PPERRIA News – November 2011
Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association

PPERRIA Board / Membership Meeting
Monday, November 28th
7:00 – 9:00 pm
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 bartajm@yahoo.com. We will make every attempt to meet that need.

NOVEMBER AGENDA:
• Revised annual budget
• Committee reports
• Your concerns – bring them here

Note: No newsletter, and no general Board/Membership meeting in December.

Visit the PPERRIA Office, at the corner of Arthur and University Avenues
Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm
Come in and browse the wall exhibits showing the current Master Plan layouts
(If you have questions or want further details – call project manager Brian Golberg at 612.710.2860)

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Your current PPERRIA officers:
President: Dick Poppele – 378-9242………………………… dick@umn.edu
V. President: Christina Larson – 651-329-2784…larsonchristina@gmail.com
Secretary: Karen Murdock – 340-1338……………….murdock1212@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dick Kain – 379-4253……………………… kain@ece.umn.edu
Notes from the President

In this last of the president's notes for the year (2011), I would like to share some of my thoughts on what I think comprises a healthy, active and effective neighborhood organization like PPERRIA.

Last month I described our committee structure and something about the issues that each of them is dealing with. These committees are, I believe, the main way that we engage our community in issues of mutual interest and concern. They are the best way to deal with issues in detail and to engage those who are most interested.

The history and tradition of PPERRIA is strongly based on the democratic principles embodied in the "town meeting". For that reason we do not have separate Board meetings nor do we have the Board sitting around a conference table; instead all the meetings are open and we all sit together as in a town meeting.

The town meeting style has been an effective way to have full neighborhood engagement especially in times of a single-issue crisis, as when I-94 came through the neighborhood. Today however, there are many issues (LRT, Pratt, Historic District, Development, Parking, Livability, etc) at the same time, and any one of them can easily fill the agenda of several “town meetings”. But we need not react only to crises; we can work to anticipate events and their consequences by planning ahead.

The value of the PPERRIA committees is they allow us to deal with all of the issues and still maintain a serious level of community engagement. Effective committees that are well led, and engage the best of our collective wisdom and expertise can examine issues in depth and develop plans. Our bylaws require that the committee chairs form the PPERRIA Executive Committee that serves to coordinate committee actions. This arrangement allows the Board of Directors to act on this collected wisdom and set policy directions. It does that at monthly meetings with the help of the PPERRIA membership.

In order to assure that we can stay on top of all this without burning out our volunteers, we also need to make the most effect use of staff time, because this work plan does stretch the volunteer hours and it really needs appropriate staff support to assure that it is carried out efficiently and effectively.

With the organization operating in this way, we not only keep things running, but we can stay ahead of things with special initiatives like Prospect Park 2020. Such initiatives may involve partnerships with others to work toward common interests, or some extra work to solve a neighborhood problem. In the case of Prospect Park 2020, we set up a partnership to hire consultants to help us work out a development implementation plan for the Prospect Park station area. Instead of waiting for developers to tell us what kind of development will occur, we will tell the developers what we want and show that it is also economically desirable.

Traditionally we have supported our efforts with annual donations or dues. And except for the NRP years when we used NRP funds to hire staff to carry out many of the day-to-day operations, we have recently met most of our needs with local neighborhood support. Doing so has played a very important role in providing neighborhood buy-in: a way for everyone to contribute to our joint efforts even when they cannot offer volunteer time.

PPERRIA now has two basic financial needs. One is for the basic operations of the organization, including producing and distributing the monthly newsletter, maintaining the web site and the elist server. We also need to contract space for meetings, buy insurance, pay for basic staff time and be ready to assist residents as needed. The cost total of these basic functions has been around $10,000 per year (which we have met with some help from NRP and a City fund). The second financial need is to support the extra efforts and initiatives. The cost for that is quite variable, and may even be supported in part or in full by outside funders.

This year we have had outside support from the City to both cover basic operations expenses and to implement our strategic plans for outreach and
community engagement. We also had some outside support for the Prospect Park 2020 partnership we initiated.

We expect that the City will continue to support PPERRIA at some level for a few years at least. But our NRP funds are now essentially gone and we have only a minor uncommitted reserve fund of less than $10,000: not really enough to take advantage of new initiatives or neighborhood actions in our interest. I believe that we should have a reserve fund closer to $50,000 for this organization.

I think the advantages of having such a fund are illustrated by the success of the Prospect Park 2020 initiative, which has made real and important gains on ensuring that future development around the Prospect Park station will benefit our neighborhood (see www.prospectpark2020.org). PPERRIA's initial investment of $5000 demonstrated to the Funders Collaborative and others that PPERRIA was willing to invest in the neighborhood's future. This resulted in funding support from the Funders Collaborative, from Hennepin County and local businesses to set up Prospect Park 2020. Now that project is drawing to a close, and the dollars have been mostly spent. Meanwhile the project has morphed into more of a development initiative, with the Prospect Park 2020 staff and partners now engaged in land control and marketing the area for future development. For this to succeed, we need to keep the effort going and tied to neighborhood residents and businesses. To keep up the momentum for the short term at least, the project will depend on neighborhood contributions while it tries to identify other funding sources.

The PPERRIA Development Committee is gearing up now to launch a campaign after the beginning of 2012 to build up the needed reserve fund. Meanwhile we invite you to consider investing in this neighborhood enterprise by donating to PPERRIA now, made easy by visiting GiveMN.org. Just look for PPERRIA and click on DONATE.

……………………Dick Poppele

PPERRIA Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2011, Prospect Park United Methodist Church

HIGHLIGHTS:
1. May minutes approved, with changes
2. PPERRIA receives funds from new Community Participation Plan
3. Update on “Prospect Park 2020” project/Textile Center
4. Historic District may not cover area south of Franklin Avenue

The monthly meeting of the Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association was called to order by President Dick Poppele at 7:04 PM. He thanked Christina Larson for providing cookies for the meeting.

Eric Amel, a new neighborhood resident and first-time PPERRIA meeting attendee, introduced himself. He and his wife have bought the house where Ralph Rapson used to live at 1 Seymour Avenue and he said, “Yes, we are architects.”

The agenda was approved as published.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved with the following changes:
- Approval of the charges of the committees was not unanimous. There was one nay vote.
- A separate Board of Directors vote was not taken on the charges to the committees.

The minutes of the September meeting, published in the newsletter, were approved as published, with one nay vote being recorded.

The Treasurer’s report, passed out to the members by Dick Kain, was approved.
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Jim Widder introduced Julie Shortridge, the Marketing and Development Manager of Genesis II for Families at 3036 University Avenue (corner of Malcolm). This business has been a part of Prospect Park for 27 years. The name will be changed in the spring of 2011. Julie said that Genesis II has two new programs: a new daycare center and a new “Co-parenting and Mediation Services Program.” Genesis II provides parenting education and services to teen parents and services to families. Most of its clients are referred to them by Hennepin County Social Services. They are low or no-income families. The new daycare center, “First Step Early Childhood Education Center,” opened in the spring. It takes children from the ages of six weeks to six years. An important focus of the center is testing children for developmental markers. This new center is open to all children, not only the children of people seeking services at Genesis II. Julie said she thinks it will be “a real asset to the community.” Neighbors often see the children walking to neighborhood parks. The kids have also “adopted” the bus stop at Malcolm and University. The “co-parenting” program is for parents who are divorced or otherwise separated. It offers mediation to resolve conflicts. More information is available at the website www.genesis2.org.

- Joyce Barta reported that the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is being phased out and a new program, in the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR), is coming in. Basic neighborhood funding is through the Community Participation Program (CPP) grants. The funding cycle for the new program is three years. Prospect Park received a grant of about $40,000 in the first year. There is another part of the NCR program for funding specific projects and they will be awarded on a competitive basis from proposals submitted by the neighborhoods. A neighborhood will be eligible to apply for one such grant in each 3-year cycle. Susan Gottlieb asked how the neighborhood would determine its priorities. Joyce said that we will have to come up with a plan and contact as many groups in the neighborhood as possible. Dick P. said that the first year funding by CPP will be evaluated from a report on our activities by the end of February. That report will be used in determining our funding for the next 3 years. Since each neighborhood has a “recognized” neighborhood organization that participates in this program, Henry Keshi (President of the Glendale Residents Council) asked what criteria would be used to determine what groups qualified as neighborhood groups. The criteria are set by the City, and we needed to modify the PPERRIA by laws to qualify. Dick P. said that PPERRIA was making a determined effort to include as many residents and businesses in the neighborhood as possible.

- Cam Gordon, Second Ward City Councilman, brought copies of his monthly newsletter to hand out. It contains information on the phasing out of NRP. Cam added that the state has statutes about how to spend NRP money. There is a need to create a new NRP policy board. The city is getting a new director of regulatory services. Mike Christenson, Director of CPED and Barb Sporlein, Director of Planning at CPED are both getting new jobs and leaving the city of Minneapolis. The auto repair businesses at 2929 University (old Kemps building) were all shut down in September because many were unlicensed. The business licenses have now all been approved. Overnight parking behind 2929 University (along 4th Street) will be banned. Metered parking might be put in here. A fire occurred at 70 Melbourne Avenue and a city inspector determined that the house cannot be rehabilitated but must be torn down. Condemnation procedures are moving ahead.

- Dick P. said that “Area B schools” (K-5 schools) will hold a meeting and a free spaghetti dinner at Pratt this coming Thursday, starting at 5:30 PM. Neighbors are welcome to attend.

REPORT ON PRATT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dan Peters, the president of the Pratt Parent Teacher Organization, thanked PPERRIA for all its support for the school over the years. Pratt had added a first grade class in the current academic year. Grades 4 and 5 are still combined (with a total of 42 kids) but many of the hours in the day are taken up by specialist teachers and not with the sole Grades 4 & 5 teacher. A second teacher is being sought, but so far only a half-time position has been authorized. Dan thanked PPERRIA for sending a letter MPS Superintendent supporting the request for additional instructional staff. He also thanked the Prospect Park Garden Club for its planting and maintenance of flowers in various parts of the grounds. This past summer a new fenced-in area of the parking lot was put in (for ball play at recess) and the whole parking lot was torn up to provide for separation of storm and sewer lines. This resulted in the loss of parts of the gardens. However, a new “rain garden” was put in by the new ball play area, with a wooden bridge across it. Pratt has 221 students this fall, which is sufficient enrollment that the parents of Pratt students need no longer worry that the school will be shuttered. The build-out of the vacant third floor space is “likely to become a reality” since Pratt is on the list put out by the school district for major capital improvements.
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT ALLIANCE UPDATE

Dick P. said that The Alliance is in the process of reorganizing itself. The Alliance first formed at the request of the State Legislature as an ad hoc group when the U of M football stadium was being planned and built. It was recognized that in addition to having an on-campus stadium, the University has an important impact upon surrounding neighborhoods and the state of Minnesota released some money to study and deal with those effects. Next year the University District Alliance will incorporate as a nonprofit organization. Ted Tucker from Marcy-Holmes has been nominated to be elected as Chairman of the Board of the newly reorganized Alliance. To date, the Alliance has had one member from each neighborhood surrounding the U of M on its steering committee (the representative from Prospect Park is Dick Popple, who is also the current co-chair of the Alliance Board). Starting next year, each neighborhood will have two seats on the Board of Directors. These two seats will be filled by Dick P. and Dick Gil yard, with John Kari as first alternate. Julie Wallace was nominated for, and elected to, the post of second alternate. The vote was unanimous and can be considered a vote of the Board, a quorum being present.

A new Strategic Compliance Team has been active in neighborhoods surrounding the U of M in the past year. This consists of the Minneapolis Police Department, the U of M, and regulatory services representatives from the city of Minneapolis. The aim of the SCG is to identify “problem properties” in Southeast Minneapolis, including those rental units, which are poorly maintained or occupied by excessively rowdy tenants. The Compliance team aims to reduce problems by encouraging more calls to 311, issuing citations to landlords, imposing fines for violations and, in extreme cases, revoking rental licenses. The U of M has helped the effort by extending the Student Conduct Code to all locations off-campus. The efforts to reduce bad behavior have paid off; there was a drop of more than 30 percent in the number of livability-related police calls in campus-area neighborhoods in 2010. More information is available at the Alliance website (https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?id=6414795&isa=Category&op=show) or do a search on “University District Alliance Minnesota”.

The Alliance has been offering comments on new development near the U of M and wanted to come up with comments about what developments add to the neighborhoods in which they are built. The Alliance developed a set of “design development principles” (in the form of questions) to ascertain how development contributes to the livability of neighborhoods. These principles can be found on the main page of the Alliance website at https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?id=3856578

It is hoped that the Zoning and Planning committees of the various neighborhoods will meet soon and adopt these principles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Steve Cross of the Membership-Communications Committee reported that he has recruited 20 people to serve as block club leaders. He encouraged committee chairpersons to post information on their committees on the neighborhood website.

Dick Brownlee of the Zoning Committee reported that a major item discussed at the October 4 meeting was the problem of the closing down of the automobile repair businesses at 2929 University. This problem is being resolved by Cam Gordon.

Dick Gil yard of the Master Plan Committee and John DeWitt of the Transit Committee gave an update on the “Prospect Park 2020” project. University Avenue is “the gateway to the city, the county, and the University.” A workshop was put on by PP2020 in September and reported in detail at the September PPERRIA meeting; the task now is “marketing the vision” that emerged from the workshop. The Textile Center is “a key building block” of the vision. The Boeser property (north of the old Kemps property), was optioned by a developer who wanted to put in more student housing. However, the developer recently dropped that proposal and the property is back on the market. The four key blocks for new development are delineated by University Avenue, 29th Avenue, the U of M Transit way, and Malcolm Avenue. PP residents can see maps of proposed development and an architect’s model of the neighborhood in the PPERRIA office (in the U Flats building at Arthur and University). The PPERRIA office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 to 5. The next PP2020 workshop will be held Saturday, November 5. Most of the information is also available at http://www.prospectpark2020.org/

The three houses on the south side of University Avenue between Malcolm and Arthur will be torn down in the next week. The Planning committee has tried to communicate with the developer since April but has had no luck. The proposed new development will be a 4-story apartment building with a deli on the first floor. Peter LaSha said that the success of a deli depends greatly upon the quality of the meat it sells. John D. said that the Speedy Mart at Como and Doswell avenues in Saint Anthony Park has a great meat counter; he would like to see something like this in Prospect Park.

Dick P. reported that the city of Minneapolis is doing a cost-benefit analysis on various parts of the proposed Granary Road. The road was originally envisioned as a route to connect 35E and 35W several blocks north of University Avenue.
This is now being re-evaluated. The section of Granary Road between Malcolm Avenue and 25th Avenue in Prospect Park was part of a bonding bill passed by the state legislature several years ago but vetoed by Governor Pawlenty.

Dick G. said that a large portion of new housing envisioned for north of University Avenue would be affordable housing, which is now largely lacking in the housing mix of Prospect Park.

Rob Nordin of the **Organizational Development Committee** passed out a handout on the activities of this committee. He said that although membership in PPERRIA is free, we are a 501(C)3 organization and therefore contributions to PPERRIA are fully deductible on income tax forms. Currently 390 households are PPERRIA members.

“Give to the Max Day,” a statewide fundraising effort, will be November 16 this year.

PPERRIA has a record with GiveMN.org. To contribute to PPERRIA, go to the website http://givemn.razoo.com/p/gtmd. Once there, type in “Prospect Park” in the search box.

Tamara Johnson mentioned that many employers will match gifts made by their employees to local charities. The next scheduled Org, Dev. Committee meeting will be Wednesday December 7th.

Joe Ring of the **Historic District Committee** said that efforts continue to get a “conservation district” ordinance passed in the city of Minneapolis. He hopes to set up a meeting with Cam Gordon and Diane Hofstede. He will meet with Preserve Minneapolis on November 22. The Historic District Committee continues its efforts to provide the hill area of Prospect Park with national designation as an historic district. The State Historic Preservation Office has asked for some additional clarifications in Prospect Park’s application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There were three issues: 1. The “period of significance” for historic districts is usually 50 years; that for Prospect Park is 90 years 2. The area south of Franklin differs from that north of Franklin in its development patterns and age of housing, 3. Prospect Park has an exceptionally high percentage of its houses designated as “contributing properties” to the historic district. These issues will have to be addressed before SHPO signs off on the proposal. Members of the Historic District Committee will be meeting soon with SHPO and Hess Roise (the contractor who drew up the application)

Christina Larson of the **Administration Committee** said that proposed changes to the PPERRIA budget will be sent out in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murdock, PPERRIA Secretary

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**An LRT parking solution**

A new, temporary parking lot on 4th Street SE will be the first use of a Minneapolis ordinance addressing parking issues during light rail construction. The ordinance permits interim uses that wouldn’t meet zoning requirements if they were permanent. The new lot will be on property owned by Hubbard Broadcasting (KSTP), using an existing curb cut and gate. It will be installed by and used for staff of the Fraser Child & Family Center at 3333 University Avenue SE. The lot will have 50 permit parking spaces for Fraser staff. It will have a crushed rock surface, and plantings along the front fence for screening. The interim-use permit expires March 31, 2014. Fraser Center and Hubbard Broadcasting set a good example for the neighborhood. It’s a model for others to follow

……..Julie Wallace
Light rail musings – Lessons from St. Paul
Julie Wallace

The first year of construction for the light rail line down University Avenue is drawing to a close, and now that we have seen the process just across the border in St. Paul we can anticipate the impacts for Prospect Park next summer. The results should be encouraging, even though living through construction can be difficult. On the “first mile” in St. Paul we now see new streets (with all new utilities beneath them), new trees with porous pavers that help direct water to them, new sidewalks and bus shelters, and new improved traffic signals. While there will be two more seasons of construction, the remaining activities will take place mostly in the rail corridor between the traffic lanes with minimal disruption to traffic.

The Metropolitan Council’s Central Corridor Project Office established a Construction Communication Committee for each segment of the line to provide frequent feedback to the office and the contractor on issues that affect businesses and residents along the corridor. For the St. Paul segment from Emerald to Hamline, the group has met biweekly focusing on such issues as business access, pedestrian crossings, intersection traffic backups, and signage. Lessons learned will benefit Prospect Park next spring when construction resumes.

Traffic will be diverted to one side of the avenue as the new street and rail corridor is installed – then traffic will move to the other side, as it did in St. Paul. Access will be maintained to all properties, and safe pedestrian crossings provided at signalized intersections. Improved signage to help people get to local businesses is one of the lessons learned, with businesses and the city working together with the contractor and the project office. Every effort is made to help communities support businesses along the corridor. Project office staff will meet directly with every business and institution to assess and help solve their access issues.

While actual Central Corridor construction in Prospect Park begins next spring, some utilities are doing preparatory work now. Little did we know that our avenue may hide electric, gas, phone, water and sewer lines, some of those over 100 years old. Much of the utility work will be coordinated with next summer’s construction, which is apparently scheduled to start on the western end near the intercampus transit way and move easterly to the completed street and track in front of KSTP. If all goes as planned the Minneapolis and St. Paul tracks will meet near Emerald some time next fall. Anyone for a street party to celebrate the pounding of the symbolic Golden Spike?

*Julie Wallace is Prospect Park’s representative on the University Avenue West Construction Communication Committee (UAWCCC)*

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http://pperr.org

Have you visited our PPERRIA Website lately? We benefit from the work of some very bright volunteers, led by our venerable WebMaster Andy Mickel. While on the subject, the Website could use more photos. Andy says: Submit them on CDs, flashdrives, or other device amenable to electronic transfer.
PPERRIA SCHEDULE OF NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS
(Formerly known as “the PPERRIA Neighborhood Calendar”)

To include items in the PPERRIA schedule, contact Joyce Barta by Wednesday, Jan. 4th at bartajm@yahoo.com or 612-859-4960

Communications Committee meeting: Thursdays, November 17th, December 22nd, and Jan 26th, 7pm. Prospect Park United Methodist Church – Call Lois Willand at 378-9697.

PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership meeting: Mondays, November 28th, and January 23rd, 7pm. Prospect Park United Methodist Church – Call Dick Poppele 378-9242. (No meeting in December.)

Administration Committee: Thursdays, December 1st, and January 5th, 7pm, PPERRIA Office, 2950 University – Call Christina Larson at 651-329-2784.

Organizational Development Committee: Wednesdays, December 7th and Jan 5th, 7pm, PPERRIA office, 2950 University – Call Rob Nordin at 331-1766.

PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting: Mondays, December 12th (tentative) and January 9th, 7 pm. PPERRIA office, 2950 University – Call President Dick Poppele at 378-9242.

Garden Club Potluck meetings: There will be no Garden Club meetings in November or December. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 6:30 p.m. at Vera Marshall's house, 2019 Franklin Avenue, SE.

Glendale Residents Council meetings: Friday, January 28th, 3:30 pm. Luxton Park – Contact Henry Keshi, keshi@minn.net. (No meeting in December.)

Zoning & Planning Committee meeting (Tentative): Tuesdays, December 6th, and January 3rd, 7pm. Prospect Park United Methodist Church, or PPERRIA office, 2950 University – Call Dick Brownlee at 339-2472.

October 2011 PPERRIA Staff Report
10/1/2011 – 10/31/2011

Staff hours for regular PPERRIA tasks from October 1 through October 31, 2011 totaled 35.25 hours for a cost of $846.00. This was paid out of PPERRIA funds.

“Do more than belong: participate.” ...............William Arthur Ward
## PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs

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<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair(s)</th>
<th>Contact(s)</th>
<th>Phone(s)</th>
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## Other PPERRIA Committees and Task Groups

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<th>Chair(s)</th>
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<td>378-9242</td>
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*The following are not PPERRIA Committees, but they have PPERRIA representatives:*  

- **Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG)**  
  - Greg Bernstein, John Kari (Alt.)
- **Southeast Minneapolis Committee on Learning (SEMCOL)**  
  - Susan Gottlieb
- **District Councils Collaborative (DCC)**  
  - Phil Anderson
- **Central Corridor Construction Communication Committee for University Avenue West**  
  - Julie Wallace
- **University District Partnership Alliance**  
  - Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard,
We’re on the Web!

See us at:

http://pperr.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FYI: Your neighborhood improvement association no longer makes the payment of dues a condition of membership, yet we still must pay for maintaining the organization, its website, pp-elist and Newsletter.

GiveMN.org provides a convenient website for those who wish to make charitable gifts near the end of the tax year.

It’s a kind of one-stop shopping with a long list of eligible charities and non-profits. One of these is PPERRIA, and your gift will go toward helping PPERRIA meet its strategic objectives for the Prospect Park neighborhood.

To make a tax-deductable gift to PPERRIA point your web browser to GiveMN.org. In the search box labeled “Search for a cause” enter “PPERRIA”. This will take you to a page that lists Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association and you just type in your donation.

Or, use this link: giveMN PPERRIA It takes you to the page on GiveMN for PPERRIA – And thanks.

………………Lois Willand

And Remember:

What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today