

November 2006 PERRIA Newsletter



**PPERIA Board/Membership
Meeting Notice**
Monday, November 27th, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church,
corner of Orlin and Malcolm Avenues Southeast .
**Coffee and treats will be available for
a social time before the meeting**

**Note: There will be no PPERIA Board/Membership
Meeting or newsletter in December.**

Plans for Grocery by **Joel Ahlstrom**

At the meeting on November 27, 2006, Joel Ahlstrom, the owner of the former Riverside Market, will update PPERIA on his plans for a grocery store as part of the housing development proposed by Wellington on the site of the former Colonial style building on University Avenue in St. Paul at Emerald. Since the departure of Tower Grocery, Prospect Park residents have eagerly awaited a grocery store close at hand.

MFlats Plans Rebuffed **At Planning Commission**

Apurva Patel's plans for MFlats at Arthur Avenue S.E. and University Avenue were turned down unanimously by the Minneapolis Planning Commission on Monday, November 13, 2006. The Planning Commission's major concern seemed to be that Mr. Patel was planning overly dense housing in a commercially-zoned site without enough space devoted to commercial use. Patel is expected to appeal the decision. PPERIA appeared in support of Patel's plan.

Pratt School Open House

Pratt School will host an open house for prospective parents and students on Saturday, December 2, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Neighborhood residents are invited to attend to act as hosts for those who have an interest in the Pratt School Programs. Video's of childrens' performances will be available and the classrooms will be open for inspection. See page 2 for a list of enrichment programs offered at Pratt.

Pratt School Programs

Arts for Academic Achievement: is a program administered by the Minneapolis Public Schools. We work with one or more artist educators each year. Last year (05-06) we had a puppeteer/mask maker come to each classroom once or twice a week for about six weeks. The residency concluded with a small performance and celebration during the school day.

Visual Thinking Strategies: This is an approach to teaching deeper problem solving, observation skills and drawing inferences and conclusions, using works of visual art as the stimulus. All the teachers at Pratt have been trained in this approach, and use slides and posters from the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Minneapolis Institute of Art : Art Adventure!: This is a new program this year, where Pratt parents are trained at the MIA to be classroom docents. Twice during the year (December and May) the docents will bring a collection of art reproductions from the MIA into the classroom, and will present a program about the art and the theme that links the pieces.

Childrens' Theatre Company: There are two programs with the CTC. The first through third graders attend two plays during the year. The fourth and fifth graders are involved in a much more intensive program, Neighborhood Bridges, which involves an actor educator coming into the classroom for one afternoon a week. The children work on a variety of literacy and dramatic skills, including public speaking, creating skits, writing, nonverbal expression, and producing a full dramatic piece.

Minnesota Orchestra: The second/third grade class attends one concert during the year.

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra: CONNECT program: Four to six times a year, musicians from the orchestra, or international music groups affiliated with the orchestra, visit the school to present combination education and performance sessions. In addition, grades 1 - 5 attend a SPCO concert during the year_

National Science Foundation grant: Pratt, in conjunction with Tuttle School, is participating in a 3 year NSF grant. Doctoral candidate science students from the University of Minnesota work with the grade 2/3 classroom teacher for about ten hours a week, developing and presenting science lessons and experiences. A science club is run during one trimester of the year.

Core Knowledge/Cargill grant: This is a new program this year. Again in conjunction with Tuttle, the staff is infusing additional elements of history and geography into the curriculum. Specific focus this first year is on Native American history and physical geography. The grant will fund field trips, special staff development, and purchase of teaching artifacts that can be used again and again.

University of Minnesota Volunteers: The Service Learning office at the U of M facilitates the placement of between 12 and 15 student volunteers each semester. They work an average of 2 _ hours per week, helping in the classroom, on the playground, and with special projects.

Bilingual Program Aide: Abdillahi Hassan is an experienced Somali-English speaker who has worked for the school district for many years. He is at Pratt three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) for 3 hours each time. Mr. Hassan makes many family contacts, and assists the teachers with their Somali speaking students.

Americorps/Minnesota Reading Corps: New this year, we are fortunate to have the skilled assistance of Darlene Baker, from the Reading Corps. She will work, one-to-one, with all students in grades 1 - 3 who are below grade level in reading. Darlene is at Pratt for six hours a day, four days a week.

Volunteer and Arts Coordinator: With funding from Pratt Council, an anonymous donor, and the Pratt PTO, the school now has a ten hour a week coordinator. This position will support both University and community volunteers, will allow fuller participation on many of the above listed activities, and will lay the groundwork for additional arts opportunities in the future.

PPERIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m., PPUMC
U Garden Restaurant

1. President Pro Tem Steve Banks called the meeting of the Association to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Steve Banks called on Spencer Huy, who gave us a brief history of his family's restaurant, U Garden, which was our host for a delicious dinner. The family fled Cambodia after the Vietnam War, and came to Minnesota in 1981. The family started its own restaurant in Robbinsdale in 1987, moved to Prospect Park in 1993. The family bought the present restaurant premises in 1999, expanded in 2001 and 2003, and again in 2006. Four brothers and their mother operate U Garden.
3. **Minutes:** Julia Wallace moved to approve the September minutes as corrected. Passed.
4. **University Impact Study:** Steve Banks explained that the purpose of the evening's meeting was to provide input to the Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG) committee, which was formed at the behest of the legislature, and is attempting to prepare a report to the Minnesota Legislature which is due in January 2007. This requirement is part of the legislation which approved the funding for a University of Minnesota football stadium on campus. In order to gather input from the communities, a survey of the neighborhoods is being made by the Cornejo Consulting firm and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. Dan Cornejo and Barbara Luckerman from CURA were introduced by Steve.

Dan Cornejo conducted the survey, setting forth the overall study goals:

Assess direct and indirect impacts of the U of M on surrounding communities, including public safety, transportation, and housing quality, availability, and affordability.

Create opportunities to improve coordination between U of M, City of Minneapolis, and surrounding communities.

Develop strategies for strengthening and revitalizing neighborhoods and commercial districts.

Identify best practices and strategies for building partnerships among stakeholders.

The study will include research by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, constituent meetings with community organizations, City officials, U of M officials to obtain input and insights, resulting in a preliminary report, which will be reviewed by community representatives before a final report is prepared.

Cornejo asked for community input to the following questions:

1. What specific issues/negative impacts do you see arising out of the relationship between the University and its surrounding neighborhood and business area?
2. What are the positive impacts of living near the University? In what ways is the University campus an asset for this community?
3. What's the best way to make sure that this community is vital, safe, and attractive?
4. What might the University, the City, and the community and business organizations do to address housing issues? Short term and long-term?
5. What resources are needed to initiate these housing improvement efforts?
6. Are organizational or institutional relationship changes needed? What are they?

Discussion was wide ranging. Concerns were raised about the lack of specific boundaries for the University, its use of or threat of the use of eminent domain to acquire property and the University's expansion east of Oak Street for student housing by private developers. The community sees the University as an asset by providing culture, scientific, employment, Hospital system, creating a vibrant local economy and providing great neighbors in our community. Excessive traffic, and parking problems were

cited. It was felt that the University needed to make its plans for expansion public, and provide for neighborhood seats at its planning sessions. It was also suggested that the university could take more responsibility for the behavior of its students, whether on or off campus, and the City could be more responsible in overseeing inspections of the rental housing in the neighborhoods. Resources needed to confront problems were communication, money, and political will power.

5. **East River Mews Request for Sound Wall:** This subject was tabled until the East River Mews people and the East River Terrace people got together to determine a joint proposal.
6. **Zoning Report:** Florence Littman reported on difficulty that Clay Lambert is having obtaining approval of his plans for a Citgo station remodel. People were requested to provide letters and phone calls to the mayor, city council members.
7. Dean Lund made a motion to adjourn. Passed without noes.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Zerby

Contractor Activities 10/07/06 – 11/06/06

This month, contractor’s services were paid by PPERRIA as per the 2006 budget. There were 22.25 billable hours, an expense of \$445. Total budgeted: \$1000. Amount remaining: \$555.

PPERRIA Committees and Chairs

Community Events	Lois Willand	loiswilland@mn.rr.com	378-9697
East River Gorge Park	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Environment			
Executive	Joe Ring	jring@visi.com	379-4587
History Project	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
Housing Redevelopment	Florence Littman Dean Lund	littm005@umn.edu djlund@usfamily.net	331-2970 378-2486
Housing Improvement	Andy Mickel	andym@pperr.net	331-8396
Landscape	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@earthlink.net	379-7436
Landscape subcommittee: Tree Health Project	Paula Denman	pjdenman@mn.rr.com	338-1871
Livability	Joe Ring	jring@visi.com	379-4587
Membership	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
Tower Hill Park	Susan Thrash	jring@visi.com	379-4587
Transportation and Land Use	John Dewitt Phil Anderson	jdewitt@mn.rr.com philanne@ties2.net	338-1871 627-9471
Zoning & Plan Review	Florence Littman Phil Anderson	littm005@umn.edu philanne@ties2.net	331-2970 627-9471

Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To include items in PPERRIA calendar, contact Joyce Barta at 378-9268 by **Thursday, January 4, 2006.**

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Tuesday, November 21	JOY Outing Call for information.	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Wednesday, 7:00 pm November 21	(Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Monday, 7:00 pm November 27	PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Friday, 11:00 am- December 1 1:00 pm	JOY Book Club at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Saturday, 9:30- December 2 11:30 am	Pratt School Open House at Pratt Community Education Center	Kris Felback 688-1122
Thursday, 6:00 pm - October 19 8:00 pm	Pratt Council meeting at Pratt	Greg Bernstein 378-3489
Wednesday, 7:30 pm December 6	Luxton Park Council meeting at Luxton Park	Jim Widder 331-6129
Monday, 11:30 am- December 11 1:30 pm	JOY Pot Luck at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Monday, 7:00 pm December 11	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Wednesday, 5:00 pm December 13	Glendale Resident Organization meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrisha Collins 342-1952
Tuesday, December 19	JOY Outing Call for information.	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Wednesday, 7:00 pm December 19	(Tentative) Zoning & Planning Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Thursday, 6:00-8:00 pm December 21	Pratt Council meeting at Pratt	Greg Bernstein 378-3489
Wednesday, 7:30 pm January 3	Luxton Park Council meeting at Luxton Park	Jim Widder 331-6129
Friday, 11:00 am- January 5 1:00 pm	JOY Book Club at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Monday, 11:30 am- January 8 1:30 pm	JOY Pot Luck at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Monday, 7:00 pm January 8	PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Wednesday, 5:00 pm January 10	Glendale Resident Organization meeting at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrisha Collins 342-1952

PERRIA Web Site: <http://www.pperr.org>

Prospect Park East River
Road
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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612/331-2970 (voice mail)

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