate of Appropriateness” (for major alterations including new construction) for all exterior work.

David Coats asked about replacement of old windows. Can old double-hung windows with sash weights be replaced with more modern windows? Bob said that the homeowner has a choice in this situation and that several “sash kits” were commercially available to modernize windows.

Aaron H. said that the cost of the “Certificate of No Change” or “Certificate of Appropriateness” depends upon the size of the housing lot. The cost to the homeowner ranges from approximately \$250 to \$775.

Chuck Holtzman asked, “Is the presumption negative?” for homeowners wishing to alter their homes. Bob said that pretty much *all* houses in Prospect Park have undergone some change since they were first constructed. He said additions to houses should be allowed and modern methods of design should be encouraged. “Preservation is not architectural taxidermy,” he added.

Dan Peters said that his chimney is made of old deteriorating “Chicago brick” and that he is having trouble getting a “Certificate of No Change” to replace these old bricks.

Jack Byers said that the city HPC uses national standards from the Secretary of the Interior in determining what materials are appropriate in historic districts.

Peter LaSha pointed out that tastes have changed in housing. From the 1940s to the 1960s, he said, “nobody wanted to live in an old house” that included such features as stained glass windows, and homeowners wanted to remove such things. Nowadays people value these old features.

Florence Littman asked if Prospect Park could adopt its own historic guidelines. Jack B. said that the city would like to cooperate with neighborhoods but that individual neighborhoods cannot override city law.

David Coats asked if photo-voltaic solar panels would be permitted on roofs in the historic district. Bob R. said his committee has not looked at this issue yet but that “sustainability” in design is desirable.

Dick Gilyard added that “accessibility” is also important. Prospect Park has a hilly topography and is facing an aging population; for both of those reasons, ramps will need to be incorporated into existing dwellings. The guidelines should take this into account.

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Susan Larson-Fleming said that Pratt School is a “contributing property” to the historic district and that preserving the building is important. She said that, since 2005, Pratt has been threatened with closure (and possible demolition) three times. She added that the coming of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line threatens properties along University Avenue. Because the LRT line will eliminate on-street parking, some businesses are looking to buy properties one block off University Avenue and demolish them to create parking lots. Pratt is one block off University Avenue.

Clay Lambert, the owner of the Metro Petro service station at 27th and University, recently went through a complete redevelopment of his property, including the demolition of the old building and construction of a brand new building, new gas pumps etc. He said that the process of getting a new building approved by the city was “cumbersome” and asked “is there an appeal process that’s more streamlined?” Bob R. said that decisions of the HPC could be appealed to the City Council. Dick P. said that a permanent standing committee of PPERRIA was envisaged to deal with issues in the historic district and smooth the process of approving changes.

Florence said that one of her neighbors wants to construct a porch on her house. The house originally had a porch but it had been torn down. Would a new porch (restoring the original form of the house) be permitted. Bob said that new additions must be “consistent with the architecture” of the house and that porches are encouraged.

Frank Zaragosa said that, as historic districts were being created, the rest of the city was deteriorating. He said that adding more regulations, such as those necessitated by a historic district, would require adding city staff and thus causing taxes to rise. He said this would encourage residents to leave the city and that the cost of permits, reflecting the cost of bureaucracy, had risen alarmingly in recent years. Bob said that, as he saw things, residents from outside the city (those “identifying themselves with historic structure”) would be attracted to historic districts in Minneapolis. He said that historic districts would attract people from the suburbs to move into the city.

Susan L-F added that “the best thing we can do to keep property values up is to save the school.” She said strong local institutions, including Pratt School, would attract people to live in the city.

Florence said that the Prospect Park neighborhood is under pressure from developers who want to tear down old houses and replace them with “mini-dorms.” She said she welcomed the designation of the hill area of Prospect Park as a historic district because tearing down houses would be much more difficult in such a district than outside one.

Frank Z. said that he was concerned about the expansion of the University of Minnesota, since the U of M is a tax-exempt institution and therefore does not contribute to the tax base of the city.

Dick P. said that the historic district task force would appreciate feedback from residents of Prospect Park.

Comments may be emailed to Bob Roscoe at broscoe@earthlink.net

Jack Byers from CPED said that the Heritage Preservation Commission of Minneapolis consists of 10 private citizens, not city staffers. Aside from Prospect Park, there are 11 other historic districts in the city of Minneapolis (and 27 other “potential districts”). He said that fees imposed to obtain certificates in historic districts do not cover the full cost of service. Fees have been raised recently as the result of a directive from the City Council that city agencies rely more on fees and less on general funds. He said that the benefit of the bureaucratic process of obtaining approval for changes was a high level of protection for everybody in the historic district. The process of approval also means that neighbors can review proposed changes and testify at HPC hearings. Some changes can be made administratively; others require a public hearing. Jack added that the HPC is looking at schools that the Minneapolis School Board no longer wants to use as schools.

Dan Peters said that he has not formally applied for a “Certificate of No Change” to replace his chimney but he has been told that he will probably need a “Certificate of Appropriateness,” which costs approximately \$700. He thought this was an excessive cost and an excessively bureaucratic process, especially since his chimney is leaking and “it will cost another 800 bucks to keep the water out of my living room!” Jack B. said that “surprises” do happen, but in many cases big repairs to a house (such as a new roof or foundation work) are foreseeable and can be dealt with before emergency repairs are necessary.

Joe Ring said that the neighborhood is on “two tracks” for historic designation. One track is for “local” historic designation, the other for “national” designation. He felt that the “national” designation was largely “honorary.”

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Dick P. said the design task force would meet with the Heritage Preservation Commission to seek their advice. Jack B. said that guidelines cannot be adopted until *after* the district is designated as historic. The “period of interest” for the Prospect Park district is 1885 to 1965; buildings built in this period can be considered “contributing properties” to the historic district. He said that the 11 historic districts in Minneapolis all follow the federal guidelines issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

ZONING: Florence Littman (chairman of the Zoning Committee) reported that Punch Pizza is moving into the space previously occupied by Manhattan Pizza in Stadium Village. They are requesting a beer & wine liquor license. Opening is scheduled for mid-December. The Tea House is a Chinese restaurant moving into the building previously occupied by Baker’s Square. They are applying for a full liquor license. Tower Grocery is up for sale. The U Flats building wants to change some of its retail space into apartments.

TRANSIT COMMITTEE: Joe Ring and John DeWitt reported on the effort at “Bridging the Gap” between the Prospect Park neighborhood in Minneapolis and the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood in St. Paul. This effort has been funded by the “Good Neighbor Fund” of the University of Minnesota. Questionnaires were given to residents of Franklin Avenue. Public meetings will be held in Saint Anthony Park. Connectivity concerns will worsen with the coming of the LRT line. Steve Masty, the landscape architect for the University Avenue/Route 280 area, is a part of this process. He showed several proposals for changes along Franklin Avenue. . Residents of Franklin Avenue do not want vehicle speeds to increase along the street. Some parking along Franklin will be sacrificed in order to accommodate bicycle traffic. The street could be “re-striped” quite cheaply in order to put in a bike lane. Another proposal was for a total reconstruction of Franklin Avenue, including a median strip with trees and parking along only one side of the street.

PLANNING: Dick Gilyard reported that the Planning Committee is concentrating on two areas: the 29th Avenue LRT station area and the Motley neighborhood. The U of M Master Plan declared the area south of Fulton Street to be a “joint planning area” between the U of M and the neighborhood, but it is unclear what this means. The Prospect Park Planning Committee presented detailed plans to the U of M to make Fulton Street more pedestrian-friendly.

STAFF REPORT: Joyce Barta said the Staff Report is in the November newsletter.

REPORT ON UNITED STATES CENSUS:

Steve Cross reported that he is working as a recruiting assistant for the U.S. Census Bureau. It is predicted that the state of Minnesota will lose one seat in Congress as the result of the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau is hiring approximately 1200 “enumerators” to take the Census in Minneapolis next year. Pay is approximately \$16 per hour.

NEW BUSINESS:

Florence Littman reported that a November 19 article in the *Star Tribune* said that the Vikings could arrange to play at the new U of M football stadium while a new stadium was being constructed for the Vikings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 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, Feb. 4th**.

Date and Time		Event and Location	Whom to contact	
Tuesday, January 5	7:00 pm	Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Florence Littman Phil Anderson	331-2970 627-9471
Wednesday January 6	7:00 pm	Luxton Park Council at Luxton Park	Jim Widder	331-6129
Monday, January 11	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele	378-9242
Wednesday, January 13	5:00 pm	Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrishia Collins	342-1952
Thursday, January 21	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt	Mary Alice Kopf Pratt Office	379-7436 668-1122
Monday, January 25	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, January 27	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Garden Club meeting at the home of Judy Horns, 88 Orlin.	Kent Petterson Judy Horns	332-1821 379-7247
Tuesday, February 2	7:00 pm	(Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Florence Littman Phil Anderson	331-2970 627-9471
Wednesday, February 3	7:00 pm	Luxton Park Council at Luxton Park	Jim Widder	331-6129
Monday, February 8	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church.	Dick Poppele	378-9242
Wednesday, February 10	5:00 pm	Glendale Resident Organization (GRO) meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrishia Collins	342-1952
Thursday, February 18	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	Pratt Council Meeting at Pratt	Mary Alice Kopf Pratt Office	379-7436 668-1122
Monday, February 22	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership Meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Come at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.	Dick Poppele	378-9242

December 2009 PPERRIA Staff Report 11/6/09 – 12/31/09

Staff hours from November 6 through December 31, 2009 totaled 45.25 for a cost of \$1086. 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. \$14,171.40 remains for staff; \$7229 remains for other administrative costs. Note: This information was previously reported from one Executive Committee meeting to the next. It will be reported by calendar month from now on. This report contains information from the end of the last reporting period through December 31, 2009.

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	rlorence@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)

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<http://pperr.org>

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FYI: January 2010 meeting

Historic Neighborhood designation – the saga continues

Neighborhood Road Resurfacing – coming to a street near you

Updates

It's a New Year – Be part of a PPERRIA committee!

Remember:

What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today