

PPERRIA news



inside

- 1 AGENDA
- 2 ABOUT
- 2-3 PRESIDENT'S NOTES
- 2-3 SOUND WALL
- 4-5 MINUTES : MARCH
- 6-9 MINUTES : MAY
- 10 LIQUOR POLICY FEEDBACK
- 11 LIGHT RAIL UPDATE
- 12 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

agenda

PPERRIA Neighborhood Meeting

6:30 PM Monday, JULY 22, 2013
Doors open for refreshments at 6 PM

Sound Wall Reflected Noise —

Do we ask MNDOT to remediate reflected noise ASAP, or delay 4-5 months for a more aesthetic approach?

Alcohol Service in Prospect Park Businesses —

What are Prospect Park's 21st Century desires and concerns?

PPERRIA Board Meeting

7:30 PM Monday, JULY 22, 2013

Vote on fast & ugly sound wall remediation vs. slower & more aesthetic remediation

Approve letters: one to US DOT, another to U of M/UMPhysicians/Fairview.

Prospect Park United Methodist Church 22 Malcolm Ave SE

PPERRIA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by PPERRIA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at 612-643-1443 or pperriastaff@gmail.com at least five days before our event. You may contact us through Minnesota Relay Services at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 7-1-1.

Cover photo:

Prospect Park's Other Towers

<http://substreet.org/minneapolis-elevators>

about

PPERRIA is the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association — the oldest neighborhood association in Minneapolis. Organized in 1901, PPERRIA was born out of the opposition to the city proposal to level Prospect Park hill, and ever since our neighborhood, through PPERRIA, has embraced controversial issues be it the I-94 freeway construction in the 1960's, school closings in the 1970's, the repaving project in the early 1980's, safety and security lighting of the late 1990's, or Central Corridor Light Rail in the current day. All Prospect Park and East River Road neighbors and businesses are eligible to join.

Your current PPERRIA officers:

President	<i>Christina Larson</i> pperriapresident@gmail.com
Vice President	<i>John Orrison</i> johnworrison@gmail.com
Secretary	<i>Eric Amel</i> eric@msrltd.com
Treasurer	<i>Dick Poppele</i> dick@umn.edu

PPERRIA business is ably assisted by:

Administrative Assistant	<i>Jessica Buchberger</i> pperristaff@gmail.com 612.643.1443
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PPERRIA news is the official monthly newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association with a mission to brief membership in advance of the monthly Board of Directors/Membership meeting.

Editor-In-Chief, *Clarence I. Seymour*; Assistant Editor, *Malcolm Arthur Melborne*; Photo Editor, *Franklin Thornton*; Copy Editors, *Sharon Warwick and Orlin Bedford*.

Email submissions to eric@msrltd.com. Deadline for the July issue is 10 July 2013.

For a substantial collection of archived PPERRIA minutes, committee reports, past newsletter and event calendars, check out the Official PPERRIA website:
<http://www.pperr.org/pperria/pperria.html>

notes

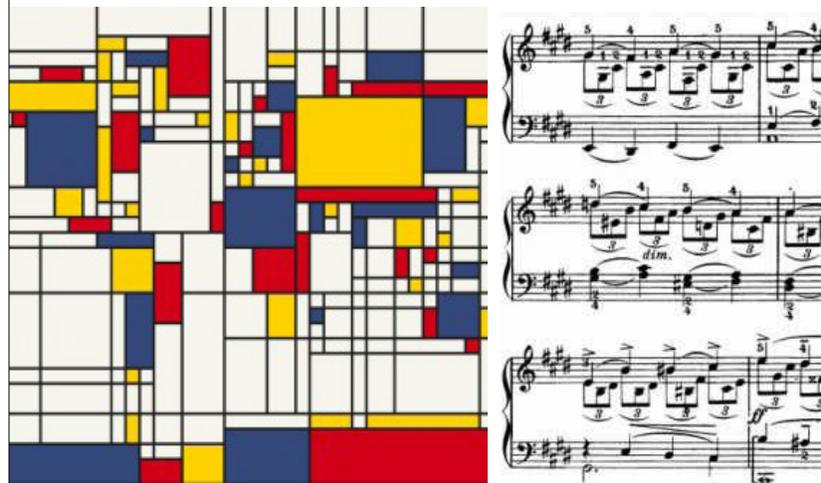
from the President's Desk

Happy summer, neighbors! I hope you've been participating in such time-honored Minnesota summer traditions as trips to the cabin, visiting family, or spending time at one of our many lovely lakes. It's warm at last, and I am certainly looking forward to the homegrown garden-ripe tomatoes.

There was something odd at the last PPERRIA board meeting, and I wonder if you noticed it also. We spent 15 minutes discussing the format of the Treasurer's report, and a good 20 minutes discussing the layout of the meeting. Yet a letter to an outside group expressing the neighborhood's support of a developer's grant request was remarked upon by just one person. Which Board decision is going to have more impact on the neighborhood?

I'd like to invite you to consider something. There are strong connections and weak connections between people — to give an extreme example, it's the difference between your spouse of many years and the third cousin twice removed that you see once every

sound wall



The PPERRIA Sound Wall Task Force has been lobbying and designing toward a good looking solution for the I-94 sound wall acoustical remediation project. Foremost, better

five years at a family reunion. If you're trying to set up a kid for a summer job, which of these two is more likely to know about unusual opportunities you haven't heard about?

Now let's consider influence. What is influence? A power affecting a person, thing, or course of events, especially one that operates without any direct or apparent effort. PPERRIA doesn't have any actual power to get things done — we lack the staff and the money to get a light rail station built, for instance, but we were the only neighborhood that succeeded in getting our station's name changed. So PPERRIA definitely deals in influence.

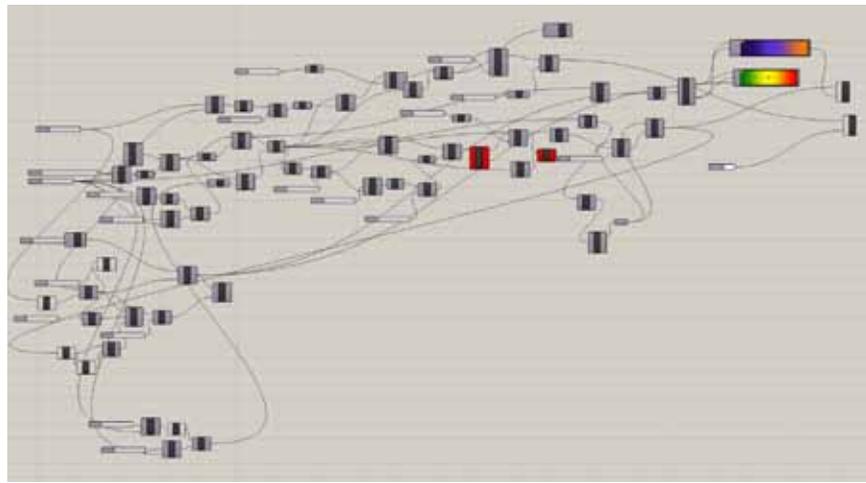
Where does our influence come from? I assert that it does not come from talking to each other about having the perfect Treasurer's report layout, nor the most people participating in a monthly neighborhood meeting. I am going to bet that our influence comes from knowing who to contact outside our neighborhood, and actually talking to those people. As such,

the actions that could have the most influence are the approval of letters to send to other organizations, and communication from a PPERRIA committee to a person representing a governmental or granting agency. Our procedures for dealing with others and our policies on what we will support other groups in doing-- these things offer the most bang for the buck.

So I invite you to come to July's neighborhood meeting to have a conversation about what PPERRIA's alcohol policy should be. (This was postponed from June's neighborhood meeting.) I'd also like you to come tell our Sound Wall Task Force whether speed or aesthetics is more important to you. Your choices on these two topics will have huge impact on the very fabric of our neighborhood for decades to come.

—your cheerful PPERRIA President, *Christina Larson*

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sound absorption for the wall is a done deal with MnDOT. Now the question is whether time or beauty is of the essence. Come to the community meeting to see how Piet Mondrian, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Paul Klee, and Grasshopper have influenced the search for aesthetic solutions for our wall.

minutes : march

PPERRIA Monthly Board Meeting March 25, 2013

Approved June 24, 2013

The monthly meeting of the Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association, held in the Prospect Park United Methodist Church on Monday, March 25, was called to order at 7:00 PM by President *Christina Larson*. She thanked *Eric Amel* for providing refreshments. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present. All consent agenda items were published in the March newsletter. These were approved unanimously. The agenda was adopted as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dick Kain inquired about the demolition on 4th Street east of Malcolm. *Joe Ring* said that the proper demolition permit had been filed with the city to take down that property.

Will Oberly said that “restaurant day” (the first Thursday of each month) will be held April 4 at the Caspian Bistro.

Tom Kilton announced that the annual Earth Day cleanup along the Mississippi River will take place on Saturday, April 20. Volunteers should gather at 8:30 AM near the intersection of the East River Road and Franklin Avenue. He expects that volunteers will only need to work for about two hours, since a lot of trash along the river has been picked up in the Earth Day cleanups over the previous 18 years.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Lindsey Wollschlager said that the final check from the U of M for a “Good Neighbor” grant has been received. The treasurer’s report was submitted for audit. *Paul Zerby* inquired about the funds for Prospect Park 2020. *Dick Poppele* said that only about \$1000 remains in this dedicated account. PPERRIA has acted as fiscal agent for PP2020 in the past but PP2020 is in the process of forming itself into a wholly independent organization.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were not handed out to attendees and will be considered at a future monthly meeting.

FEATURED BUSINESS

Elliot Server, a volunteer at Luxton Park, said he grew up in the neighborhood and went to Pratt School. He is developing programming for kids outside of the classroom. His latest project, funded by Luxton Council, is “hydroponics,” a class aimed at 8- to 13-years olds which will meet on five Saturdays. *Lois Willand* recommended that *Elliot* put together a display to show at the Pratt Ice Cream Social. *John Cushing* recommended that *Elliot* meet with the Garden Club.

DISTRICT COUNCILS COLLABORATIVE

Phil Anderson said that about a thousand people participated in a “Walkability Survey” in 2012, walking from their homes to stations along the Central Corridor light rail line and noting possible impediments along the way. *Chris Ferguson*, a business owner in Stadium Village, said that an initiative called the Business Resources Collaborative hopes to add 14,000 jobs along the LRT line. A program called “Corridors to Careers” (C2C) is working to help unemployed people along the central corridor by finding out what skills job providers need.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

The city of Minneapolis has long given token financial support to neighborhood organizations, amounting to about \$2000 per year. This amount has now been greatly increased, with the goal of increasing the membership and outreach efforts of neighborhood organizations. The new program is called the Citizen Participation Program. Grants are given in 18-month blocks. The original grant given to PPERRIA will run out in 2013. PPERRIA is in the process of submitting another proposal to obtain a CPP grant. This includes work plans submitted from various standing committees. A motion was made and seconded “to adopt the work plan to be forwarded to the city.” The motion passed with one nay vote. A separate vote of the Board of Directors was taken with the motion passing unanimously. This can be considered a Board vote, a quorum being present.

minutes : march

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

Dick Poppelle showed the budget for fiscal year 2013-14, put together by the Administrative Committee. Total income of \$83,524 is anticipated, with the bulk of the money coming from the CPP. The increase in money will be used for increased staff time and an increase in office rental. *Karen Murdock* protested the expenditures for office space, arguing that PPERRIA does not need permanent office space. The motion to adopt the budget was adopted with three nay votes.

SOUND WALLS

Bob Sykora passed around a handout about sound walls along Interstate 94. The Minnesota Department of Transportation spent \$850,000 to install a new sound wall last year. The prime beneficiaries were the residents of 33 houses on the East River Terrace. Sound on the upslope side of the sound wall has increased. The average increase in sound has been 4.3 decibels for 222 Prospect Park houses. One MnDOT contractor has proposed installing metal panels backed by mineral wool to reduce the sound.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PPERRIA BYLAWS

Changes to the PPERRIA bylaws must be approved by 26 members of the Board. *Jim Oberly* has resigned from the Board and alternate members have not responded to a call to become Board members. Discussion on proposed bylaw changes was postponed because 26 directors were not present.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT

A morning retreat of the Board of Directors was held at the Textile Center on Saturday, March 16. *Richard Adams* reported that 23 Board members were in attendance.

PRATT SCHOOL

Susan Larson-Fleming reported on a meeting held at Pratt School on March 18. Those present included representatives from Pratt, the Minneapolis School Board, and the neighborhood. The currently empty and undeveloped third floor of Pratt has between 8000 and 10,000 square feet of usable space. No decision has been reached about whether or not to develop this space and what to put there. The school board has budgeted \$950,000 to Pratt this year for improvements to the physical space. An alternative use for the money would building a permanent cafeteria on the ground floor.

ANNUAL MEETING

Christina called for volunteers to plan the Annual Meeting. *John Orrison* and *Richard Adams* volunteered to be co-chairs for this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murdock
PPERRIA Secretary

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minutes : may

PPERIA Monthly Community Meeting
May 20, 2013, 6:30 PM
PPUMC

Approved June 24, 2013

Present: (italics indicates Board member)

Lisa Good, City of Minneapolis
Don Engel, Shriner's Hospital
Liz Wielinski, MPRB Commissioner
Alden Drew, Member
Ken Petterson, Member
Jeff Barnhart, Business member
Del Hampton, Member, Community Garden
Maris (?), Member
Heidi Schuckler, Member
Bill Schuckler, Member
Steve Ficker, Member
Richard Adams
Phil Anderson
Sigrid & David Coats
Steve Cross
John Cushing
John DeWitt
Kate Donahue
Tony Garmers
Susan Gottlieb
Ken Hampton
John Holmquist
Sally & Charles Jorgenson
Roger Kiemele
Tom Kilton
Christina Larson (President)
Susan Larson-Fleming
Florence Littman
Dean Lund (Janet Absent)
Dorothy Marden.
Karen Murdock
John Orrison
Dick Poppele
Meredith Poppele
Peggy & Peter Rejto
Rebecca Shockley
John Shockley
John Wicks
Lois Willand
Lindsey Wollschlager
Paul Zerby

Welcome and Sign-In

1. President *Christina Larson* welcomed the Board and read the agenda aloud. The agenda was approved without objection.
2. Business/Community Guests
 - a. *Don Engle* from the Shriner's Hospital who gave an overview of the mission and the care provided by Shriner's Hospital. They are celebrating the 90th year of providing care across North America. They are looking for more patients, specializing in helping children with bone, skeletal, and/or leg problems. They do not charge families for the care they provide. The trees that were torn down recently were removed by the Minneapolis Parks Department due to Emerald Ash Bore. Many members of PPERIA shared fond memories of the Shriner's building and experiences aloud.
 - b. *Lisa Good* from the 311 department of the City of Minneapolis presented how 311 works and when people should call 311 versus 911. 311 provides information for a variety of departments in Minneapolis that deal with non-emergencies. The access on the website is quite large and can provide more information at all hours. The service is not open on the weekends. Party noise complaints go to 911 non-emergency (612-348-2345). Environmental noise complaints go through 311. The 311 team also takes non-emergency police reports (car vandalized and suspicious activity are examples).
3. General Announcements
4. *Steve Cross* presented a resolution for a community oven. A community oven is a public wood fire oven for bread, pizza, and other baked goods. Community ovens went out of public use in the late 1700s, and are making a comeback in many communities and neighborhoods. *Steve* shared photographs of community ovens to give meeting attendees a better idea of what his resolution proposed. The resolution reads:

minutes : may

EXPLORING IDEA OF COMMUNITY OVEN

RESOLVED that the PPERRIA Executive Committee is authorized to appoint a small task force to explore the idea of creating a "Community Oven" somewhere in the PPERR neighborhood. The exploration consists of engaging in talks with the Parks and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis to determine the neighborhood and government support for a "Community Oven" at least on a trial basis, costs, management, and other issues necessary for implementation.

If that task force finds that the project is feasible, it must report its recommendations for action to the Executive Committee. Any recommendations from the Executive Committee are to be reported back to the membership and the Board of Directors for Action.

The resolution was seconded by *Susan Larson-Fleming* and approved with a majority, one person opposed.

5. *Christina Larson* read a letter from the Master Planning Committee aloud. The letter outlines support for creating an urban village in regards to transit and development in the area. The letter is intended to be a position statement for PPERRIA. *Dick Gilyard* explained that the purpose of the letter is to develop on one page a clear summary statement of what the planning process had led to and what the vision of the neighborhood was. The intended recipient is to potential developers in the area who are looking to build or expand their businesses or organizations.

Susan Larson-Fleming moved to use this as a summary document for the neighborhood. The majority of attendees approved, one opposed. The motion carried.

Community meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

{Note: PPERRIA staff *Jessica Buchberger* scribed minutes during May 20, 2013 meeting}

Reviewed and respectfully submitted:

Eric Amel

PPERRIA Secretary

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PPERRIA Board of Directors Business Meeting May 20, 2013, 7:32 PM PPUMC

Present:

1. *Richard Adams*
2. *Phil Anderson*
3. *Sigrid & David Coats*
4. *Steve Cross*
5. *John Cushing (Martha Joy Absent)*
6. *John DeWitt*
7. *Kate Donahue*
8. *Tony Garmers (Greta G. Absent)*
9. *Dick Gilyard*
10. *Susan Gottlieb (Jeff G. absent)*
11. *Ken Hampton*
12. *John Holmquist*
13. *Sally & Charles Jorgenson*
14. *Roger Kiemele*
15. *Tom Kilton*
16. *Christina Larson (President)*
17. *Susan Larson-Fleming*
18. *Florence Littman*
19. *Dean Lund (Janet L. Absent)*
20. *Dorothy Marden*
21. *Andy Mickel*
22. *Karen Murdock*
23. *John Orrison*
24. *Dick & Meredith Poppele*
25. *Peggy & Peter Rejto*
26. *Rebecca Shockley*
27. *John Wicks (Wendy W. Absent)*
28. *Lois Willand*
29. *Lindsey Wollschlager*
30. *Paul Zerby*

Absent:

1. *Eric Amel*
2. *Richard Brownlee*
3. *Tamara Johnson*
4. *Dick Kain*
5. *Ann Munt*
6. *Will Oberly*
7. *Dan Peters*
8. *Joe Ring & Susan Thrash*
9. *Evan Roberts*
10. *Jerry & Margie Stein*

minutes : may

1. *Christina Larson* welcomed and explained the new layout of the meeting.
2. The consent agenda as written was approved, which included the Historic District report.
3. *Christina Larson* went through the agenda. *Karen Murdock* proposed to discuss meeting time. *Roger Kiemele* proposed adding a discussion on Emerald Ash Bore. *Christina Larson* added The Tower as a discussion.
4. The agenda was passed unanimously.
5. *Paul Zerby* announced the funeral service time for *Dorothy Davey*.
6. Some Board members expressed that they did not receive the Board Packet. This will be explored and corrected in the future by staff.
7. *Christina Larson* explained corrections to the Board of Directors member list. PPERRIA accidentally promoted an alternate to the Board of Directors. She made a motion to remove that alternate from the Board of Directors back onto the alternate Board member list. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
8. *Del Hampton* and *Sam Johnson* presented on the Prospect Park Community Gardens. The community has two pieces of land to use for gardening, one by Arthur & Melbourne and the other off of Yale St. *Sam* and *Del* spoke about the origins of the community garden, how it came to be and what the goals for 2013 are. The website is <https://sites.google.com/site/ppcgmn>.
9. *Dick Poppele* presented the Treasurer's Report and explained where PPERRIA stands fiscally, as well as all the organizations for which PPERRIA is a fiscal agent. He explained the process of how PPERRIA acts as a fiscal agent. A concern was raised that the Executive Committee had voted months ago to include a detailed Treasurer's Report including all of the assets held for other organizations. *Lindsey Wollschlager* explained that because of the Administrative Committee's in depth discussion and presentation to Executive Committee they proposed to only present a brief Treasurer's Report to the Board of Directors. Another concern was raised that the Board of Directors has fiduciary duty to review the entirety of where PPERRIA fiscally stands for assets, liability, and income. Directors on both sides of the issue spoke their opinions. The opposing side's views include:
 - The full Treasurer's Report should include as much detail as possible to keep Board members in the loop and keep as many eyes on the PPERRIA funds as possible, including funds that PPERRIA is acting as fiscal agent for.
 - The details of the Treasurer's report should be examined by the Admin and Executive Committees and only the summary of where PPERRIA stands financially should be presented to the 40 person board.
10. Prospect Park 2020 has formed its own corporation, and will be removing its funds from the PPERRIA bank account once they receive 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

Lindsey Wollschlager established that the Treasurer's Report is only a report of the cash that PPERRIA has, not a reflection of the possible contracts or invoices that are currently promised or unpaid.
11. *Dick Poppele* and *Lindsey Wollschlager* presented the proposed adjustment to the budget from the Executive Committee. This adjustment would take funds from the Neighborhood Priorities funds of LRT Planning and Sound Wall line items and move it to a new Community Garden line item. The total of funds moved would be \$3,000, and would go to a hose and sprinkler system at the Arthur & Melbourne garden site. This would not change the total budget, just the amount that would go to these projects. The motion was seconded. After short discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

minutes : may

12. *Lindsey Wollschlager* introduced the policies that are up for discussion, the goal of these policies to bring PPERRIA into compliance with State and City law:

13. The Membership policy outlines rules for becoming a member, which generally follow the Voter Same Day Registration Guideline and ensures that membership is as inclusionary as possible. A point was brought up that the policy is ambiguous and could be interpreted as exclusionary; the member suggested that the policy be put into the bylaws with language changes. A point was brought up that this policy would allow business members to become Board members, which is not correct as per the bylaws which control over this policy. The Board of Directors passed the policy unanimously.

14. The proposed Grievance Policy outlines the guidelines to address a complaint from the PPERRIA membership or PPERR residents on something the PPERRIA Board of Directors did that was not a democratic procedure. It was clarified that this applies to the actions of the Board of Directors, all committees, and anyone acting on behalf of PPERRIA. Proposed added language:

An ad hoc grievance committee may be appointed by the President to decide if there is merit to the grievance and propose solutions that will be presented to the Board.

Lindsey Wollschlager proposed to table the discussion, which was approved unanimously. The policy will be examined again by the Administrative Committee.

15. The proposed Conflict of Interest Policy was read aloud. The following ending sentence was added onto the policy:

Any individual having a conflict of interest should announce that there is one and recuse themselves from the discussion.

Christina Larson moved that the proposal be tabled for revision. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

16. *Christina Larson* brought up the February meeting minutes. *Dick Poppele* moved to approve the

minutes, this was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

17. *Susan Larson-Fleming* moved to table the March minutes to the June BOD meeting. This was seconded and approved.

18. Adjustment to the April minutes proposed to note that if only one person was in attendance of a meeting, it should be noted that the second member of that Board seat was present or absent. *Christina Larson* proposed to approve the minutes as adjusted, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

19. *John Cushing* gave a brief update on the Membership Communications Committee status. He also announced that Prospect Park 365 photo group has artwork on display at Overflow Espresso Cafe and that the summer concert season is starting soon.

20. Discussion on meeting time: there was a suggestion that the Board continue to meet at 7 PM, some Directors like 6:30 PM as a start time. The discussion ended without resolution or agreement.

21. *Roger Kiemele* brought up a discussion on Emerald Ash Bore. He asked if PPERRIA has a stance on treatment of Ash trees versus cutting. After some discussion it was decided that PPERRIA would an expert to come present on the issue at the June Meeting, or ask someone else who is knowledgeable on the subject to come to PPERRIA and speak on this issue. *Roger Kiemele* is going to search for such a speaker for the June meeting.

22. *Tony Garmers* would like to remind the neighborhood that the Tower will be open before 5pm on May 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

{Note: PPERRIA staff *Jessica Buchberger* scribed minutes during May 20, 2013 meeting}

Reviewed and respectfully submitted:

Eric Amel

PPERRIA Secretary

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liquor policy feedback

Seeking Community Feedback on PPERRIA Practices Related to Liquor License Applications.

The PPERRIA Zoning and Project Review Committee (the Committee) is seeking community feedback on the set of guidelines it uses when evaluating applications for liquor licenses from neighborhood businesses. The purpose of this newsletter article is to provide background information about current committee practices in order to provide context for a discussion at the June 24, 2013 PPERRIA meeting.

Background

Due to the potential for harmful neighborhood impacts from establishments that encourage heavy drinking, the Committee actively reviews applications for on-sale beverage licenses which would allow establishments to serve hard alcohol (commonly called “liquor licenses”). Examples of business practices that encourage heavy drinking include late night happy hours, gender-specific price reductions for alcoholic beverages, outdoor signage that emphasizes alcohol, and minimal food menus (such as frozen pizza).

In 2008 the Committee voted to negotiate with each applicant seeking a new liquor license. This was an attempt to encourage “restaurants which serve alcohol” and discourage “bars which serve food” in order to discourage such outcomes as underage drinking and public drunkenness.

The goal of these negotiations is to establish a common understanding between the applicant and PPERRIA on the ways in which the applicant’s business practices can contribute towards a welcoming and safe environment for neighborhood residents and visitors alike. PPERRIA will provide a letter of support for the liquor license application if the applicant agrees to having a “list of conditions” that reflect neighborhood priorities attached to the liquor license itself. The owners of U Garden were the first to negotiate with the zoning committee in this manner.

The Committee negotiates for joint agreement on liquor license “conditions” for three reasons:

1. PPERRIA supports restaurants and other businesses which enhance the neighborhood.
2. A liquor license tends to follow the property. When a property is sold or re-leased,

historically a new liquor license is granted to the new owner/leasee.

3. If one liquor license is approved by the city council without a “list of conditions” attached, it may be impossible to attach a “list of conditions” to any future liquor license.

The committee developed the following set of principles to guide their work:

- A. Drink specials and happy hours should be limited.
- B. Food should be available with alcoholic beverages.
- C. Bar/counter seating should be limited.
- D. Advertising should not overly emphasize alcoholic beverages.
- E. Music and entertainment must respect noise limitations in the neighborhood.

In addition to the above, the Committee requests the following information from each applicant: hours of operation, proposed floor plan, proposed outdoor signage, proposed menu, and proposed employee alcohol training manual.

Since April 2008, the City of Minneapolis has granted liquor licenses to six restaurants within Prospect Park boundaries. The Committee has negotiated with each of these applicants and reached an agreement on a “list of conditions” that were attached to the liquor license. In all six cases, the agreed upon “list of conditions” was approved by the PPERRIA Board.

Opportunity for Feedback

The Committee established these guidelines in 2008 (about five years ago). With the impending completion of the Central Corridor light rail line, the Committee anticipates that the pace of development in the neighborhood will pick up. As a result, the Committee anticipates that it will be involved in more liquor license negotiations in the coming years. Before this occurs, the Committee would like to take the opportunity to seek community feedback on these guidelines to hear whether any adjustments should be made.

The Committee plans to hold a community discussion of these guidelines at the July 22 PPERRIA meeting. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

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light rail update

News of the Green Line

(the light rail formerly know as Central Corridor)

As we enjoy our spiffy new University Avenue, memories of last summer's heavy construction are fading. So, what's going on now? Everyone's first question is "When will the Green Line actually open for service?" The official answer is "mid-2014." Some elected folks are saying it will be ready for the Major League Baseball All-Star Game which will be held at Target Field on July 15, 2014. A worthy goal, and barely a year away!

The actual opening day will depend largely on the success of testing which will begin soon. Trains will start moving slowly along the tracks to test clearances, signals, and other technical details. Construction is about 95% complete. The work we see now is final completion of the electrical systems and "punch list" task completions such as repairing broken curbs or sidewalks. This work may require closing a lane for a few hours or days, but the season of major road closures for light rail construction is over.

The correction of landscaping problems – failing sod and dead trees on the boulevards – may have to wait until the approved planting time, probably September, and it is uncertain how much of the bad sod along University will be replaced. New trees chosen by the Minneapolis Park Board will be planted on the small piece of city land adjacent to the Asphalt Driveway Company at the corner of Bedford and University that was created by the squaring off of that corner. The Prospect Park rock at Malcolm will be slightly realigned.

Station art work will soon be installed. Neighborhoods had committees and public meetings to choose themes for the art, and while the plans for the art can be found on the Central Corridor web site, seeing the actual execution will be exciting. Staff has been asked to alert the public about the approximate schedule for art installation, so stay tuned.

The pedestrian crossing at Bedford remains problematic, although the promised striping was installed this spring. Pedestrians need to be especially careful stepping into the street in front of Schneider Drug, since cars and buses which hurry through on the



yellow light may reach the crosswalk after the Walk signal has gone on. And cars turning from Bedford onto University may be surprised to find pedestrians in the offset crosswalk. So obey the Walk signal, but look left first! Some additional improvements to signage for that corner have been suggested to the city. Intersection signage and signals are now issues for the city, not the light rail project office.

One final but short-lived ordeal will be the application of seal coating, which will begin soon. This will be done over night, and will close only one lane at a time in each direction. The contractors have been asked to be sure water is sprayed to keep down the dust that often accompanies this process.

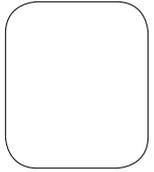
Since most work is completed, there is no regular weekly update this year, but the project office distributes updates any time they are necessary. Updates are sent to the Prospect Park E-list. New outreach staff person *Dana Happel* is handling all construction and systems communications and is also beginning an aggressive education program about safety. People are getting used to crossing the tracks in ways that will be very dangerous once trains begin to run – staff will be visiting organizations, businesses, and any others who are willing to have a presentation, and printed materials will be widely distributed.

The construction hotline remains active this summer, and is the place to report any light rail construction issues – they will get referred to the correct office. Call 651-602-1404.

Julie Wallace

PPERRIA representative to Minneapolis and St. Paul Construction Communication Committees

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**Prospect Park East River Road
Improvement Association, Inc.**
66 SE Malcolm Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55414



28th Annual National Night Out

Building community is about building connections between people!

Join your neighbors out on the block on the evening of **Tuesday, August 6, 2013.**

National Night Out (NNO) in Minneapolis is an annual event on the first Tuesday of August that involves all segments of the community in building a healthier, safer community. NNO generates support for anti-crime programs and strengthens police/community relations.

National Night Out is not just one night of the year, but the culmination of year-long crime prevention activity in all Minneapolis neighborhoods: people working together in block and apartment clubs and other networks to prevent and address crime and other neighborhood problems. It is an occasion to celebrate past successes, discuss current challenges or issues, and re-dedicate to collaborative efforts with neighbors, police, businesses and others to improve the quality of life in our city. NNO is the largest event of its kind in Minneapolis and the nation.

And, Minneapolis is #1 in participation in the nation!
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno>

