



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

Published for East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood Isles, & CIDNA

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 10

www.hillandlakepress.com

OCTOBER 24, 2014

DETERMINED PARK BOARD RAMPS UP EFFORTS TO PROTECT 'PARK EXPERIENCE' OF KENILWORTH CHANNEL, PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO PROPOSED BRIDGES

By Michael Wilson

Stung by the refusal of Met Council officials to take their concerns over a Kenilworth Channel light rail bridge seriously, an exasperated but determined Park Board voted on Oct. 1 to allocate up to \$500,000 to pay for an engineering study of the feasibility and prudence of running light rail trains in a tunnel under the channel.

The move came on a recommendation from outside counsel Byron Starns of the Stinson Leonard Street law firm as well as from the Board's general counsel Brian Rice and Superintendent Jayne Miller. They felt it important for the Board to have these results in hand before the Southwest Project Office (SWPO) releases a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) sometime in the first quarter of 2015.

The results will also guide the Board as it decides whether to commence legal action to try to force a resolution to what Board President Liz Wielinski calls the equivalent of a freeway bridge above the channel. The Board on Sept. 17 approved a \$22,000 contract for legal advice from attorneys with transportation expertise at Stinson Leonard Street.

Section 4(f)

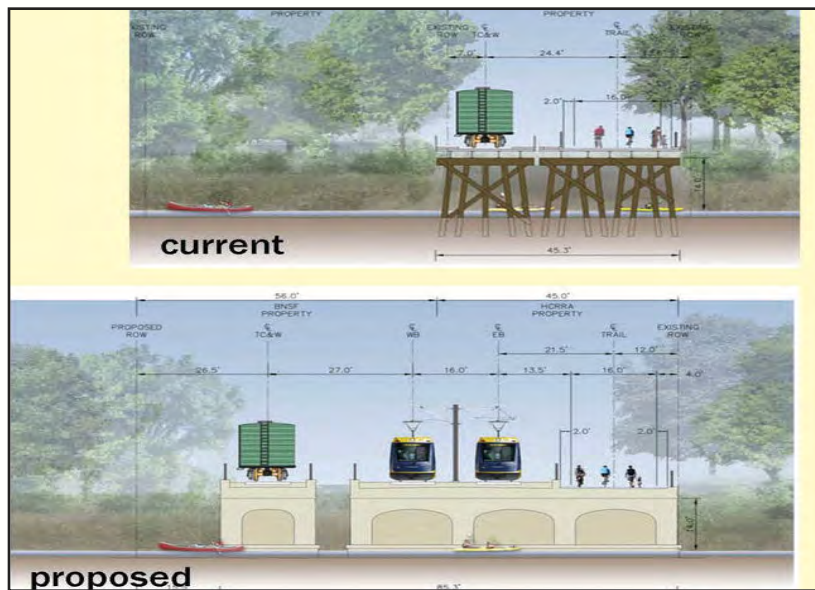
The Park Board's clout arises from Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f), since renamed, became one of the strongest environmental laws in existence when it was passed. It applies to all transportation agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation including the Federal Transit Administration, which controls the approval process and federal dollars for Southwest Light Rail.

In Section 4(f), Congress mandated that preservation of parkland and historic sites merited major consideration in all federally funded highway construction programs. The statute declares it to be national policy to take special effort to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside, public parks, recreation lands, and historic sites.

The statute further provides that the Secretary of Transportation may approve a highway project that uses publicly owned parkland or land from a historic site only if (1) there is no "feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land," and (2) the project includes "all possible planning to minimize harm."

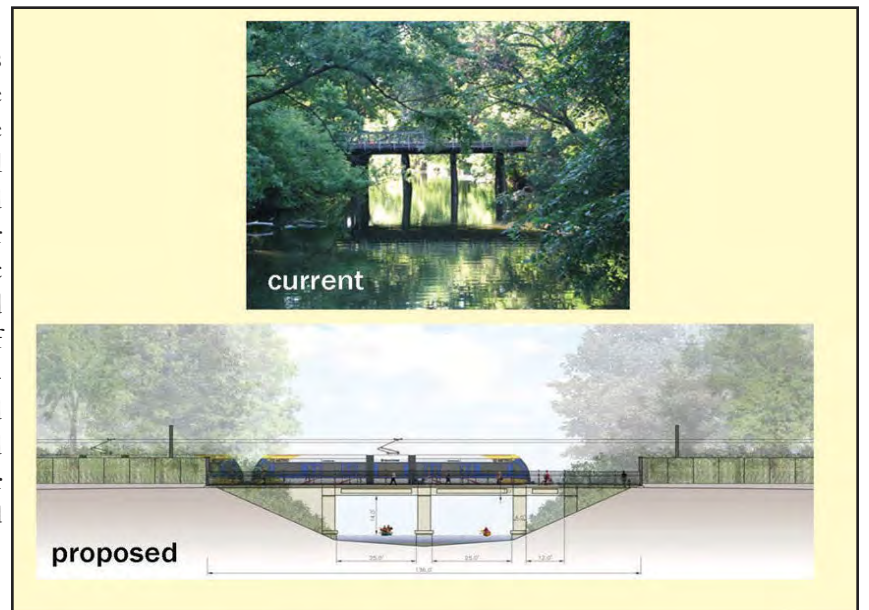
An important consideration in a Section 4(f) chal-

Park Board to page four



Cutaway drawing (above) shows the current railroad and commuter/recreational trail bridges over the Kenilworth Channel. The drawing below shows the massive structures that the SW Project Office wants to build – the equivalent, according to Park Board President Liz Wielinski, of throwing a freeway bridge over the channel. (Courtesy Tyler Pederson, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.)

Generations of canoers, kayakers and skiers have come to cherish the peaceful, wooded Kenilworth Channel (above), which is part of the Grand Rounds Historic District eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Park users and Park Board commissioners assert that hundreds of light rail trains racing across the channel (below) will cause adverse and irreparable visual, safety, noise, and aesthetic impacts. (Courtesy Tyler Pederson, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.)



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Lunch with Lisa October 29

Join Council Member Lisa Goodman for lunch and conversation. Learn about the upgrades/updates to Target Center and Block E (Mayo Clinic Square). We are hosting Timberwolves VP Ted Johnson Developers Bob Lux and Carl Runck, Architect Tom Hysell, Steve Mattson of Target Center. Last lunch this year. St Thomas University—Minneapolis Terrance Murphy Hall 252, \$10 Lunch is offered. Come early to get your lunch and a good seat. Discussion starts promptly at noon

The Minneapolis Audubon Society will meet Friday, December 12, 2014 at 1 p.m. Dorothy & Fred Waltz will share their "Adventures in Iceland" The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join us for this program and refreshments! For more information call 763-533-8381.

Birchbark Books Reading Series has its next reading on November 12 at 7 pm.

Reading will be Denise Low (Kansas Poet Laureate), Raymond Luczak, Nick Metcalf and Patricia Van Ert.

The reading will be at the Bockley Gallery at 2123 W 21st Street (a couple doors down from Birchbark Books).

Curated by Michael Kiesow Moore and Ardie Medina, the Birchbark Books Reading Series features new, emerging, and established writers quarterly September through May

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with Commissioner Anita Tabb, invite you to join us to celebrate improvements at Brownie Lake. The realigned bicycle trail along Cedar Lake Parkway has new surfacing, lights, railings, and signs. The trails and canoe launch at the north end of the park have eliminated erosion and improved access to the lake. The pedestrian bridge installed over the channel to Cedar Lake allows walkers to make a complete circle around the lake. Tree planting and buckthorn removal were other components of the project. This event will feature MPRB naturalist-led activities, live music by Rachael Kroog, canoe rides and a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 25, 2:30- 4 pm, 1500 Cedar Lake Parkway and Brownie Road

Burnham Who?

Next month's Hill and Lake Press will include an article about the upcoming replacement of the Burnham Road bridge. But in preparing the article we'd like to know: who is the Burnham after which the Burnham Woods subdivision and Burnham Road are named? Historians, armchair and otherwise, please send your answers to us at <hillandlakepress@bitstream.net>.

The Friends of the Walker Library will meet on the third Monday evening of the month at 6pm at the Walker Library on Hennepin. Our upcoming meetings are November 17 and December 15.

The Walker Friends group's goal is to support the Walker Library and its programs. We welcome new members.

City Ghosts: Specters, Spirits and Spooks. In the spirit of Halloween, eat, drink, and be scared listening to folklorist Trilby Busch relate stories of real hauntings in Minneapolis and other cities. A \$15 donation to the Healy Project gets you refreshments and scary stories, plus a glimpse into the mystery and grace of a bygone age in a 1890's house designed by master builder P. C. Richardson.

The spooky storytelling is set in the beautiful Queen Anne house at 2109 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis. Seating is limited. No walk-ins.

Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th at 7:30 p.m.

You must preregister to be admitted. Please, no children under the age of 12.

Tickets via
Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-ghosts-specters-spirits-and-spooks-tickets-13366378197>

THE ISLES ENSEMBLE

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www.islesensemble.org

December 7, 2014, 2:00 PM

Mendelssohn – Quartet #2 in A minor, Opus 13

Schoenberg – Trio, Opus 45

Brahms – Viola Quintet #1 in F Major, Opus 98

Join us for a reception downstairs

Suggested donation:

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Students & Seniors

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Oct. 24th & 25th, 7:30pm, Ghosts, 2109 Bryant S

Oct. 25, 2:30 Brownie improvement party

Oct. 25, Thrill Kenwood, 1-6pm, Flash Dance at 5pm

Oct. 28, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m Accessory Dwelling

Unit meeting, Kenwood Rec Center

Oct. 29 noon, St. Thomas, Lunch with Lisa

Nov. 1, 9:30-4pm Friends Workshop

Nov. 12, 7pm, Birchbark Books reading at Bockley

Nov. 20, 7:30pm, Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra at Lake of the Isles Lutheran

Dec. 7, 2pm Isles Ensemble at Lake of Isles

Dec. 12, 1pm, Audubon Society

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison.

EIRA: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

KIAA: Monday, November 3rd from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Kenwood Rec Center,

LHNA: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at Kenwood Rec Center

THRILL KENWOOD 2014 October 25, 1-6pm

Back for a 6th year, Thrill Kenwood is back just in time for Halloween, giving lakes area residents young and old the chance to participate in the world-wide simultaneous dance of Michal Jackson's Thriller right in the heart of downtown Kenwood. This year the event partners up with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Center for a fun family Halloween Block Party with lots of hands on activities and spooky surprises.

Sponsored by beARTrageous, with support from the Kenwood Isles Area Association and the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and local businesses, Thrill Kenwood is the ultimate Halloween-Style Block Party. Put on your best Halloween costume, zombies preferred, and join friends and neighbors for an afternoon of fun. Proceeds will benefit local non-profit, The Bridge for Youth, an emergency shelter for 10-17 year old youth.

Activities include a costumed pet parade hosted by the Kenwood Pet Clinic, a Creation Station and Zombie Make Over Station hosted by ARTrageous, a live DJ and musical performers, cookies & hot cider brought to you by The Kenwood Restaurant, and Spooky storytelling hosted by Birchbark Books. You may also catch a glimpse of some amazing performing strollers to entertain you on the corner of Penn & 21st.

The highlight of the festival is a flash mob dance performance performed on the Kenwood School playground at 5pm. Need to learn the dance steps? Kenwood Rec Center is offering three different opportunities. Bring your friends and family to free classes at Kenwood Rec Center on Monday, Oct. 6th at 7pm, Saturday, Oct. 11th at 1pm, Wednesday, Oct. 15th at 7pm and Friday, Oct. 17th at 7pm.

Community volunteers are needed to make this event another smashing success. Help with makeup, music, set up, or general coordination. Contact Amanda Vallone at (612)423-7554 or check out the Thrill the World (Kenwood, Minneapolis) facebook page. You can also get THRILL KENWOOD information at www.be-artrageous.com

Finding Strength and Hope as We Transition to a More Just and Sustainable World

Back in the mid-1600's, the early Quaker Movement in England felt called by the Spirit of God to transform their world. Rejecting the imperial values of their day—which worshiped power, profits, prestige and plundering above all—the Quaker Movement put forth an alternative vision of Beloved Community that was simple, just peaceful, and sustainable.

Quakers continue to try to transform the world today. Whether you believe that change is coming suddenly as in "the great disruption" or slowly and incrementally, you are invited to the Minneapolis Friends Meetinghouse, 44th and York, to join with Friends in visioning a future in which we find strength and hope as we transition to a more just and sustainable world. **The workshop will start at 9:30 am and end by 4 pm, Saturday, November 1.** Bring a sack lunch. Local beverages and some snacks will be provided. All ages are welcome.

Literary Witnesses Program at Plymouth Congregational Church

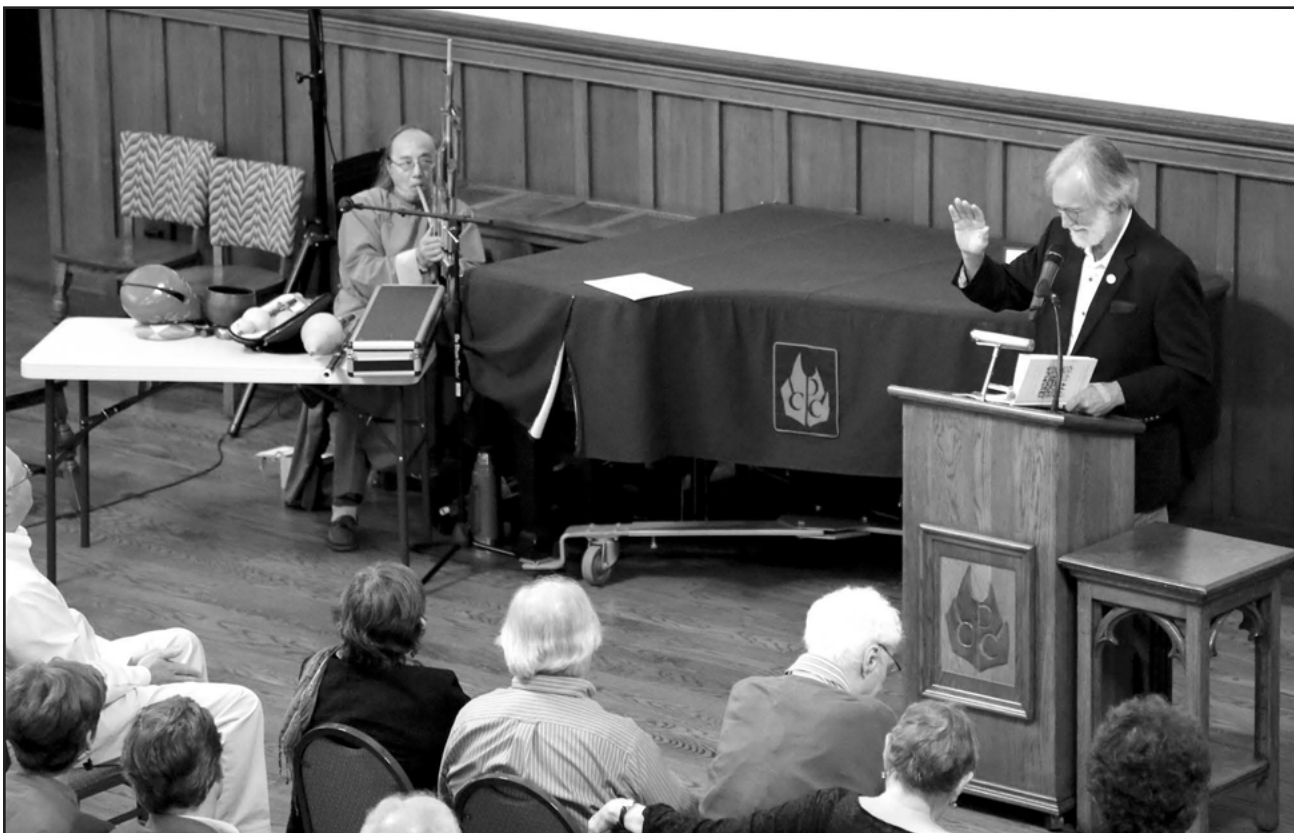


Photo by Dorothy Childers

To celebrate the publication of *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to Cold Mountain*, Literary Witnesses hosted Jim Lenfestey reading from his book to an overflow crowd at Plymouth Congregational Church on Monday, September 22. A reception followed with traditional Chinese music and Chinese treats, and Lenfestey signing books. Shown here: Musician Zhang Ying with Jim Lenfestey. Signed copies of Lenfestey's book are available at Birchbark Books.

Meet your Neighbor, Julia Curran

Craig Wilson interviews Julia Curran about her lifelong experiences as a pedestrian wandering the sidewalks of Lowry Hill and what ingredients are needed to make Minneapolis a greener, friendlier, and more equitable city.

What was Lowry Hill like as a kid? There were neither many kids around nor much of a sense of community, at least compared to the idyllic children's books I read. A lot of houses had just one or two adults and changed hands frequently—people who bought as investments, not homes. But there were also engaged and active neighbors who formed a stable fabric for the neighborhood. That said, I feel privileged to have grown up where I did. I lived in the (extended) family house, in the family city, and there were always relatives coming and going. I grew up walking the same streets my father delivered papers along during the Great Depression, knowing that a mention of my mother's family's restaurant was a ubiquitous reference point for adults in the region, walking weekly to the church where my parents were married and my beloved dead were waked. We often were carless, so I knew Lowry Hill at a child's pace: the best walls to walk on, the most interesting houses to dream about, the most abundant lilacs, the streets with scary unchained dogs, the best houses for trick-or-treating (in experience and/or in candy), the most-anticipated garage sales, the fastest sledding. My family history and time spent in intimate exploration gave me a sense of belonging and ownership of/responsibility to the neighborhood specifically and the city more broadly. We'd come home from visits to the suburbs suddenly appreciative of living in an area where we could walk/bus to museums, libraries, parks, and stores, where people were (comparatively) diverse in their backgrounds and race and dress and age and our mixed race family wasn't the only different one around.

How has it changed? It's sometimes hard for me to separate out my own knowledge of the area from my generational knowledge. I love living in a patchwork of

experiences and connections and memories, both my own and those that I hold for the ones who have gone before me, but who knows if I'm really mournful for a Minneapolis that was mine with better public transit or if I've internalized the oft-told kitchen-table stories of an amazing network of water-powered streetcars? But I do remember walking through the empty lot of wildflowers at Douglas and Hennepin (now an apartment tower). Pre-Sculpture Garden, my family occasionally stopped to chat with Frank Gehry as he was building the glassfish in the lobby of the Walker/Guthrie. For candy there was Kenny's store (now Patina), and Burch's (now candy-less), and the store across from Kenwood School (now The Kenwood). We watched fireworks from the empty lot at the top of Mount Curve and Emerson (now condos), and occasionally ran down the steep road that led into the Blake upper school's parking lot (now a house or two). When I started high school, bus fare was \$0.10 for my father and \$0.25 for me (now \$2.25 each during rush hour). I'm lucky to have a sense of this city as experienced by my family almost back to the days when the top was taken off of Lowry Hill. It allows me to see the neighborhood as both the sum of its inhabitants and structures and landscapes as well as a dynamic system of its own, with shifting boundaries, financial ebb and flow, history both proud and shameful, and connections to other neighborhoods. In my own time, the neighborhood has gentrified with re-urbanization, though it's always had a subset of investor-owners and a subset of renters. I am worried that the relative affluence and homogeneity of the neighborhood, at the root of many of its problems, will increase unless there is a push to make sure that there is room for renters, for young families, for older people who want to transition into a smaller place, for new immigrants like my father's parents, and non-white/mixed race families like my own.

Do you own a car? Nope. Never have and don't want to. I wouldn't mind getting a license, but growing



Julia Curran

up and living in this neighborhood, I've never really had a compelling reason to make it a priority.

What's it like to be carless in Minneapolis? I can't speak for other neighborhoods, but around here it's a mix of convenience and frustration. Walking hasn't been treated like a form of transit by our city in my lifetime and the lack of community in our area in particular is evident in how many property owners neglect their sidewalks. There are a lot of people who don't clear their sidewalks at all, or perform just a cursory plow/salt ritual that leaves them nearly impassable. It's not just private citizens either; the only place I've face-planted on ice was walking by Seven Pools on Park Board sidewalk! Despite this, we're well-situated to not need a car. We've got all the basics and tons of amenities within a leisurely walk, as well as easy access to public transit and increasing bike paths and short-car-rentals. Last winter, even with the deep freezes, the only time my feet felt cold was when I was in cars! I have more and more friends in this and nearby neighborhoods abandoning their cars, and I'm alternately excit-

Meet your Neighbor to page 6



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Determined Park Board Ramps Up Efforts to Protect 'Park Experience' of Kenilworth Channel, from page one

lence is whether a transportation project imposes adverse visual, economic, safety, noise, or aesthetic impacts on property. The key issue to resolve is the determination of the directness of the harm required for section 4(f) to apply. Two important criteria are (1) the proximity of the harm to the property, and (2) the nature of the effects of the harm on the property's historic value or significance.

Some have questioned why the Park Board is spending money for outside counsel on this issue rather than leaving it in the hands of their general counsel. Commissioners have determined, however, that the complexities of environmental and transportation law require a heightened level of expertise in order to have the best shot at ensuring the protection of park board and park users' interests.

A tangled history.

The Kenilworth Channel was officially opened 101 years ago, on Nov. 8, 1913. (See the November 2013 issue of Hill and Lake Press for an article on the centennial.) The Minneapolis & St. Louis RR built a temporary wooden bridge in August 1913 so that the dredging of the channel could be completed. The bridge's east half was rehabbed in 1996 for the Kenilworth recreational trail while its west half was put back into service for freight rail, which had been discontinued a few years earlier.

It's important to note that the 1913 bridges are inspected regularly and rigorously by the bridge safety division crew from the City's Department of Public Works. Contrary to peevish comments occasionally expressed by newspaper letter-writers about the "rickety" and "creosote-stained" bridges, they remain functional and sturdy. Even more to the point, they have become a cherished part of the "park experience" for the many thousands of people who traverse the Kenilworth Channel every year.

When freight rail was discontinued in the 1990s in what became the Midtown Greenway corridor, the trains were diverted to the Kenilworth corridor, which is owned by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority. Our elected officials promised that freight rail through the corridor would be temporary and would be relocated on different tracks through St. Louis Park.

With the Met Council in charge of the SW light rail project a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released in October 2012, casting in concrete the promise that freight rail would be relocated. But Twin Cities & Western RR, which operates freight trains through the corridor, delivered a stunner in their response to the DEIS when they asserted that, for a variety of reasons, freight rail had to remain in the Kenilworth.

The Park Board, which owns the water and shoreline of the Kenilworth Channel and holds a permanent easement for the channel area under the bridges, had already insisted in their DEIS response that "support and safety structures are harmonious, beautiful, and both historically and context sensitive" and that "the Kenilworth Channel retains its natural beauty and serenity and historic character." Now the Park Board was faced with the prospect of light rail AND freight

trains roaring over the Kenilworth Channel.

Marginalized and patronized.

In May 2013 the SW Project Office released engineering schematics for six options for co-locating both light rail and freight in the corridor. None of these options had been addressed in the DEIS. One option involved tunneling light rail under the channel. SWPO engineers and planners must have determined such a tunnel was feasible, Park Board commissioners now say, or else they wouldn't have included it as one of the six co-location options.

Throughout the following months the Park Board conveyed their concerns through resolutions and discussions but increasingly felt they were getting nowhere. "The board has real concerns," Superintendent Miller said last month. "We have, in a proactive and non-confrontational way, worked with Hennepin and the Met Council. But the board is concerned that those concerns have not been addressed and in many ways have been neglected."

"We've really exhausted every polite avenue that we could to try and get across our concerns," Board President Wielinski said in September as the move to obtain outside counsel was being considered.

Feelings of being ignored turned into indignation at the Oct. 1 Park Board meeting. Earlier in the day Wielinski and Miller met with Met Council Chair Susan Haigh and members of her staff to lay their concerns about the channel bridges on the line.

Just before the 5 p.m. board meeting began SW acting project director Craig Lamothe sent a follow-up email to Superintendent Miller – but not to President Wielinski – which contained not a single word about a tunnel option. Instead, Lamothe indicated "consultation . . . will pick back up again later this fall with a focus on bridge design alternatives" for the channel crossing. Lamothe also indicated that the Park Board "will be engaged" in such things as "Kenilworth Landscape Design" and "Station Site Design." The email also reminded Miller that the SW Project Office would be taking care of 4(f) issues itself.

Wielinski and 4th District Commissioner Anita Tabb spoke at the meeting in unusually strong and forceful terms. Their feelings of being marginalized and patronized throughout this process were apparent to all in attendance. Commissioners expressed anger at being left to feel they had no alternative but to pay for an engineering study out of Park Board funds. "That's a ball field," Wielinski said, but a mere "point zero three percent of the SW project budget."

The following day Met Council released a statement that tried to pass the buck on not doing more engineering study for a tunnel under the channel to the Corridor Management Committee, an advisory group of officials from Hennepin County and the six municipalities along the SW transitway line. In March 2014, the statement said, the CMC "did not direct the project office to further evaluate or advance" the channel tunnel option.

Criticism of the high-handed ways of the unelected Met Council and its leadership is not new. Recently the five suburban counties have pushed back against the Met Council's Transportation Policy Plan. After a meeting with Haigh and Met Council officials Dakota

County Commissioner Liz Workman said, "I really don't know if the Met Council plans on changing anything. They don't have to. They were polite enough to come and listen, but that doesn't mean they have to change anything."

To which our Park Board commissioners might reply, "We'll see about that."

Resolution 2014-311 Authorizing the Superintendent to hire engineering services for a fee up to \$500,000 from the Reserve Balance to determine the prudence and feasibility of a tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project

Whereas, Current plans for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (SWLRT) bring the alignment over the Kenilworth Channel, co-locating freight, light rail and trail in the Kenilworth corridor and require massive at-grade infrastructure in and around the Kenilworth Channel that will fundamentally and permanently affect and change park, recreation areas, and historic property;

Whereas, In August 2013, the MPRB Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 2013-282 stating a position on the preliminary engineering options for the proposed SWLRT through the Kenilworth corridor;

Whereas, Through Resolution 2014-114 in February 2014, the MPRB notified the SWLRT Project Office of the MPRB's concern about the project and its effect on parkland and requested the SWLRT Project Office to conduct preliminary engineering feasibility and cost analysis of tunneling under the Kenilworth Channel;

Whereas, In Resolution 2014-209 has stated its position that, based on SWLRT Project Office preliminary finding of feasibility, tunneling LRT under the Kenilworth Channel may be the only Section 4(f) prudent and feasible alternative;

Whereas, In Resolution 2014-209 the MPRB requested that the SWLRT Project Office continue necessary design and engineering studies to determine the feasibility and prudence of a tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel;

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council has not directed project office staff to develop the tunnel under the channel to the same level as the bridge option and has declined to conduct additional analysis;

Whereas, the Park Board's General Counsel, Rice, Michels & Walther and Special Counsel Stinson Leonard Street have both opined that MPRB land affected by the proposed SWLRT alignment meets the definition of "public park," "recreation area," and "historic site" under Section 4(f) and those park, recreation

Park Board Resolution to next page

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Park Board Resolution from page four

area and historic sites will be directly and adversely affected by the proposed SWLRT alignment;

Whereas, Both General and Special Counsels have advised that the proposed SWLRT alignment has failed to properly consider a tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel to determine if it is a prudent and feasible alternative and further that the proposed SWLRT alignment has not included all possible planning to minimize the harm to the park, recreation areas, and historic sites;

Whereas, Both General and Special Counsel have advised that that the proposed SWLRT alignment will not meet the de minimis requirements of Section 4(f) and as such they have both advised the MPRB to not provide any concurrence with such SWLRT alignment to the United States Secretary of Transportation and that such concurrence would be necessary for the SWLRT project to proceed;

Whereas, Both General and Special Counsels have advised the MPRB that in absence of the Metropolitan Council undertaking its obligation under federal law and in order to protect MPRB park, recreation areas, and historic properties under the ownership and trusteeship of the MPRB and in fulfillment of its legal obligations as stewards of those resources it is now necessary for the MPRB to determine on its own and place into the record in this matter whether prudent and feasible alternatives exist for the proposed alignment of SWLRT and whether the project can have de minimis impact on those resources; and

Whereas, MPRB finds that important technical questions need further analysis before Federal Transportation Act Section 4(f) findings can be reasonably made and the MPRB can make prudent recommendations that fulfill its responsibilities;

RESOLVED, That the MPRB authorize the Superintendent to hire engineering services for a fee up to \$500,000 from the Reserves Balance to determine the prudence and feasibility of a tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project;

RESOLVED, That General and Special Counsels continue to conduct legal analysis and advise the MPRB as to what actions are necessary for the MPRB to fulfill its legal obligations to protect its park, recreational and historic properties and interests; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

Halloween Fun and Frights in Minneapolis Parks

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is gearing up for its annual haunted and not-so-haunted Halloween celebrations in Minneapolis parks.

The MPRB will host safe, family-friendly Halloween celebrations beginning October 24 through Halloween on October 31.

Check out our website for more information!

Please click on the event you are interested in for full details including: age recommendations and pre-registration/fees if any.

Halloween Events

Thrill Kenwood October 25, 1 – 6pm Kenwood Rec Center based activities will be from 2 – 4:30pm. Zombie make overs and caricatures, live music and dance performances, puppets,

Halloween at the Hills | 6 – 8pm | Linden Hills Party and treats. Free. No pre-registration needed. All ages.

Halloween Party | 6 – 8pm | Lyndale Farmstead Free. All ages.

Halloween at the Horn | 6 – 8pm | Powderhorn Free. All ages.

Halloween Spooktacular | 6:30 – 8pm | Bryant Square, Dance, treats and bonfire. Free. All ages.

www.minneapolisparcs.org

THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

FREE-ROAMING CATS: WE MUST UNLOVE THEM!

Let me tell you about the birds and the bees,
and the cats beneath the trees,
cats killing birds in droves.
And a thing called Unlove!

That's a loose paraphrase of the famous Jewel Akins song from the mid-Sixties. I needed a soft opening for a sensitive topic about a troublesome neighborhood menace. It's time we discussed the facts of life about outdoor cats.

According to the American Bird Conservancy:

• "In the U.S., free-roaming domestic cats kill an estimated 1.4-3.7 billion birds and 6.9-20.7 billion mammals. The sheer quantity of cat-caused mortality is staggering. For perspective, consider that 1.4 billion is equivalent to the entire human population of China, the most populous country in the world. As the number of cats continues to grow and owners continue to allow their pets to roam, harmful impacts will surely increase."

• "Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) can provide excellent companionship and make wonderful pets. But when allowed to roam outdoors, this non-native, invasive species threatens the welfare of birds and other wildlife and endangers the integrity of the ecosystems into which domestic cats are introduced."

• "Cats have contributed to the extinction of 33 species across the world and continue to adversely impact a wide variety of species, including those that are threatened or endangered. The ecological dangers are so critical that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) now lists domestic cats as one of the world's worst non-native invasive species."

What Are Government Scientists Saying about Roaming Cats? "Well-fed cats continue to kill birds. The number of pet cats in the U.S. has increased three-fold in the last 40 years and approximately 65% of these are roaming for some portion of the day. These free roaming cats, added to the number of feral cats, total an

estimated 140 million cats, which kill on average at least 1.4 million birds per day. In some areas, cat predation has decimated local bird populations, and has led to the disappearance of some species." A recent report by Smithsonian scientists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion birds each year, underscoring the need for effective solutions to protect wild birds and cats alike."

These facts were prompted by the regular appearance in our back yard of not one but two outdoor cats. One is jet black, the other a mix, sort of calico. Both loiter under our bird feeder, which my wife devotedly stocks with feed priced high as sirloin steak to attract and care for our native feathered friends who flit in three dimensions like humans souls. We love them, the cardinals, house finches, goldfinches, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers and numerous glorious passing warblers in spring and fall.

But these native birds did not evolve with feline predators and so are not wary around them on the ground. The cats know this, and catch them, just for play, seldom eating them, always killing them.

Except, of course, the English sparrows, an invasive species from Europe, the pigs at the feeder trough. They did evolve with cats and never get caught by them, who drive us crazy with their endless proliferation, almost as bad as that other import mostly from Europe, *Homo sapiens*, although "sapiens," – intelligent, thoughtful – should be much up for debate these days, as the Arctic crashes above us and our pets have become a menace.

Here's a bright idea. According to my friend Rebekah, whose opinion I respect on all things organic and natural, the solution is easy. Let cats out ONLY at night, when the birds are roosting, NEVER in the day when they are feeding. Or keep them in all day, purring on your lap

Please do this. I will thank you. My wife will thank you. The remaining native birds, many flying right now to Central and South America, will thank you upon their safe return.

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Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Dean and Cedar Lake Parkway



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Commissioner Anita Tabb presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the bicycle and pedestrian trail along Dean and Cedar Lake Parkways, followed by a two-mile bike ride to Point Beach. Also present: MPRB Vice-President Scott Vreeland, Superintendent Jayne Miller, Director of Strategic Planning Jennifer Ringold and Project Manager Deb Bartels and Community Members.

Street Sweeping

The Street Department is preparing to start the fall sweeping and leaf collection of the City's streets and parkways. Posting of streets is scheduled to begin Monday, October 20, with sweeping beginning Tuesday, October 21.

Posting of "No Parking" signs in conjunction with this work will be done in the following manner:

1. All posting will be done in the morning of the day prior to the actual sweeping. In order to be in compliance with legislative rules, the time that posting occurs on any individual street will be recorded and any required enforcement will be coordinated to ensure that a minimum of 24 hours notice has been given.
2. Signs will be removed on the same day as the sweeping occurs, and as soon as is possible following the completion of the sweeping.
3. Business and commercial areas will be given a priority each day so as to restore critically needed parking as soon as possible.
4. Signs will specify the day of week and will read: No Parking 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
5. We are requesting that enforcement and towing begin at 8:00 a.m. and be followed by sweeping 30-45 minutes later. This should allow for the maximum amount of voluntary compliance and minimize the number of complaints received from the public.

When residents rake into the street it can create many

Meet your Neighbor from page three

ed about the turn the city is taking towards being more bike-friendly and a bit jealous of the camaraderie and political clout that bikers enjoy (but it's good for all of us!). I think the current push to return Minneapolis to a higher density will make the city easier and more pleasant to navigate without a car.

Do you have a transportation mode preference?

I love walking! I was just thinking about that today, as I was running errands in the fall leaves while knitting. Can't do that while biking or driving. And public transit is great, but you can't stop to pick up beautiful leaves or get a bit of exercise while hurrying to a meeting. To go further afield, however, I do happily use our public transit system and I never have to wait for the bus to warm up in the winter. I'm interested in biking more in the future, perhaps when I have kids, but for now I spend a lot of time with my 94 year old father who feels safer walking and that's fine by me.

What's wrong with Minneapolis transportation infrastructure? Since we lost our streetcars (and it bears remembering that this wasn't an accident or a

problems.

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/street-sweeping/streetsweep_streetsweeplookup where people can see the sweeping schedule online to learn exactly when their street is scheduled for cleaning. This is a very handy tool for you to use as well when helping callers. The site is now showing the 2014 fall schedule.

choice we made), we've been a pretty car-centric city. That's been changing in the past five years, but we've got a long ways to go. The way our city neglects North Minneapolis' (NoMi) transit infrastructure (from the second-tier bus stops to get there to the chronically over-crowded routes and non-existent/insufficient shelters) is absolutely shameful. I wish ridership from our neighborhood approached the rates NoMi experiences; I'd feel a lot better about advocating for improvements here then. The appalling state of our sidewalks and bike paths, especially in the winter, is also a mark against our city. They're not treated like transit routes by many citizens or government. Bike lanes get treated as parking or turning lanes and are un(der)maintained in all seasons. Sidewalks are frequently treacherous in the winter snow/ice, difficult to traverse past overgrown bushes or ill-timed sprinklers in the warmer months, and often blocked by trash/recycling containers and parked cars at all times of the year.

What needs to change? A lot of what we need is getting addressed with the re-introduction of rail transit, the possible opening of the city to accessory dwelling units, and new, higher-density buildings popping up in surrounding neighborhoods. But Lowry Hill itself has become much less dense and more residential since its heyday and I'd love to see incentives for reversing that. I'm not sure what they might be, but given the city's past preferential treatment of single-family homes over higher density options, I'm sure we can figure something out. Until we have higher density and a more diverse population, we'll have a neighborhood that can feel unsafe and deserted to walk in during non-peak hours of the day. I'd also like to see more corner bumps outs like the Wedge has, which increase safety for pedestrians and seem like a good solution after the center circles and speed bumps we've tried in the past twenty years. And we need to advocate for these benefits not just for us—our neighborhood is lucky to have people who care deeply and have the time and education and personal connections to make change happen, but when we know how to improve things for ourselves, we also have a responsibility to make sure we're including ALL of Minneapolis in this upward momentum.

How should we prioritize creating safer transportations for different modes?

We must work to make Minneapolis equitable and sustainable. This means prioritizing modes of transit that minimize infrastructure wear and tear, promote public health and safety, and decrease emissions/sprawl. I think a simple resolution at City Hall stating that we aim to be a livable, carbon neutral city would actually be meaningful in giving us direction in future development and reconstruction. We have people who come from all over, including the suburbs and outstate and even St. Paul, to take advantage of the amenities that we're lucky to be near. We're adjacent to a major commuter route. We need to address safety issues through street/sign design that clues both residents and visitors in to our values, including being a walkable and bikable city that supports independence and accessibility for its elderly and disabled residents. Besides using design/form to drive function, and changing the tone of our everyday conversation, pedestrians and cyclists deserve to know that our safety is taken seriously by law enforcement and city agencies. We should enforce laws that protect non-motorized transit (e.g. no turn on red), keep our sidewalks/bike paths clear year-round, and not assume pedestrian/cyclist fault in the event of an accident. We also need to ensure that our city makes obeying the laws safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

What's your hope for the future of transportation in Minneapolis? My hope is that Minneapolis embraces the challenges raised by climate change to become a more vibrant, denser, and more equitable city in all neighborhoods. I'd like to see our communities connected by a network of high frequency zero-emission public transit; safe and high volume bike roads that can accommodate commuters, families, pleasure riders, and cargo delivery; and sidewalks that offer safe, easy, and interesting routes while also allowing for the particular joys of walking—stopping to pick up leaves, smell the lilacs, admire the view, and talk to neighbors.

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18th Annual CIDNA Fall Festival was a Great Success

By Elaine May

Once, and only once a year, something unusual happens at Park Siding Park. Like the mythical town of Brigadoon, the CIDNA Fall Festival appears. For one golden afternoon the quiet park is transformed into a hub of neighborhood fun and fellowship.

The first clue that something was happening was when a truck was spotted around 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, October 12 unloading a large pile of bags and tables and chairs. Before long, board members Ryan Fox and James Reid arrived and soon the tent was raised. Then Board Chair Craig Westgate and his son Reggie, Board Secretary Rosanne Halloran, and neighbor Maria Jordan were there to deliver drinks and coffee and set up tables and chairs and the magic was ready to begin!

The arrival of our hot dog griller, neighbor Scott Abbott, at 1:00 marked the official beginning of the event. The neighbors started trickling in, and in no time they were lined up for fifty feet for the hot dogs provided by the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board Member Rosanne Halloran's baked goods table (provided by CSM Bakery Solutions) also gathered a big crowd. Whole Foods Market provided ample water and soda for the neighbors as well as bags of delicious tortilla chips that were picked up like hot cakes. The arrival of two trays of sushi from Wakame Sushi (on Excelsior Boulevard near Whole Foods) caused a great stir, and it didn't take neighbors long to make them disappear.

The agenda for the children at the festival this year was very rigorous! They needed to find time to get their faces painted, spend time in the Moon Walk, and also make a fall craft project at Board Member Amanda Vallone's Artrageous Adventures art table.

While the children were being amply entertained, the adults had much to keep them interested at the display tables hosted by neighborhood and city organizations. The important light rail issue was discussed at three tables this year with representatives from the Metropolitan Council, LRT Done Right, and the Lakes and Parks Alliance. Our City Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams and her crime-fighting dog Harley were there to hand out information and to sign up crime prevention block leaders. A table hosted by Minneapolis Recycling also had a lot of visitors, in part because of its prime location next to the hot dog table!

Before long it was time to draw for prizes and the festival wound down to a close. The CIDNA board went into action like a well-oiled machine to take down the tent and tables get them ready for the truck to pick up. A special thanks needs to be given to Board Member James Reid, who lives across the street from the park, and who kept watch and offered assistance from the time the tent was delivered in the morning until the last tent stakes were pulled in the afternoon.

By the time the board's work was finished, there was no hint of the golden afternoon that had taken place. The CIDNA fall festival will remain a fond memory until it rises from the mist again next year.



Photo by Dorothy Childers

One of the highlights of the CIDNA Fall Festival was the appearance of police officers. Here, Sergeant Joe McGinness gets a high five from Felix Pounder, a Halloween Ninja Turtle, as Erin Hoffman looks on.

HONORING ART HIGINBOTHAM.



Photo by Monica Smith

The CIDNA Board Chair Craig Westgate (left) recognized long time board member Art Higinbotham for his many years of service to the CIDNA Board. Art has served on the CIDNA Board since 2003, including several years as the board chair and chair of the Transportation Committee. Art recently resigned from the board because he moved out of the neighborhood. The board presented Art with a framed nautical map of the Chain of Lakes to remind him of his many years in the neighborhood.

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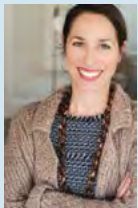
The 6th annual Thrill Kenwood takes place on October 25 from 1-6pm. The global flash mob dance of Thriller is at 5 PM. You can start learning to dance Thriller this Saturday at the Rec Center or learn it online. Here is the video from Thrill Kenwood 2009.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzVdj8Au...>
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Butterfly visiting a pesticide-free aster at Kenwood School Garden.

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Former HLP artist, Joyce Aprea Murphy at the Hopkins Center for the Arts



Photo by Dorothy Childers
Joyce Aprea Murphy

A drawing "Chanel" by Joyce Aprea Murphy was displayed at the Hopkins Center for the Arts juried competition. Joyce Murphy is an artist who uses colored pencil as her medium to create her subject matter, the human figure. This medium allows Joyce to portray the subject in great detail where needed in the work, as well as large sweeping areas of color in other areas where a broader stroke is needed. Also colored pencil is a medium that is easy on the environment just as an after thought.

Joyce states that the talent to draw and create art is a wonderful skill to have even more so in one's later years. An artist always has something to do and say. Art is making something where once there was nothing but a blank piece of paper. She feels very fortunate and grateful to have this talent and to be able to use and express herself. She also is grateful to the Hopkins Center for the Arts for welcoming and showing her work.



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CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES, October 8, 2014

The September meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Ed Bell, Lowell Berggren, Ryan Fox, Stephen Goltry, Barbara Lunde, James Reid, and Amanda Vallone. Committee Chairs Gail Lee and Elaine May were also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith

Chair Craig Westgate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Announcement

The 2nd Annual CIDNA Art Mart will be held on November 23, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence. Interested artists/vendors may contact info@cidna.org.

NRP/ CPP Report, Gail Lee

The following NRP contracts will be extended: tree grants until 10/31/15; NRP Phase I contract for staff/programs/raingardens until 12/31/16; NRP Phase II implementation contract until 12/31/16 and the Neighborhood Priority Plan contract until 12/31/16. The contract for the loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund is expiring at the end of the year and the loan will be repaid in early 2015.

The committee met with the Park Board to discuss improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach. The Park Board will be studying Lakes Calhoun and Harriet in 2015 and they agreed to include South Beach in the scope of the study if CIDNA can provide the funding. The committee will recommend that CIDNA NRP dollars be used to fund the study and will recommend funding shifts in the NRP Phase II program to make funds available: shift \$6,127 from Energy Workshops strategy and \$15,000 from Sidewalk strategy to Cedar Lake South Beach strategy. The NRP Committee will present the scope and budget of the study and will ask for approval of the funding shift at the November 12th CIDNA Board meeting.

The punch list for Park Siding was reviewed and will be sent to the Park Board and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services.

Raingarden program: The raingarden project was completed in September. Metro Blooms is offering the same program next year. CIDNA will promote the event at the Fall Festival to see if there are residents interested in renewing the program next year.

Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC), Mike Wilson

Minneapolis Public Works has completed sealing work on the cracks in the pavement of Phase One of the Greenway (from west of the Lake St bridge to 5th Ave S), which was opened in August 2000. Public Works has been asked to patch bigger cracks where the sealing didn't work. MGC has requested that Phase One be put into a queue for a full mill and overlay in a few years.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is October 29 at St. Thomas; the topic is Block E and the Target Center renovation.

Fall street sweeping has begun. Check the schedule for your street on the City's website: www.minneapolis.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping.

The Burnham Bridge (the small bridge over the channel) is scheduled to be completely reconstructed next summer. Learn more about the project at a community meeting on October 14, 7 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

Election judges are needed. Go to www.vote.minneapolis.gov/judges for more information.

1800 Lake: a court date has been set in the City's lawsuit against the developers of 1800 Lake for pumping groundwater into the lagoon between Calhoun and Isles.

Recognition of Art Higinbotham

The CIDNA Board recognized longtime board member Art Higinbotham for his service to the neighborhood. Art has served on the CIDNA Board since 2003, including several years as the board chair and

chair of the Transportation Committee. Art recently resigned from the board because he moved out of the neighborhood.

Park Board Commissioner-At-Large Meg Forney

The Park Board has been concerned about the impacts of Southwest LRT on the Kenilworth Channel and asked the Metropolitan Council to conduct engineering studies to determine the feasibility of a tunnel under the channel instead of the proposed bridge over the channel. The Met Council is not pursuing the tunnel option. The Park Board hired outside counsel to advise them on their standing regarding Section 4(f), a provision of the Federal Transportation Act that states the transportation projects cannot use land from public parks unless there are no prudent and feasible alternatives.

The Park Board approved up to \$500,000 (out of their reserve fund) for an engineering study to determine if a tunnel under the channel is feasible and prudent. The study will examine a cut and cover tunnel and associated impacts.

Fall Festival, Elaine May

Details of the October 12th Fall Festival were reviewed.

Community Engagement, Amanda Vallone

Amanda presented a draft of a CIDNA informational flier to have available at neighborhood events.

Thrill Kenwood, is a free community event on October 25, 1- 6 p.m. at Kenwood Rec Center and features a flash mob dance of Michael Jackson's Thriller at 5 p.m. The event is also a fundraiser for The Bridge for Youth. The CIDNA Board approved \$200 to support the event. The expense will be for CPP allowable items.

Vote Yes on 2 Campaign, Jen Borger

Vote Yes on 2 is a campaign to repeal Minneapolis' 70/30 law that requires 70 neighborhood restaurants to serve a ratio of 70% food to 30% alcohol. The issue will be question #2 on the ballot for the November 4th election. If the law is removed from the City Charter, these restaurants will be governed by Minneapolis ordinance and will allow the City to have better enforcement tools.

Sewer Project update, Ryan Fox

The project is nearly complete. Work remains at Sunset & Chowen and Sunset & Depot.

Property Damage from Sewer Construction

A draft of a resolution about the Met Council's policy for handling property damage disputes will be presented at the next CIDNA Board meeting.

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee, Ryan Fox

The committee is holding weekly meetings at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays at Caribou Coffee, Calhoun Commons. They are focusing on traffic enforcement, additional signage and traffic calming.

Friends of Walker Library, James Reid

The Friends group is reaching out to neighborhood organizations for programming ideas. The library offers free meeting space for nonprofit organizations.

School Board Candidate Forum, Monica Smith

Kingfield Neighborhood Association is asking all Area C neighborhoods to co-sponsor a forum for the at-large school board candidates. The forum will be held on October 20 or 21 at Martin Luther King Park. The CIDNA Board approved \$150 to co-sponsor the event.

New Business

Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA) is a consulting party for Section 106 of the Nation Historic Preservation Act and has hired a consultant to review the impacts of Southwest LRT on historic property within their neighborhood.

The Calhoun-Isles Condominium Association is applying for a variance to extend an existing fence along W 29th St within the association property. The columns of the fence will be similar in height to the existing fence but they exceed the maximum height in code by approximately two feet. No timeframe for the variance request was provided and the CIDNA Board took no

EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

Below are abbreviated minutes from the September 2014 EIRA Board of Directors meeting and October 2014 Semi-Annual Members' meeting held at Grace-Trinity Community Church. The complete minutes can be found at www.eastisles.org.

EIRA Board - September 16, 2014

REPORTS

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

The Zoning Committee meeting held on September 16 included the following:

Scott Nelson, DJR Architecture and Daniel Oberpriller, CPM presented preliminary plans for a six-story/70 ft tall, 45-unit apartment building on the SW corner of Lagoon and Irving (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving Ave S). The project site is currently zoned R6 with Shoreland Overlay. CPM is seeking variances for setbacks on all sides (requesting 5' setback from the required 15-18') and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the building height of 70' (the Shoreland Overlay District restricts height to 2.5 stories/35'). The project includes 1-story of underground parking, which was reported to be 4' above the water table. The Zoning Committee will informally communicate their concerns to the developer about the height of the building in the Shoreland Overlay District and as it relates to the Uptown Small Area Plan. The developers are meeting with the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole on September 25 and will come back to the EIRA Zoning Committee on October 21st.

Janet Hallaway from The Bridge for Youth attended the Zoning Committee meeting to discuss their request for a CUP to serve 17-32 youth. The Bridge is not increasing the number of youth (24) that they serve, but the city requires a new CUP since The Bridge recently consolidated their programs into one building. Concerns were raised that the EIRA Board did not have sufficient information to ensure that The Bridge meets the conditions of the CUP. The following motion (6 yeas – 1 oppose) was approved: "EIRA appreciates the role The Bridge plays but we are concerned about details of the proposal and need more information before we can make a final determination." The EIRA Board will invite The Bridge to the November 11th board meeting. The City Planning Commission's public hearing for the CUP is September 29.

Giordano's Pizza, a Chicago-based pizza company is looking to open a restaurant at 2700 Hennepin in April 2015. They will be seeking an On-Sale Liquor License with Sunday Sales and a Class E entertainment license (TVs and recorded music).

Outreach & Nominations, Linda Schutz

The committee is actively recruiting three new board members to serve the remainder of this term. The board will appoint new members at the November 11th meeting.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

Despite the threatening rain, the August 28th Ice Cream Social was a success. The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall. The Social Committee is interested in organizing volunteers for the City of Lakes Loppet.

Treasurer's Report, Andrew Degerstrom

Regarding EIRA's status with the IRS: The 501(c)(4) status was approved pending EIRA's filing Form 990

EIRA to next page

action.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to info@cidna.org.

EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA) CONTINUED

returns for years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Green Team, Bill Elwood

The Super Sale on September 6 was a success with 42 participating households and 9 sponsors. Thanks to organizers Jenika McGann and Shelly Itman.

Board Review

Linda Schutz presented the results from the April 2014 annual meeting evaluations. Overall, respondents were very satisfied with the meeting and the Uptown Diner location.

Status of permit from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to EIRA for planting on the Midtown Greenway (from 2003). This agreement remains in place but it is unclear if anyone from East Isles is maintaining the plantings. The board unanimously approved a motion to defer for future discussion by the Parks Committee.

The Minneapolis City Council approved municipal consent for Southwest Light Rail Transit by a vote of 10-3.

The November 11 board meeting will include a discussion about crime and the potential to fund additional patrols in the neighborhood.

Semi-Annual Meeting - October 14, 2014

Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb, District 4

The Park Board allocated \$300K for park enhancement adjacent to the new Walker Library. The proposed budget grew to \$1.6 million during the planning phase (library design process). The Park Board is working on leveraging the \$300K to bridge the gap. To put this in perspective, the entire Park Board capital budget for all of the neighborhood parks is \$1.5 million. If the Park Board can't leverage enough funds, they will come back to the community to establish priorities.

\$200K has been dedicated to Smith Triangle Park improvements in 2019. Commissioner Tabb congratulated the neighborhood for working on cleaning up the park.

City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

The city is on the brink of a housing crisis for affordable housing. East Isles is at the epicenter of the density debate. The City Council is encouraging density, which should be along transit corridors, such as Hennepin Ave, to keep the density out of the neighborhoods. Growth will put less pressure on property taxes. The city is working on an ordinance to allow Accessory Dwelling Units.

Hennepin/Lyndale project: improvements are being made for bicycle/pedestrian paths and to add green space to the corridor. The budget did not allow for major changes.

Representative Frank Hornstein, District 61A

Accomplishments in the last session: more money for bus shelters, bicycle transit, and affordable housing; park dedication fee (collects fee from developers for parkland); funding for upgrades to Sculpture Garden and Nicollet Mall; major update on recycling and composting laws.

The legislature did not pass a transportation funding bill last session but it is a top priority in the next session.

Senator Scott Dibble, District 61

Accomplishments in the last session: supported

local government aid (LGA); balanced the budget and paid back borrowing from schools; major funding for education; marriage equality; anti-bullying; medical cannabis; help for homeless youth and protection for pollinators.

Work in the next session will focus on a transportation bill and consumer protection.

PANEL DISCUSSION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Q: What is the role of neighborhoods and specifically related to funding?

Goodman: Very supportive of neighborhoods but does not support providing large amounts of funding for projects. Money needs to be pooled to solve bigger issues. Some neighborhoods didn't spend NRP money well. \$16 million in NRP money remains unspent. Supportive of providing funding for staff, communications and events but not large amounts for projects.

Tabb: The Park Board works with neighborhoods for outreach and community engagement.

Hornstein: Mixed record on NRP but there is a role to support and fund neighborhoods for the capacity to organize. Neighborhoods develop leaders to engage with developers and elected officials. Strong supporter of neighborhoods but neighborhoods should also do fundraising.

Dibble: There is a role for neighborhoods to work together.

Q: Status of vegetation at Lake of the Isles?

Tabb: The Park Board has been working on the vegetation around the lake. Vegetation is needed for shoreline stabilization but they want the lake visible from the paths and trails. They have been having problems with the turf and are aerating and over-seeding this fall so the turf can grow as intended. The Park Board is thinking about the best way to maintain the gardens around the lake.

Q: Are there any plans to make better transit connections between Uptown and downtown?

Goodman: Minneapolis is working on streetcar planning. The first route will be on Nicollet Ave (from Franklin Ave to Mississippi River). They have \$200 million from TIF districts but need matching federal funding. Goodman is also supportive of transit on the Midtown Greenway to connect Hiawatha LRT with Southwest LRT.

Q: Child protection

Dibble: The Governor formed a task force and the legislature needs to do a better job. It is a big issue and now has the attention of key people. Strategies are emerging. Foster care also needs reform.

Q: What incentives can be put in place for green buildings and renewable energy?

Goodman: A working group is being formed of city, county and state officials for community solar. State has program called PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) to allow property owners to finance energy retrofits and repay the loan through an annual special tax on their property bill.

Hornstein: Renewable energy is not an option; it is a requirement. Need to promote policy to reduce carbon footprint. Needs strong grassroots efforts statewide.

Dibble: Small-scale renewable energy is the wave of

the future. Conservation and efficiency are essential.

Tabb: The Park Board received a \$1 million renewable development grant. Solar will be installed at Parade Ice Arena and demonstration sites throughout the city (including Tin Fish).

Q: What is the proposed Adventure Center of the Loppet Foundation?

Tabb: A 5-year Community Advisory Committee for Wirth Park identified interest in a facility to house programs for skiers, golfer and recreational park users. The Park Board received \$1.5 million in bonding from the state and the Loppet Foundation will raise an additional \$3 million to build an Adventure Center (located near the old Par 3) to support many activities at the park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Committee

Chair Allan Amis reported on Zoning Committee activity in the past six months. The committee met with CPM to discuss their proposal for an apartment project on the SW corner of Irving Ave S and Lagoon Ave (see September 16 minutes above for details).

The committee met with the Bridge for Youth to discuss their application for a conditional use permit (see September 16 minutes above for details).

The 70/30 restaurant group presented information about an initiative on the November ballot to repeal Minneapolis' 70/30 law that requires 70 neighborhood restaurants to serve a ratio of 70% food to 30% alcohol. If the law is removed from the City Charter, these restaurants will be governed by Minneapolis ordinance.

Green Team

Chair Betsy Allis reported that the Greet Team is beginning their 4th year. Major events include the Super Sale, Green Festival and the demonstration raingarden at 27th and Humboldt.

The Green Team is concerned about the seriousness of climate change and invites residents to join them in the work.

NRP Committee

Coordinator Monica Smith shared information about the Home Security Grants program for residents of up to \$250 for security upgrades. Details are available at www.eastisles.org.

Outreach and Nominations

Chair Linda Schutz outlined the main focus of this committee – to recruit candidates for the yearly election of EIRA Board of Directors. The committee also recruits committee chairs (a chair for the Crime & Safety Committee is needed) and standardized committee operations.

Schutz will resign as committee chair on December 31, 2014.

Social Committee

Chair Amy Sanborn discussed the two major events that the committee organizes each year: the Ice Skating Party (January 25, 2015) and the Ice Cream Social in August. The Social Committee also organizes volun-

EIRA to page 12



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LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Janis Clay

LHNA Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Present - Board Members: Phil Hallaway, President; David Weinstein, Vice President; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Mark Brauer; Raj Dash; Thomas D. Huppert; Michael Cockson; Sarah Janacek.

Present – Guests and staff: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative; John Van Heel; Dan Levey; Arlys Freeman; Autumn Boos; Amanda Vallone.

President Phil Hallway called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Raj Dash moved and Dan Aronson seconded approval of tonight's agenda and of the September 9, 2014, minutes. All approved.

Community Announcements: Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman: Lunch with Lisa on October 29th will feature a presentation on the Block E renovation. Fall leaf sweeping begins October 20th. The schedule for each street is available on the City's website. It is illegal to sweep leaves into the street and to use excessively loud leaf blowers. Minneapolis Public Works is planning to rehab the Burnham Road Bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel next year. The repairs are extensive and will require closing the bridge for the construction season, but will not change the bridge's character. Election judges are needed for the upcoming election. A variance is being sought for maintenance and improvements to 1118 Kenwood Parkway.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Aronson gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$35,000 in the bank. Dan received a \$623.00 invoice for pooled general liability insurance, which he will pay.

Committee Reports:

Environment: Michael Cockson introduced guests, Autumn Boos and Arlys Freeman, of Midwest Floating Island, LLC. They gave an update on an environmental project for which LHNA allocated \$25,000.00 in

NRP funds in July 2011. The project was aimed at improving Spring Lake, located between 394 and Kenwood Parkway. The Minneapolis Park Board acquired the lake as a wildlife refuge in 1893. Over the years, Spring Lake's water quality has become severely impaired and its shoreline overgrown with invasive species. The project involved purchase of a launch dock and seven floating islands, for the purpose of bio-remediating the surface water of the lake and providing habitat. The islands have been effective at adding habitat. Measurement of water quality improvement is difficult because of extensive duckweed. The islands require a day or so of maintenance each year. The current agreement on maintenance expires in 2016. Midwest Floating Islands will provide a proposal for continuing maintenance. The lake is very deep, and would benefit from adding aeration.

Zoning and Planning: John Van Heel gave a presentation on the Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction project. He brought a large drawing from architects Kimley Horn showing "option number 2" of two plans presented at an open house this summer. This layout was approved by the City Council on September 19th. The goal of the project is to reconfigure lanes to allow more room for bike and pedestrian traffic, as well as to make navigation easier for vehicles. Following the presentation, David Weinstein proposed the following resolution, seconded by Mark Brauer: that LHNA supports the plan for the Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction Project as adopted, and further urges the City to work closely with LHNA and other affected neighborhoods to implement the plan. All approved.

The discussion of the variance request for 1118 Kenwood Parkway has been tabled until next month.

Crime and Safety: Michael Cockson reported that there has been considerable criminal activity in the neighborhood this month. Michael will contact Chelsea Adams, Fifth Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, to ask if she can give us an update on this.

Events: Tom Huppert will work with Mark Brauer

on events. The Ice Skating Social is scheduled for January 25, 2015. Last year LHNA provided pie, coffee and ice cream to the 5th Precinct on Thanksgiving. Mark Brauer will contact the precinct to see if they would like something again this year, and whether they would prefer a different date.

Amanda Vallone discussed Thrill Kenwood, part of a global simultaneous dance to Michael Jackson's Thriller, planned for October 25th. This year, the Rec Center's Halloween party will be combined with Thrill Kenwood. There will be music and lots of activities. The Bridge for Youth will be a partner. The event will go from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with the dance at 5:00 p.m. Mark Brauer made a motion, seconded by Raj Dash, that LHNA contribute \$500.00 to support the event. All approved.

Neighborhood Priorities Survey Working Group/Community Participation Program: Sarah Janacek updated the Board. The first step is to distill what respondents said in the online neighborhood priority survey, and then to figure out our priorities.

New Business:

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at the Kenwood Rec Center. This is one week later than usual due to Election Day. All residents are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at www.lowryhillneighborhood.org, and sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned.

EIRA from page 11

teers for fundraisers like the pop booth at the Art Fair.

Transportation Committee

President Dan McLaughlin reported that the newly reformed committee has met three times in the past six months. The next meeting is Thursday, October 30, 7 pm at Grace.

OPEN FORUM

A budget of \$200 was requested for hot chocolate and coffee for the January 25th Ice Skating Party.

A concern was raised about The Bridge for Youth possibly selling the white house at 22nd and Emerson Ave S because \$19K of EIRA's NRP funds paid for new windows in the building in 2011.

In response to comments by elected officials about the NRP program, one resident reported that EIRA partnered with the Park Board to help fund major improvements at Lake of the Isles.

Concerns remain about the vacant and deteriorating house at 2208 Irving Ave S. The EIRA Board will discuss the status of the property at an upcoming meeting.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.

If consistent with EIRA Bylaws, and where the availability of a public document or report in electronic forms exists, copies of EIRA Board agenda items may be obtained by an EIRA member by contacting nrp@eastisles.org.

Parkway Closure for October 25

The following parkway will be temporarily closed October 25, 2014 for these events; during these designated times:

October 25 – Minneapolis Terror Trot 5K – 09:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. - Lake Harriet – All around the Lake.

The Lowry Hill
Neighborhood Association
would like to
thank the residents of

Lowry Hill

for their generous
donations to the
LHNA this year.



KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

By Shawn Smith

October 2014 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met October 6th, 2014 at Kenwood Rec Center.

Chair Larry Moran called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Board Members present: Larry Moran, Mike Bono, Jeanette Colby, Angie Erdrich, Jim Gilroy, Ed Pluimer, Kathy Low, Josine Peters, Shawn Smith (minute taker)

Others present: the speakers referenced below, and David Levy and Dylan Thomas.

City Council Update: Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman shared that the last 2014 Lunch With Lisa will be Oct 29th, and will have an update on Target Center and Block E renovation. Early architectural drawings to be shown. There will not be a Lunch in November due to Thanksgiving, and December will be the annual "Later with Lisa" gathering.

CM Goodman also shared that Fall Street Sweeping is coming - the City of Minneapolis would like to remind residents and lawn contractors not to sweep leaves into the street, due to the risk of clogging storm sewers. Doing so will be subject to a fine from the city. Neighbors are encouraged to remind neighbors and report violations by calling Minneapolis 311. Street sweeping will start on Oct 20th, and residents may visit the city website to view the schedule for street sweeping.

The General Election is coming in November. This year will feature early voting at City Hall in addition to voting on Election Day and Absentee Voting. With "No Excuse Voting" you can go to City Hall now, obtain a ballot, and vote, no questions asked. Lisa noted that more Election Judges are needed for Election Day.

The Burnham St Bridge that crosses Kenilworth Channel is planned for replacement in 2015 due to the deterioration of its condition. It is not related to the SWLRT project. The bridge over the trails may be made two-way to help residents get to their homes. There is a public engagement meeting on Tuesday October 14th, from 7-8:30PM, at the Jones-Harrison Home, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave. At the meeting, the three railing types will be discussed as well as neighborhood concerns and access during construction.

CM Goodman then answered various questions relating to SWLRT.

SWLRT Resolution: Assistance with KIAA role in

section 106 review for SW Light Rail.

Kathy Low introduced a resolution for an expenditure of up to \$5,000 through the end of 2014 for a contract with Preservation Design Works to assist KIAA with its role as a Consulting Party in the section 106 review of the SWLRT project. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides for a review process to encourage preservation when a federally-funded project like SWLRT affects historic properties, such as Kenwood Parkway and the Kenilworth channel. Kathy Low introduced Meghan Elliott, founder and owner of Preservation Design Works, who has agreed to assist KIAA in the review of and commentary on section 106 reports, listen to neighborhood concerns, represent KIAA at meetings, and provide reports to KIAA. Kathy moved in favor of the resolution. Angie Erdrich seconded. The resolution was unanimously passed by KIAA. It is planned to include CIDNA and CLPA in updates as the process continues.

Thrill Kenwood Funding Request: Amanda Vallone (BeArtrageous)

Thrill Kenwood will be held October 25th from 1-6PM, and will expand into a Community Halloween Party with live music, musicians, dance groups. Bridge for Youth is the partner charity. The goal is to engage the four neighborhoods in Kenwood similarly to the now-defunct Palio. KIAA contributed \$500 last year towards the event. Josine Peters moved to approve an expenditure of \$600 to support the increased budget for the expanded event, with Jeanette Colby seconding. The request was approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous: Larry Moran

The Walker Sculpture Garden is being reconstructed and Larry Moran had previously asked Terry Campbell to participate and provide input. Josine Peters will represent KIAA if Terry is unable.

Monthly Coffees with Neighbors will be discussed at the November KIAA meeting as part of the Neighborhood Engagement Committee Initiative.

Metro Blooms Rain Garden Program has asked if KIAA would be willing to participate in some funding of the cost of community rain gardens. Angie Erdrich to follow up.

SWLRT: All

It was noted that KIAA has been highly engaged in the vetting process for the SWLRT concerns, and with the project now approved would continue to be engaged in mitigation strategies.

The meeting was adjourned by Larry Moran at 8:40 PM

Updates: If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at KIAA@gmail.com. Also please visit our website at kenwoodminneapolis.org to learn more. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact us.

The next Kenwood Isles Area Association Board meeting is Monday, November 3rd from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. Monthly meetings are held on the first calendar Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. KIAA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by KIAA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at kenwood-minneapolis.org

Accessory Dwelling Units

We want to keep the neighborhood associations up to date on the accessory dwelling unit zoning code text amendment project. There was a wonderful turnout at all four open houses in August and September, with over 137 signed-in attendees. In addition, we received over 197 unique responses to the accessory dwelling unit questionnaire. Thank you to all of those that participated and provided thoughtful feedback!

A preliminary draft of the zoning code text amendment is now available on the project website and attached to this e-mail: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/ADU>. The City of Minneapolis will be hosting an additional open house later this month to help answer questions about the draft regulations and collect additional feedback before a final draft is forwarded to the City Planning Commission and City Council for review:

Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Kenwood Community Center (Multipurpose Meeting Room), 2101 Franklin Ave. W.
Minneapolis, MN 55405

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LETTER

To the Editor:

As a 25 year Sergeant with the Minneapolis Police Department, I have a great deal at stake in the future of public safety in Hennepin County. That being said, I strongly believe there is no one more capable or better prepared to serve as our Hennepin County Sheriff than Rich Stanek.

I worked with Sheriff Stanek when I was assigned to the Minneapolis Police Department - Homicide Unit. Sheriff Stanek was the Division Commander, overseeing all aspects of the Criminal Investigations Division. Under Sheriff Stanek's command, the MPD Homicide Unit consistently maintained the highest solve rates in recent MPD history.

With Sheriff Stanek's tireless work ethic, he provided investigators with the resources and support to be successful with complex and challenging investigations. Sheriff Stanek would routinely advocate for the rights of victims, witnesses and their families; determined to ensure that they would be treated with dignity and respect.

In 2005, Sheriff Stanek demonstrated his leadership and innovation when he created the Violent Offender Task Force (VOTF); what is now a model for inter-agency collaboration and information sharing. I was fortunate to have worked for Sheriff Stanek during the infant stages of VOTF, and again while recently assigned as a Minneapolis Police Department liaison to the current Hennepin County Sheriff's Office - Violent Offender Task Force. I was able to see that Sheriff Stanek had turned an amazing idea into a nationally recognized group of focused, state of the art crime fighters.

Sheriff Stanek's vision has proven that effective partnerships can be cost-effective, while focusing resources on the most dangerous and violent groups and individuals in Hennepin County. This is one of the reasons why violent crime is down in Hennepin County by 36% under Sheriff Stanek.

I'm proud to have worked with Sheriff Stanek in this innovative approach to fighting crime. I ask you for your vote on November 4th, to re-elect Rich Stanek for Hennepin County Sheriff.

Patrick King

To the Editor:

Rich Stanek has been a police officer for 30 years, and he's been the same as long as we've known him, a caring, compassionate street cop who delivers good service to people. In 2001, Lieutenant Rich Stanek was a SWAT Team negotiator talking to a man intending to jump from a parking ramp. When he jumped, Rich instinctively grabbed him and saved his life ... at his own peril. Rich suffered severe back injuries, and has never fully recovered. He earned several Commendations for Meritorious Service.

He's never forgotten where he came from. He always thinks about the front-line cops and the front-line customers.

Rich has been a trusted and respected leader, in every position he has ever held, which is different than being well-liked. It's what makes him a great Sheriff: he was elected to make tough decisions and to deliver the hard news. He is a Sheriff with a big message about public safety, and he delivers every single day to help save lives: attacking heroin abuse, combating violent extremism, cautioning boat safety, educating about human trafficking, speaking bluntly about untreated mental illness. He has never shied away from taking on these issues, and has elevated them to our national public safety conversation - raising our concerns and interests directly with the President, Attorney General and Congress.

Whether he was serving as a cop, legislator, sheriff, or simply as a human being, I've seen him do the right thing for the right reasons...and he's consistent. He will listen, exchange viewpoints, and sometimes we disagree, but when I leave the room I always know where I stand with him. So now, the Minneapolis Police Officers Federation stands with Rich Stanek for Hennepin County Sheriff; our decision was unanimous.

**Joe Delmonico, NE Minneapolis
President, Police Officers Federation**



Hill & Lake Press
2101 West Franklin, Minneapolis,
MN 55405
www.hillandlakepress.com
612-377-5785
Volume 38 Number 10
October 24, 2014
Next issue:
November 21, 2014
Reservation deadline
November 10, 2014

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Hill & Lake Press is a non profit newspaper and funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations: East Isles Residents Association (EIRA); Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA); Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA); and Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA).
Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-5785
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Since March 1976, The Hill & Lake Press has served the community as a non-profit newspaper staffed by volunteers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

HILL LAKE PRESS
Selected Real Estate Sales
September 2014

STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	SELLER CONTRIB	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
49 Groveland Terr B402	179,000	4,702	190	156,720	C	1/1	774	157,000	2,589	1966
50 Groveland Terr C204	169,900	5,100	44	170,000	C	1/1	760	124,000	1,836	1967
48 Groveland Terr B411	179,900	5,324	31	177,450	C	1/1	745	148,000	2,563	1966
3116 W Lake St #123	189,900	4,658	489	175,000	C	1/1	943	196,000	3,589	2007
3104 W Lake St #204	224,900	0	115	202,500	C	1/1	962	177,000	3,324	2007
3104 W Lake St #208	214,900	0	62	206,000	C	1/1	960	177,000	2,830	2007
3151 Dean Court #703	224,900	0	74	210,000	C	2/1	1,010	192,500	3,831	1983
2950 Dean Pkwy #2005	285,000	0	20	295,000	C	1/2	1,160	239,500	4,551	1977
2820 Kenwood Isles Dr	329,900	0	7	320,000	TWN	2/2	1,350	281,000	4,835	1986
2855 Irving S	350,000	0	9	325,000	H	3/1	1,414	363,000	6,505	1910
3351 St Louis Ave	359,900	0	21	350,000	TWN	3/2	1,847	305,000	5,296	1985
816 Summit Ave	374,900	7,000	78	357,500	TWN	2/2	2,120	300,000	4,939	1990
3355 St Louis Ave	449,900	0	44	440,000	TWN	3/3	2,244	399,500	6,065	1986
818 Mt Curve Ave	519,000	0	68	475,000	TWN	3/3	2,400	459,000	8,227	1900
2012 Sheridan S	599,000	12,000	16	599,000	H	3/3	3,138	519,500	9,295	1917
2753 Upton S	624,900	0	3	625,000	H	4/3	2,689	578,000	10,631	1922
2025 Fremont S	729,000	0	5	750,000	H	4/4	3,012	541,500	9,918	1907
1322 Douglas S	799,900	0	36	784,500	H	4/4	3,278	674,000	12,964	1905
1801 James S	1,000,000	8,000	37	957,000	H	6/5	4,550	802,000	16,454	1909
1715 James S	1,174,500	0	436	1,140,000	H	6/7	5,261	1,295,000	25,567	1906
3521 W 26th St	1,895,000	0	335	1,625,000	H	5/5	6,330	1,550,000	31,955	2011

Sources: Harvey Ettinger, Steve Havig
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County

Legend: Condo C, Home H, Townhouse TWN
(Go to mpisrealtor.com for additional info)

Where we are Now!

By Jean Deatrck



Photo by Kim Hauschild

Last Sunday was a beautiful day, one of the last warm days this fall. And we were invited to a block party on our stretch of Dupont, a fabulous party with many friends and neighbors and delicious food and wine.

The party was hosted by Zoe Francois and her husband Graham along with Stephanie Meyer. Zoe and Stephanie were publicizing their latest books. Can you imagine? Two published authors on one block!

We were also able to tour Zoe and Graham's newly renovated Healy home. We learned also that several homes on the block have new kitchens or are in the process of getting them. Great party, great block.

Zoe along with Jeff Hertzberg wrote *Gluten Free Artisan Bread*. Stephanie has published *Twin Cities Chef's Table*. You will soon be able to purchase both books at our own Birchbark Books in Kenwood.

Extended absentee voting hours for November 4 election

Hennepin County will offer extended hours for absentee voting in the upcoming general election. Any eligible voter may submit an absentee ballot for any reason, and absentee ballots can be submitted by mail, in person, or by having someone you know pick up and deliver the ballot.

This year Minnesotans will elect a U.S. senator, U.S. representatives, the governor and a wide variety of state, county, city and school district offices. In Hennepin County, residents will elect three commissioners, the sheriff and the county attorney.

Where to absentee vote:

Hennepin County Government Center
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis (map)
Skyway level

Extended absentee voting hours

Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday – Friday, October 27 - October 31 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, November 3 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you aren't able to submit an absentee ballot, be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To find your polling location, use the Minnesota Secretary of State polling place finder available at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

For more voting information, go to www.hennepin.us/elections or call the Hennepin County Elections Division at 612-348-5151.

Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra concert

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church
2020 W Lake of the Isles Parkway, November 20th at 7:30pm

The Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra presents the first concert of its 2014/2015 season on Thursday, November 20th at 7:30pm at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Kenwood.

The program features soloist Manny Laureano, Minnesota Orchestra principal trumpet player, who will play "Prayer of St Gregory" by Alan Hovhaness and Jean-Baptiste Arban's dazzling "Carnival of Venice" variations for trumpet and orchestra. Mr. Laureano will also conduct Franz Schubert's Symphony No.8, the "Unfinished Symphony." The concert is free to the public. Website: <http://lhco.org/schedule/>

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College Tours

By Madeleine Lowry

College tours can be fun—cheap entertainment for the family with a college-bound student! It's fascinating to finally see college campuses that I've heard about all my life but never visited since I grew up in the era where you only toured colleges after you were accepted with enough financial aid to make attending a possibility.

Tours are free, which is a bargain compared with the cost of attending college, though that is the chief risk of going on college tours: that one day you may be sending all of your money to that distinguished address.

Many of our friends who have been through this process advised that we begin by strolling college campuses wherever our vacation plans took us. That was pretty good advice and we were able to rule out Georgetown, Williams and Vassar without the commitment of attending a formal information session.

After that initial exposure our daughter became fairly prescriptive about her criteria: medium to large-sized university with a strong science program in a city with a real winter. (Huh?)

But, okay. We started to get serious this summer and visited colleges in New York City, Boston, Providence, Maine, Chicago and Montreal.

Perhaps we packed too many into one summer because by the time we attended the tenth information session our usually patient teen was grumbling that she didn't want to set foot on another college campus until she actually had to start classes as a freshman.

I think they call this college tour burnout.

Honestly, I understand where she's coming from because after several information sessions they all start to sound the same. Every admission officer's presentation follows the same structure like something decreed by the College Board. They always start with the bit

about the background and history, followed by the part about classes and college life, the review of core requirements and majors, the pitch about study abroad options, the requisite overview of the admissions process and end with a pep talk about financial aid.

You could close your eyes from one information session to the next and not know which campus you were visiting. However, if I plopped you into a random information session and allowed you to open your eyes, you would be able to tell what type of school it was by a few essential clues. Are you in a vast, creaky, dim auditorium surrounded by two hundred prospective students and their families (about half of whom are Asian) with no slide presentation to accompany the admission officer's patter? Congratulations! You are in an Ivy League information session. Are you in a small, bright room with ample handouts and a very engaging admissions officer with a multi-media presentation? Congratulations! You are in a small college information session.

Campus tours are much more variable since they are given by enrolled students. Some school's guides are required to follow a script and it can be disconcerting to run into other tour groups and hear the same voiceover being given, right down to the carefully-worded jokes. Others are allowed to personalize the tour with anecdotes about their own and their friends' experiences which spices things up immeasurably. You'll know that your tour is coming to an end when the admissions office comes into view and the guide begins to outline the reasons that they chose to attend Best University.

Some tour guides deliver their comments as they walk backward confidently along the tour route. The backward-walking-and-talking tour guides invariably enlist the help of the tour participants in identifying potential obstacles that might trip them up as eyes-in-the-back-of-the-head were apparently not a requirement for the job. This turns the tour into a group participation activity with some tension (should we tell her that she's about to walk into that lamp post or not?) which makes the whole experience more memorable. Backward-walking-and-talking seems to require a higher IQ as well, which is impressive in its own way.

Burnout notwithstanding, we've scheduled our next set of college tours in Philadelphia over MEA weekend. We figure that if ten college tours were enough to get our daughter to swear off college tours forever, perhaps a few more will motivate her to give up on the very idea of attending college at all.

Think of the savings!

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By Tom H. Cook

Amazon Could Open First Store

“Online retailers are seeing there is something to be gained by having an experience for consumers that is hands-on, that is experiential in nature instead of click and buy.”

—Shan Li, reporter, quoting analyst Ken Perkins of Retail Metrics Inc. in the LA Times, October 10, 2014

Amazon has procured a space in New York City that will begin as a pickup area for online orders. It will also serve as storage for same-day delivery items. It's very hush-hush, but Amazon is considering using this brick-and-mortar spot as a showroom for its electronic gadgets, such as Kindle e-readers. I assume people could drop in during “open” hours, speak with a representative, view, and (be still my heart) actually purchase items. This project has feathers and quacks. I am thinking store.

Jeff Bezos and the Amazonians have decreed it is again cool to go out and shop. After a successful trial the company plans to open stores in San Francisco and other cities around the country. This follows on the heels of the release of The Beatles in Mono, 14 vinyl LPs with a 108 page book with real paper and binding. At \$375 it is a bit pricey, but the sound is analog not digital! I remember mono records. They were a dollar less than stereo because they were not as good. (The next fad, quadraphonic sound, faded because people have only two ears.)

I have been a good albeit reluctant lemming. I stopped going to stores and now shop with a clicker. I preferred the old way, hefting any potential purchase costing over \$25. I also liked cross examining the bored, tatted, and pierced sales representatives in person. I found putting my music in the cloud was more traumatic. I compromised by boxing and moving my records and CDs to the rafters in the garage.

I am all for progress and innovation, but if we are just going to double back, I will wait here. My best contact for these things is my thirty-something son Ben,

who lives in LA and knows genuine hipsters! He understood immediately, and rattled off several of what he termed nostalgic anachronisms. What follows are some more old-school concepts poised for a comeback.

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lope with a secure adhesive.

Community Building through One Time TV. In the 1960s Bonanza was on Sunday nights. We watched it and talked about Hoss and Little Joe the next day. Now, with delayed viewing and time shifting, some of us are still on Season Three of Breaking Bad. No wonder we are such a divided nation. We need to offer captivating programming that will allow only one airing and foil recording devices.

Tom H. Cook is enjoying the high drama of the World Series while attempting to drown out the drone of the football machine.

East Isles Residents Association semi-annual meeting



Photo by Monica Smith

The October 14th East Isles Residents Association semi-annual meeting featured a panel discussion with our elected officials. From left to right: Senator Scott Dibble, Representative Frank Hornstein, Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb and City Council Member Lisa Goodman.

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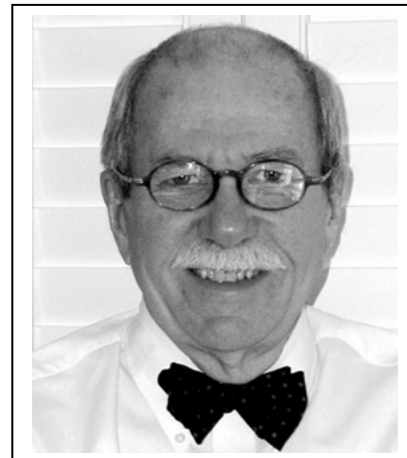
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