

March, 2001 PPERRIA Newsletter

Contents



Page	
1	Note from the President - Steve Cross
1	PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting Notice and Agenda PPERRIA Executive Committee
2	Motions for Consideration at the March PPERRIA Meeting Release funds from NRP Plan
2	Minutes of the February 26 PPERRIA Meeting - Susan Gottlieb
4	PPERRIA's LRT Decision Tree – Steve Cross
6	Textile Center Garage Sale – Elinor Auge
6	Pratt School Renovation wins NRP award - Stacy Sorenson
6	Irish Ceili Dance to be held at Pratt – Lois Willand
7	February, 2001 PPERRIA NRP Contractor Activities Report – Susan Gottlieb
7	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,

This month we will have a discussion on LRT (Light-Rail Transit options for our neighborhood: please see the article in this issue). At prior meetings we have frequently found ourselves diverting from the topic at hand and finding ourselves discussing LRT. We have had to drop the LRT discussion to get back to the point. So, at last, LRT is the point of discussion. We hope to adopt a preference on many possible alternatives. That way, no matter what happens on metro-wide planning for LRT, we will know our policy. If you want to learn what effects LRT may have on the neighborhood and prepare to do something about it, this is the meeting for you.

Thanks, Steve Cross

PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting Notice and Agenda

Our March PPERRIA Meeting is Monday, the 26th, 7 - 9 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:
5. New/Old Business.
6. Meeting Evaluation
7. Adjourn.

Decision	Motion to release \$500 for habitat restoration
Decision	Motion to release \$5,000 for Block Club Coordinator
Decision	Use decision tree to adopt policy on light rail transit

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
Housing Redevelopment	Florence Littman Dean Lund	331-2970 378-2486
Housing Improvement	Andy Mickel	331-8396
Landscape	Mary Alice Kopf	379-7436
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

Motions for Consideration at March PPERRIA Meeting

Motion: To release \$500 attached to NRP Action Plan Environment Section A.6. for habitat restoration and educational efforts.

Because 4-H and the University of Minnesota were unable to work with the Environment Committee on a habitat restoration project and because the committee is now working with Pratt School in the project, it has changed from a habitat-based project to one based more on school curriculum and program activities using East River Flats (something specifically prohibited under the conditions of the DNR Conservation Partners Program). We pursued an additional \$500 from Pratt Council to provide transportation, field guides, binoculars, and a spotting scope for use by students on local field trips; they granted our request, so we are moving ahead with a reduced project. Volunteers may still build a limited number of nesting boxes and possibly bird feeders with donated materials. – Bill Kahn, Environment Committee Chair

Motion: The PPERRIA Safety & Security Committee moves to release \$5,000 (from Safety and Security A.1.) reallocated to Block Club Development.

As agreed to at the February 27, 2001, neighborhood reallocation meeting at Luxton Park, the \$5,000 will be used to revitalize block clubs in our neighborhood by hiring an independent contractor to perform the following Block Club Development Activities:

- a) Meet with all current block club leaders and plan how to maintain or revitalize each existing block club.
- b) Identify enough prospects to obtain 25 new block club leaders (so we have two leaders for each club).
- c) Meet with each prospect and explain the role and responsibilities of a block club leader.
- d) Ensure new block club leaders attend the required four hours of training.

Work with new block club leaders to:

- e) Create a list of all the people in their block club and a block map.
- f) Plan the new block club leader's first block club meeting.
- g) Door-knock and phone call together to ensure a good turnout for the new leader's first meeting.
- h) Co-host the new block club leader's first meeting.
- i) Prepare for National Night Out.
- j) Identify locations for their block's Watch Force sign and two motion-sensing lights.
- k) Obtain a McGruff house on their block.

This initiative is necessary since the number of active block club leaders has dropped from forty-eight in 1997 to twenty-six in 2001. There are no competing proposals for these funds within this strategy. We will solicit applicants for this contract via the SE Angle and the PPERRIA newsletter. Applicants will be evaluated based on the results achieved from their previous work experience.

Minutes of February PPERRIA Meeting – Susan Gottlieb

The PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors meeting on February 26, 2001, was called to order by President Steve Cross at 7:00 p.m. at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church. The agenda was approved.

1. Neighborhood outgoing NRP staff member Stacy Sorenson introduced the new NRP staff person for Prospect Park East River Road, Barb Lickness. Stacy also presented the award plaque for Best NRP Schools Project to Susan Larson-Fleming on behalf of Pratt Council for the Pratt Center renovation.
2. The minutes of the January 22, 2001, PPERRIA Membership and BOD meeting were approved as written in the February PPERRIA newsletter.
3. Joe Ring presented a motion/resolution as follows: “Be it resolved that the city of Minneapolis initiate a total traffic/transportation study of the I-94/280 area, encompassing the communities of St. Anthony Park, Como, Prospect Park and East River Road. This study must be a joint effort of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and the State Transportation Department.” The motion was seconded. Joe explained that South St. Anthony Park community council had passed such a resolution themselves, asking St. Paul government to work with Minneapolis on a traffic study of the area to create a plan to benefit both cities. Joe pointed out that the Southeast Economic Development (SEED) committee had already laid a lot of the groundwork for this resolution by commissioning a transportation study of their own relating to the industrial area and surrounding community. The motion passed.
4. City Council Member Joan Campbell presented an update on local and city activities. She noted that the AUAR for the industrial area is almost completed and probably will be presented at the SEED committee. One of the largest accomplishments of late at the city level has been the passing of the affordable housing resolution which will affect all city-financed building projects. This resolution requires all housing projects receiving any city help or financing to have affordable housing as part of the project—whether putting units into the proposed project itself or providing additional units at another site. The city expects to see an increase of 2,100 units of such housing by the end of 2002. Preservation of housing which is already affordable is included in the plan. Joan noted that Brighton, for example, will add 78 affordable housing units to the Riverfront development downtown. Other “happenings” in the city include the successful placement of the Guthrie and Mill City Museum downtown near the river. She also reported that she had just today received word from Brighton Development that Unocal is finally ready to sell their property to Brighton. She gave an update on the lighting project, including that city lighting engineer John Hotvet has contacted the University of Minnesota to discuss possible upgraded lighting. The city will look in the spring at dark spots to add more light fixtures. Finally, she noted that the JPI student housing project at the old Wool Marketing site is on hold, pending their review of their options since bids came in 30% higher than expected.
5. Members of the development and design team for InteGroup (a subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Company) presented their plans for student and other housing on the current SpikeWorks site located between Essex and Delaware Streets and 26th and 27th Avenues. Project architect Don Hanson explained that the development will be a nine-story brick/masonry building with one entrance (on the Delaware Street side) and two levels of underground parking (accessed from the Essex side) housing 830 students/individuals in 238 apartments. Construction is slated to begin in spring, 2001 with opening anticipated in August, 2002. There will be 415 proposed parking spaces (50% of units), which if not first rented to tenants, could be provided to surrounding businesses such as Pechiney Packaging. All apartments would be fully furnished, including kitchens, baths and laundry facilities and located in one of four towers accessed by swipe card. There will be full-time security at the only entrance. The design of the towers allows for a central, 6,400 square foot, skylit, and air-conditioned atrium featuring lots of landscaping, trees, benches, sheltered areas, and firepit with perimeter rooms such as a fitness center, gameroom, offices, theater, computer and study areas. InteGroup also seeks to purchase the Gopher Oil land fronting Huron Boulevard to create a “greenway gateway” to the U of Mn; however, the owner is so far unwilling to sell. With Prudential as the owner and operator of the building, the project promises to be well-financed and managed.
6. Steve Cross announced the chair of the Nominating Committee is Tom Kilton. Tom said that he has four volunteers to serve on the committee, which will make recommendations for the 20 Board positions for 2001-03, as well as Executive Committee.
7. Susan Larson-Fleming invited all neighbors and Board members to Tuesday night’s (2/27/01) NRP Plan Modification Vote meeting at Luxton Park, Room A, 7:00 p.m. The vote will be on proposals presented at the January 9th meeting.

8. Susan also reported that there will be a meeting of interested parties about the possibility of expanding/modifying the Pratt playground on Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. at Pratt.
9. Lois Willand invited everyone to come and enjoy the Irish Ceili Dance at Pratt on Friday, March 23, at 7-9 p.m. The event is free and donations are welcomed.
10. Bill Kahn noted that Pechiney Packaging is still in the permit process and doing inventory.
11. Steve Cross reminded the group that there will be a chance to discuss a variety of proposals concerning Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) at the March PPERRIA meeting, March 26, 2001. The discussion will follow the format of a "decision tree" which Steve distributed, along with copies of the previous PPERRIA position statement and three additional proposals. A representative from Ramsey County Rail Authority has already been invited to be here to answer technical questions that may arise in the discussion; Joe Ring will also invite Jan Morlock from the University.
12. Florence Littman, Zoning Committee chair, reported that Ronald McDonald House has requested a variance to build a one-story office building adjacent to their site. This group has historically not been sensitive to urban land uses issues and this latest proposal is no exception. The neighborhood and city planner objected, but the variance was issued anyway. As Joan Campbell reported earlier, JPI is on hold with their decision about how to proceed with their student housing project on the Wool Marketing site. Finally, the city planner issued a list of conditions to Great Brakes who would like a non-conforming use permit renewal. Great Brakes has issued an appeal.
13. Susan Gottlieb presented her staff report, noting that she has worked lately on the plan modification. This spring, will work with the task force to begin writing the NRP Phase I report required by NRP.
14. Steve Cross noted that there is a bill in the state House which affects non-profit neighborhood associations and encouraged everyone to read it and contact their representative for comment. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan Gottlieb, Acting Secretary. Comments and/or corrections to 117 Arthur Avenue SE or marko001@po.metrostate.edu

PPERRIA's LRT Decision Tree – Steve Cross

Ten years ago, PPERRIA adopted its policy on the proposal to construct an LRT system in the metro area that probably included a route through the neighborhood. Three other proposals were submitted for consideration by PPERRIA's membership. None of those proposals were mutually exclusive of other proposals.

Rather than try to blend them or come up with counter proposals just for discussion and decision, the committee decided to put together a decision tree. The tree puts the decisions in (what we hope is) a logical order. Once the list is completed, PPERRIA should have adopted a comprehensive policy on LRT.

Procedure Decisions

- (1.) PPERRIA centered:
 - (a.) The membership/board votes on each level of the decision tree;
 - (b.) Prepare a draft resolution following the decisions;
 - (c.) Present that resolution for adoption at the next PPERRIA membership/board meeting;
 - (d.) The resolution, together with other principal options including one open-ended option, is circulated throughout the neighborhood for a "vote" (If a plurality votes for another option, PPERRIA may want reconsider its adopted policy);
 - (e.) PPERRIA works to see that the resolution influences decision making by governmental bodies.
- (2.) Neighborhood centered:
 - (a.) The decision tree is circulated in the neighborhood for a "vote;"
 - (b.) Prepare a draft resolution following the neighborhood decisions;
 - (c.) Present that resolution for adoption at the next PPERRIA membership/board meeting;
 - (d.) PPERRIA works to see that the resolution influences decision making by governmental bodies.

Alternatives: #1 or #2 or something else proposed from floor.

Policy Decisions

- (1.) We will decide on every level of the decision tree so that PPERRIA has an adopted policy regardless of what decisions are made in the metro-wide community.

Alternatives: yes/no

- (2.) We support any development of any improved mass transit for the metro area?

Alternatives: yes/no/undecided

- (3.) We support mass transit improvements for the central corridor?

Alternatives: yes/no/undecided

- (4.) We support the following mass transit modes and alignments:

(a.) street busway:

1. along University Avenue
2. along I-94
3. undecided

(b.) dedicated busway:

1. along University Avenue
2. along I-94
3. undecided

(b.) LRT passing through Prospect Park and Prospect Park **is** able to use it:

1. LRT at grade with one or more stops in Prospect Park
2. LRT tunnel with one or more stops in Prospect Park
3. undecided

(c.) LRT passing through Prospect Park and Prospect Park **is not** able to use it:

1. LRT at grade with no stops in Prospect Park
2. LRT tunnel with no stops in Prospect Park
3. undecided

(d.) LRT on railroad right-of way north of Prospect Park:

1. one or more stops for Prospect Park
2. no stops for Prospect Park
3. undecided

(f.) Commuter rail line:

1. along the Burlington Northern SantaFe South freight rail corridor
2. along the Canadian Pacific Rail freight rail corridor
3. undecided

(g.) undecided.

Alternatives: Two steps:

#1 – Select mode by voting on all alternatives, dropping the alternative with lowest votes then voting again. Only top two would then have alignment decisions made.

#2 – Vote on mode decides order of support. Alignment votes taken on all modes.

- (5.) We continue to support any modes or alignment even if it results in a decrease in service for the neighborhood while other parts of the metro area have better service?

Alternatives: yes/no/undecided

- (6.) We are concerned about the possible effects:

- (a.) Noise and vibration
- (b.) Street modifications and traffic changes
- (c.) Bus and car traffic generated by stations

- (d.) Continuing bus service and feeder buses
- (e.) Correlation of LRT planning with traffic volume forecasts
- (f.) Mitigation measures which could improve the neighborhood environment.

Alternatives: Select all but order in order of highest to lowest concerns based on number of votes received.

Textile Center Sponsors Huge Garage Sale – Elinor Auge

As one of its first big events since moving into the Prospect Park East River Road neighborhood, the Textile Center of Minnesota will host a huge textile garage sale on Saturday, March 31, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at its new site at 3000 University Avenue Southeast. Admission is a free-will donation of \$1 and all donations and sale proceeds benefit TCM's capital campaign (to be used for the renovation of the building). Community members and those interested are invited to donate fibers, fabrics, beads, buttons, needles, books, threads, notions, patterns, tools, looms, sewing machines in working order and any textile-related items on Friday, March 30, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. For larger items (such as floor looms), please send a photograph and written description to TCM, 2324 University Avenue W., #106, St. Paul 55114 by March 30. Please price your items (using even dollar amounts only) prior to drop-off and include fiber-content and yardage information. If unsure about pricing, consider the age and condition of the item and assign a value of approximately 25 to 50 percent of the original cost. Place small items such as ribbons or beads in a securely sealed see-through bag. You may request a receipt for your donation at drop-off.

Pratt School Renovation Wins NRP Award at Neighborhoods Conference – Stacy Sorenson

To commemorate its first ten years, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) recently recognized the best of over 1,400 NRP projects completed to date. Award recipients were chosen by a panel of residents and staff from NRP's participating jurisdictions. PPERRIA was honored for its work on Pratt, which was selected as one of two "Best Schools Projects" citywide. The Awards Committee was particularly impressed by the strong community commitment and extensive partnerships which made the physical renovations possible. Congrats to Pratt Council, Susan Larson-Fleming, Jerry Stein and everyone who has worked on this project.

Irish Ceili Dance Comes to Pratt March 23 – Lois Willand

An Irish Ceili dance will be held at Pratt Community Education Center on Friday, March 23, 7-9 p.m. Ceili dancing is family-oriented dancing similar to square dancing, with simple steps taught before the dancing starts. It is danced to live Irish music with musicians from Calliope House. The event is a good family activity and is fun for all ages. The Pratt Council and the PPERRIA Community Events committee are sponsoring the event. There is no charge for admission, but donations are welcome to help defray the expenses.

CCP/SAFE Building Blocks Awards – Bob Milner

Are you part of an effective block club? Or, do you know of block club near you that is doing creative work in your neighborhood? CCP/SAFE is asking the community to help recognize noteworthy block clubs by submitting nominations for the 3rd Annual Building Blocks Awards. The form is on the City of Minneapolis web page at: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/safe, Bob Milner 612-724-4296

NRP Contractor Activities - Susan Gottlieb

Reporting period: February 10, 2001 through March 9, 2001. Major activities and results:

Supported NRP Phase I Evaluation Team in reallocation effort	Maintained the neighborhood calendar		
Worked with city and neighborhood on sidewalk lighting initiative	Worked with housing redevelopment committee to address developments on NRP Plan targeted sites		
Supported production of PPERRIA newsletter	Supported various PPERRIA committees and the Executive Committee		
Expense for contractors' services:	Hours billed	Total expense	% of total contractor Budget
Totals 2/10/01 to 3/9/01	40.0	\$640.00	.5%
Totals 10/18/95 to 2/9/01	7,233.35	\$123,733.88*	93.3%
Totals 10/18/95 to 3/9/01	7,273.35	\$124,373.88*	93.8%

Total revised PPERRIA NRP budget for independent contractor services = \$132,647.69; **\$8,273.81** remains.

* These revised amounts reflect additional funds reallocated to this strategy 11/27/00 & 2/27/01.

NOTE: Contractors include Susan Gottlieb, whose contract expires 12/31/01.

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To include items in PPERRIA calendar, contact Susan Gottlieb at 331-2104 by **Friday, March 9th, 2001.**

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Tuesday, 7:00 pm March 20	(Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Friday, 7-9 pm March 23	Irish Ceili Dance at Pratt Community Center	Lois Willand 378-9697
Monday, 7:00 pm March 26	PPERRIA Board/Membership meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross 376-0094
Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm March 28	Prospect Park Garden Club meeting, location TBA	Mary Alice Kopf 379-7436
Saturday, 9am – 5pm March 31	Textile Center of Minnesota Garage Sale at 3000 University Avenue S.E.	Elinor Auge 651-917-7270
Wednesday, 7:30 pm April 4	Luxton Park Council meeting at Luxton Park building, room A	Jim Oberly 379-3397
Monday, 7:00 pm April 9	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross 376-0094
Wednesday, 5:00 pm April 11	Glendale Resident Organization meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Shirley Davis 342-1952
Monday, 5:00 pm April 16	Pratt Playground Task Force meeting at Pratt Community Center	Kathy Kahn 378-0779
Tuesday, 7:00 pm April 17	(Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Thursday, 6-8 pm April 19	Pratt Council meeting at Pratt Community Center (rides & childcare available)	Susan Larson-Fleming 331-8819

Saturday, April 21	9am-12pm	Mississippi River Cleanup at East River Gorge	Tom Kilton	339-3064
Monday, April 23	7:00 pm	PPERRIA ANNUAL BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Steve Cross	376-0094

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

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)

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 2993

