# PPERRIA News – November 2012

Newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association



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## PPERRIA Board / Membership Meeting Monday, November 26th 7:00 – 9:00 PM

## Prospect Park United Methodist Church Corner of Orlin and Malcolm Avenues SE

If you have special accommodation needs, contact Jessica Buchberger at pperriastaff@gmail.com or 612/643-1443 We will make every attempt to meet that need

## Refreshments at 6:30 pm.

## AGENDA:

- · LRT construction update
- Update of City/Utilities contracts
- Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) volunteers
- · Zoning change request Plasma Center
- Committee reports

#### Your current PPERRIA officers:

President:Christina Larson (651-329-2784)...pperriapresident@gmail.comV. President:Currently unfilledSecretary:Karen Murdock (340-1338).....murdock1212@gmail.comTreasurer:Lindsey Wollschlager (438-4068).....lwollschlager@gmail.com

#### Visit the PPERRIA Office, at the corner of Arthur and University Avenues Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 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

## Notes on the PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting of October 24, 2012 by Karen Murdock [These "Notes" are <u>not</u> the official minutes of the PPERRIA meeting.]

HIGHLIGHTS

- bylaw changes vote not on agenda
- update on Light Rail Transit
- public art receives support
- September minutes tabled

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Dick Poppele, filling in for President Christina Larson. He thanked Dorothy Marden for providing refreshments. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present. A first-time attendee was Marion Renault, a reporter from *The Minnesota Daily*.

The consent agenda, including committee reports printed in the October newsletter, was adopted. The agenda was approved with the addition of Dick Gilyard's suggestion that adjournment be at 7:55 (to enable people to get home in time to hear the last of the Presidential debates).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Julie Wallace said that the "Tot Boss" food truck will be in Prospect Park, in the parking lot of Tierney Brothers on October 23 from 11 AM till 2 PM. Their menu is based on tater tots.

**FEATURED BUSINESS** – Heather Martin from the Spire credit union (formerly Twin Cities Coop Credit Union) said this financial business has been located in Prospect Park since 1934 (at the corner of Malcolm and University). Spire is a non-profit with a volunteer board of directors.

**UPDATE ON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LINE** – Joy Miciano of Ames-McCrossan said November 30 will be the "substantial completion date" for work on the light rail project through Prospect Park. Minimal work will be done in the winter. Malcolm/University intersection will reopen in early November. Dan Pfeiffer of the Metropolitan Council said that the overhead electric lines will be installed in 2013. Tests of the train will begin late in 2013. When the line is opened (early to mid 2014), the estimated travel time between downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul will be 39 minutes. Over the winter, the Central Corridor project will develop a "punch list" of things that need to be done when construction reopens in the spring. This will include replacing sod that did not establish itself well (due to drought conditions this summer) and minor repairs and replacement of broken parts of sidewalks and curbs. Trees will be installed along the line in Prospect Park this month.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (CPP)** – An 8-page report on the CPP was sent out by email to PPERRIA members today. Dick Poppele gave some of the highlights of this report. The CPP is a city program which provides grants to individual neighborhoods. The grant to Prospect Park for the first year (2010) was \$40,000. The first year had an automatic 6-month extension, so this is the end of an 18-month period counting as the first year. It is anticipated that the grant for the second year will be \$60,000.

**SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC ART** – Dick Gilyard presented the following motion: *The Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association strongly supports Cornerstone Group's application to the City of Minneapolis for a Public Art Grant directed to the inclusion of public art in the development of their Boeser site project and/or along*  $4^{th}$  *Street SE.* (The Boeser site is north of the old Kemps site.) He said this would be in addition to funds for public arts associated with the Central Corridor LRT line. The motion passed with one "nay" vote. Since the "nay" vote was cast by a non-Board member, this vote can be considered a Board vote, a quorum being present.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Lindsey Wollschlager's report, including a spreadsheet of expenditures by the Prospect Park 2020 group, was submitted for audit. Steve Ficker said that more details of PP2020 spending should be given. Dick P. said that PP2020 was working to set itself up as a nonprofit organization by the end of the year and thus no longer rely on PPERRIA as fiscal agent for PP2020.

**MINUTES** – Steve Ficker proposed extensive changes to the September minutes, as passed out at this meeting. A motion to table the discussion of the September minutes passed with one "nay" vote but cannot be considered a Board vote, a quorum of the Board no longer being present at this time.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Construction Communication Committee** – Julie Wallace said this would be her last report, as construction of the LRT line through the Park will be substantially finished by November 30. The triangles at Malcolm and Clarence have been restored but the one at Malcolm has been substantially reduced in size. The boulder with "Prospect Park" engraved upon it will be returned soon. When LRT construction is finished there will be three "through" intersections: 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Malcolm Avenue, and Bedford Street. All of these will have left-turn arrows for cars on the south side of the tracks to turn left. The pedestrian crosswalk at Bedford will be "squared off"; this will make crossing easier but will require some adjustment on the part of drivers. Those drivers who are turning right from Bedford will now encounter pedestrians in an unexpected spot. The decorative pavers installed at Raymond Avenue in Saint Paul were put in because this is an historic district; Prospect Park will get plain cement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

## This is catch-up month. Below are minutes of two PPERRIA Board/membership meetings that had not been published in the PPERRIA NEWS until now......the editor

Minutes of the PPERRIA Board/membership meeting July 23, 2012 - Prospect Park United Methodist Church

The meeting was called to order by President Christina Larson at 7:00 PM. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present and, unless otherwise noted, a separate Board vote was not taken on issues on which the membership voted. Unanimous votes of the membership can be considered a vote of the full Board of Directors when a quorum of the Board is present.

**UPDATE ON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LINE** – Jessica Hill of the Central Corridor light rail project office gave an update on the work progressing on the south side of University Avenue between Arthur and Bedford.

**UPDATE:** SOUND WALLS ALONG I-94 – Bob Sykora of Franklin Avenue said the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDoT) has put out a Request for Proposal to engineering companies for a means to evaluate and mitigate reflected noise from the new sound walls.

MINUTES - Minutes of the June 2012 meeting were approved with the addition of one "a" and one "of."

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer's report by Lindsey Wollschlager was submitted for audit.

**BYLAW CHANGES** – Steve Cross chaired this section of the meeting. Betts Zerby moved that the discussion of bylaw changes be postponed til the September meeting (the 27 members needed to vote on bylaw changes were not present). Dean Lund offered a friendly amendment that the vote on the bylaw changes be postponed but that discussion of the issue take place at tonight's meeting. This motion carried on a vote on 24-10. Extensive discussion ensued.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership/Communications Committee** – Paul Zerby introduced Will Oberly, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota and the person Jim Widder recommended to take over the duties of reaching out to local Prospect Park businesses. Paul moved that a contract for service with Will for \$2400 be approved. The motion was approved unanimously and can be considered a Board vote, a quorum being present.

**Administrative Committee** – Dick Poppele introduced the following resolution: "Modify the PPERRIA annual budget for 2012-13 to include an item for expenses that are not covered by the CPP grant from the City." The resolution passed unanimously and can be considered a Board vote, a quorum being present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Murdock, Secretary Minutes of PPERRIA Board/membership meeting September 24, 2012 – Prospect Park United Methodist Church

The meeting was called to order by President Christina Larson at 7:00 PM. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present. Unless otherwise noted, a separate Board vote was not taken on issues on which the membership voted. Unanimous votes of the membership can be considered a vote of the full Board of Directors when a quorum of the Board is present.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Kilton announced that the annual neighborhood cleanup will be held Saturday, September 29th. Christina Larson said that voting on proposed amendments to the PPERRIA bylaws has been postponed for input from the city of Minneapolis. In a review of the Citizen Participation Program (CPP), the city noticed some "red flags" in the bylaws of several neighborhood organizations.

#### UPDATE ON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LINE

Joy Miciano of Ames-McCrossen said that construction of the Central Corridor light rail project is on schedule. Some "rail strings" have been installed.

#### **RESPONSIBLE BANKING PETITION**

Carolyn Belle, Sandra Levine and Dave Snyder moved that the membership support a "Minneapolis Responsible Banking Petition" which would require that large banks which do business with the city disclose their "financial footprint" in the community (disclosing such things as small business loans, community development loans and home foreclosures by zip code). This petition was supported on a voice vote of the membership. (The full text of the resolution appears in the October issue of the NEWS.)

#### **UPDATE: CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Bob Roscoe (1401 East River Road) said he heads a neighborhood committee (Prospect Park Conservation Guidelines Group) that is dedicated to developing a "Conservation District Ordinance" in the city of Minneapolis. Other members of the committee are Phil Anderson, Richard Adams, Dick Poppele, Joe Ring, Mary-Alice Kopf, and Dick Gilyard. A "Conservation District" will not be the same thing as a "Historic District." A handout passed out to the membership explained the differences.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the July meeting were approved with one addition and one spelling correction and will be printed in the next PPERRIA newsletter.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report by Lindsey Wollschlager was not printed for review tonight but was reviewed by the Executive Committee. Copies will be brought to the October meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration Committee – Dick Poppele said that Joyce Barta has resigned from her position with PPERRIA and has been replaced by Jessica Bushburger.

Transit Committee – John DeWitt said that a task force on parking in Prospect Park has been formed.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Paul Zerby asked that the budget of "Prospect Park 2020" be brought to the October meeting of PPERRIA; since the PP2020 money flows through PPERRIA, the Board of Directors of PPERRIA is ultimately responsible for these funds.

Paul Z. proposed a motion "that the neighborhood supports the efforts to get a grocery store in Prospect Park, and a brewery at the location of the old potato processing site in SEMI, provided any pub in connection with the brewery be consistent with neighborhood values." Paul said his proposal was aimed at, but should not be limited to, *Trader Joe's* and *Surley Brewing*. The motion passed unanimously and can be considered a Board vote, a quorum being present.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

#### **CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS OVER!**

Julie Wallace

The construction season in Prospect Park is just about over, with details to be finished up before the end of the year. The towers and wires that will power the light rail transit (LRT) trains will go up next summer, but that work and other finishing work should require only the closure of lanes, not the major disruption we have now survived.

What do we have to show for it?

- An enticing track down University Avenue, showing us that this new transportation option will soon be ready
- Newly paved avenue and intersections
- Improved traffic signals at cross street intersections
- Brand new curbs and sidewalks along the entire route
- Completely renewed underground water and sewer lines under the new street
- New sod and trees along the avenue
- The Prospect Park marker rock back on the Malcolm triangle
- New plantings on the Malcolm and Clarence triangles adjacent to Tower Hill Park
- Some limited parking back on the avenue in designated bays
- Two new LRT stations ready to serve us

What should we still be watching for?

- The contractor will replace any sod or trees that do not thrive be vigilant next spring in reporting these to the Construction Hotline
- Report any other problems such as broken curbs, crossing issues, or missing signs
- PPERRIA or local businesses could look into the city's program for wrapping utility boxes with art, as has been done effectively on Franklin and Lake Street
- The Westgate and Prospect Park stations will have their station artwork installed early next year with luck we might be notified of the timing and be inspired to celebrate those additions, chosen with neighborhood input

Drivers and walkers will need to be alert to the new crosswalk configuration at Bedford. The crosswalks are set back from the SE and NW corners in order to place the crossings at right angles to the tracks, and to get pedestrians to the Westgate Station platform. This creates possible conflicts between pedestrians and cars making right turns from Bedford. Cars and pedestrians will have green/walk lights at the same time, but the cars will encounter the crosswalk after they have completed their right turns.

The city is looking at ways to alert drivers to this hazard, through pavement marking and signage. They also may time the walk signal to give pedestrians a head start before cars on Bedford get a green light (though cars turning right on red will then encounter the pedestrians who have a walk signal.) While the design of the streets and trackway was done by the LRT engineers, the traffic signals and signage are managed by the city. This is an experiment for Minneapolis traffic planners, since it will be the only intersection with this configuration in the whole city.

Trains will start running in early 2014 to test all systems and signals. While those first trains won't stop and pick us up, they will be a sign that service is near. The Green Line is scheduled to open some time in mid-2014.

### OPINION

#### (Opinion pieces are always welcome. Anonymous submittals must include a valid reason for their anonymity.)

#### It's about bylaws, again.

nce more we are considering changes in PPERRIA's bylaws. This time we have been urged by the City Neighborhood Community Relations Department to make our bylaws consistent with City policy and State law. The issues are about participation and inclusiveness.

The City currently recognizes PPERRIA as officially representing the Prospect Park neighborhood. Therefore any official input from the neighborhood regarding things like zoning changes, etc. is solicited from PPERRIA. If the PPERRIA's bylaws do not conform to the City requirements, we are likely to lose our status as neighborhood representative. It goes without saying that losing our status as the city's neighborhood representative would likely have serious negative consequences on our ability to implement PPERRIA's mission.

What specifically is the issue? The City policy insists that there be no barriers to participation in the neighborhood association for eligible neighborhood residents and businesses. Currently PPERRIA's bylaws do not conform to that standard. Before examining this in detail, let's review how PPERRIA actually works.

PPERRIA has monthly meetings that are widely publicized and open. While they are characterized as "membership/board" meetings, anyone is free to attend. At those meetings, typically attended by 50 or more, we discuss neighborhood issues, hear reports of neighborhood activities and things that impact the neighborhood (LRT, area development, etc.). Often resolutions are passed and/or positions taken by consent or by vote. In the years that I chaired these meetings I do not recall ever asking that only PPERRIA members vote or weigh in on an issue. Sometimes we were required to have a separate vote of the Board of Directors, but only on certain issues.

These meetings are therefore more like traditional town meetings than corporation or board meetings. Nevertheless PPERRIA has a Board of Directors charged to oversee the affairs of the PPERRIA Corporation. Most of the actual working of the organization is carried out by its committees. And committee membership is open to any interested individual, PPERRIA member or not. Several committees also have representative of local business as regular members

So what is the problem? The test of participation the City would use is that any resident should be able to attend a PPERRIA meeting and vote on an issue. I'd say we pass that test, but it needs to be clear from the bylaws. Participation on the Board of Directors is another issue raised by the City. Currently we exclude business representatives from serving on the Board.

Before we consider what we might or might not do with the Board, let's examine how it is now structured. The Board has 40 members, elected for staggered 2-year terms. This is rather large by comparison with other neighborhoods, which typically have much smaller Boards (often less than 15 members). We currently have 5 officers elected by the Board, President, Vice President , Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee members are also Board members (currently 11 committee chairs and officers).

Do we need/want a smaller Board? When this was proposed in the past, the consensus was that the 40member board is necessary to encourage participation. We thought that people would not attend the PPERRIA meetings unless they felt they had an official role (e.g. on the board). My observation is that this has not really worked. With 40 board members, the average board attendance has been 25 - barely over half the board, and often less than half the total attendance. Moreover 12 board members have attended fewer than half the meetings this year. A 40-member board can also make it difficult to establish and follow up on policy decisions, since the board attendance is often a different subset at each meeting.

The specific duties of the Board of Directors include responsibility for the resources and affairs of the corporation. These fiduciary responsibilities include proper accounting and responsible management of financial resources and property of the PPERRIA Corporation. The Board also has the specific responsibility to see to it that the mission of the organization is carried out.

The many functions of PPERRIA – "... to promote, in a non-partisan, educational and cooperative manner, the health, safety and general welfare of the residents within the association's geographic jurisdiction and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the aesthetic, residential and physical qualities of the environment in which those residents reside." – to quote PPERRIA's official purpose, are carried out by members, committees and community residents and businesses.

Given these realities, I believe we can craft our bylaws to reflect what we actually do and at the same time satisfy the City and State requirements for bylaws for our corporation.

For membership we only need to state that any adult resident (over 18) or landowner within the

geographic boundaries of the Prospect Park neighborhood is eligible for membership. Moreover a representative of any business, organization or institution located within its boundaries is also eligible.

For the Board of Directors, we should be clear that Directors accept their fiduciary responsibility to the PPERRIA Corporation. Perhaps we do not need 40 Directors for that role. We could also designate that no more that 10% of the Directors be non-resident members and still retain resident control.

Finally, and as is already clear, participation in PPERRIA activities does not require membership. Only members, however, are entitled to vote for the Board of Directors, or to be a Director.

With changes to the bylaws along these lines, our bylaws will define a structure that reflects our current operations and will also satisfy the City and State requirements.

.....Dick Poppele

#### UNEASY SITS THE ROCK

Local lore says our "PROSPECT PARK" Rock first appeared on the boulevard of Malcolm Avenue at the foot of Tower Hill sometime by the 1930s. It was later moved out to the Malcolm traffic island. There it sat unadorned until about 1990 when a resident made the unilateral decision that it lacked a certain cachet and, taking brush in hand, brightened the incised letters with white paint. Early this year it was removed from the site pending reconstruction of the traffic island during LRT construction. This month many fears were eased when it returned from limbo to its rightful place on the new traffic island (see photo on p.10).

**But – this just in:** The Grand Poo-Bahs of the Heritage Commission have decreed that the PROSPECT PARK inscription, originally facing due north, now faces a few degrees off. It must be uprooted and properly placed.

### 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**

To include items in the next PPERRIA schedule, contact Jessica Buchberger by **Wed, June 6th** at pperriastaff@gmail.com or 612/643-1443

**PPERRIA Board of Directors & Membership meeting:** Monday, November 26th, 7pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Call Christina Larson at 651-329-2784.

**Administration Committee meetings:** Usually first Thursday of the month at the PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE – Call Dick Poppele at 378-9242.

**Garden Club:** Next Garden Club Meeting January 23rd, 2013. Questions? Call Pam Harris at 331-6626.

**Glendale Residents Council meeting:** Usually the 4th Friday of the month, 3:30 pm. Luxton Park – Contact Henry Keshi, <u>keshi@minn.net</u>.

**Membership/Communications Committee meetings:** Usually the 4th Thursday of the month, 7pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Call Lois Willand at 378-9697 or Betts Zerby at 379-8095.

**Organizational Development Committee meetings:** Usually the first Wednesday of the month, 7pm, PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE. Call Dick Poppele 378-9242.

**PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting:** Usually the second Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE – Call Christina Larson at 651-329-2784.

**Zoning & Project Review meeting (Tentative):** Usually the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm, PPERRIA Office – Contact Dick Brownlee at 339-2472.

"Do more than belong: participate." ......William Arthur Ward

One way you can "Do more than belong..." is to become editor of this newsletter

We are seeking the next editor of PPERRIA NEWS. For the person with the right stuff, it's a great way to learn what's happening and to stay informed. Contact Christina Larson at pperriapresident@gmail.com or 651-329-2784, or any PPERRIA officer, or Jessica Buchberger at pperriastaff@gmail.com

PPERRIA Standing Committees and Chairs				
Administration	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu	378-9242	
Executive	Christina Larson	pperriapresident@gmail.com	651-329-2784	
Historic District	Joe Ring	jring@jringglass.com	379-4587	
Master Planning	Dick Gilyard	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net	362-8995	
Membership and Communication	Paul Zerby, Co-chair Lois Willand, Co-chair Betts Zerby, Vice-chair	pgzerby@yahoo.com loiswilland@gmail.com ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095 378-9697 379-8095	
Organizational Development				
Transit	John DeWitt	jdewitt@comcast.net	338-1871	
Zoning & Project Review	Dick Brownlee	dickbrownl@mac.com	339-2472	
<u> </u>	Other PPERRIA Commi	ttees and Task Groups	•	
4 <sup>th</sup> Street	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net	378-9429	
Luxton Book Exchange	Becky Shockley	shock001@umn.edu	379-7907	
Motley Crew	Rebekah Lorence	rlorence@mm.com	331-2464	
Prospect Park LRT Station Area Plan	Dick Gilyard John DeWitt Dick Poppele	rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net jdewitt@comcast.net dick@umn.edu	362-8995 338-1871 378-9242	
Community Events	Marybeth Luing	mb.luing@gmail.com	507- 581-0836	
Community and River Gorge Cleanup	Tom Kilton	tom.kilton.b1cw@statefarm.com	339-3064	
History Project	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095	
Landscape, Garden Club	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@usiwireless.com	379-7436	
Landscape Subcommittee: Tree Health Project	Paula Denman	pjdenman@comcast.net	338-1871	
The following are	not PPERRIA Committee	s, but they have PPERRIA represen	tatives:	
Education & Human Services		Contact: Jerry Stein or Chuck Holtman		
Prospect Park Construction Communication Committee (for the Central Corridor LRT)		Julie Wallace (rep PPERRIA), John DeWitt, Phil Anderson (rep DCC)		
Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG)		Greg Bernstein, John Kari (Alt.)		
Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL)		Susan Gottlieb		
District Councils Collaborative (DCC)		Phil Anderson		
University District Partnership Alliance		Dick Poppele, Dick Gilyard, Alternates: John Kari and Julie Wallace		
Stadium Village Station Area		Rebekah Lorance, Tamara Johnson,		
Plan Steering Committee		Dick Gilyard, Hilary Holmes		

*TWIN CITIES DAILY PLANET* "Local News For Global Citizens." Find their coverage of the University District Neighborhoods – and links to other resources at: <u>http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/universitydistrictnews</u>

Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association, Inc. 66 SE Malcolm Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55414 612/331-2970 (voice mail)

We're on the Web! See us at: http://pperr.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED





Giddy neighbors welcome the return of our "Pet Rock" to the traffic triangle at Malcolm & University

(More on p.7)

And Remember: What happens tomorrow is shaped by those who show up today