



'Where the biggies leave off...'

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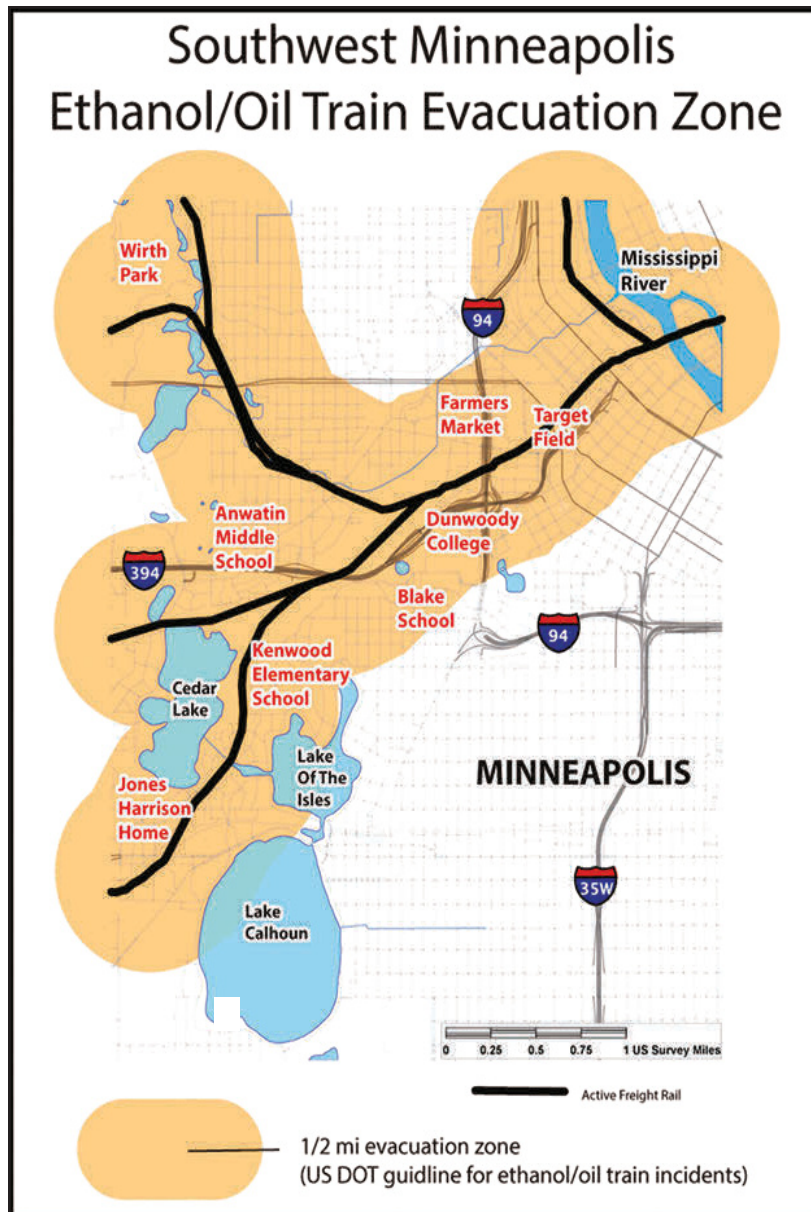
Modern Freight Rail Deserves Improved Safety Stewardship

by Sarai Brenner and Claire Ruebeck

The romanticized notion of railroads runs deep in the American psyche. In our collective memory we conjure faraway train whistles and distant mountains, colorful images of circus trains and billows of steam, *The Little Engine that Could* and *Thomas the Tank Engine*. A tarnished penny becomes a glinting treasure, pressed smooth on the track by a passing train. But highly publicized train disasters, such as those that occurred in Cherry Valley, Illinois (ethanol derailment and spill in 6/19/2009); Lac Megantic, Canada (Bakken crude derailment and explosion in 7/6/2013); and Dubuque, Iowa (ethanol derailment and spill in to the Mississippi River on 2/4/2015) challenge this persistent train nostalgia. The role of railroads and the inherent risks of their modern day cargo – especially in populated and environmentally sensitive areas such as the Kenilworth Corridor – are complex and deserve ongoing attention and scrutiny.

In the 20th century the introduction of the automobile, interstate highways, and commercial airlines, generally rendered railroads obsolete for long distance passenger travel. Competition for freight shipments from trucking companies forced some railroads out of business. In 1980 the U.S. Congress, in effort to revive the railroad industry, passed the Staggers Railroad Act. The Act provided deregulation and allowed for mergers and acquisitions. The result was cheaper freight rates and increased control by railroad companies over routing and safety.

Today, the U.S. economy depends on railroad carriers to move commodities efficiently. Because of this reliance, all railroads are held to



the federally mandated 'common carrier obligation'. This means that railroads must ship any legal product, including hazards such as ammonia anhydrous and chlorine gas as well as highly flammable crude oil and ethanol. Although toxic and flammable commodities represent only a fraction of all train shipments, they have increased over the last decade and continue to rise as Bakken crude oil production facilities come online and increasing amounts of ethanol are blended with gasoline as required by 2005 federal legislation. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), over 99% of hazardous materials arrive at their destination without incident. However incidents that do occur can have devastating and lasting consequences to local communities and the environment.

Despite the potential for serious community-level impacts, state and local governments have little power to regulate railroad operations, safety requirements or routing. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) enforces relevant regulations written by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Critical PHMSA safety standards, however, such as those related to crude oil shipment and the phase out of the inadequate tank cars, apply only to Class I railroad carriers – railroad companies with annual operating revenues of \$467 million or more. Class II carriers have operating revenues of less than \$467 million but more than

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A TOUGH YEAR FOR ICE AND SNOW

By Hal Galvin



Dorothy Childers attended Luminary Loppet and photographed the lovely scene, a tribute of success from the committed luminarians.

This year's Luminary Loppet, playing the odds, should not have happened. Mother Nature put challenge after challenge in front of the event, but our faithful team of committed luminarians would not accept defeat. We beat back each challenge with renewed commitment, new equipment, and sheer force of will, and the result? – Arguably the best Luminary Loppet of all times.

Here are a few of this year's unique and significant challenges:

First – the general body of luminaries was nearly rendered useless by the long warm spell preceding the event. Our luminaries were just about destroyed. A normal stash of luminaries – queued up and ready to be placed on the

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Birchbark Books Celebration and OpenHouse with Louise Erdrich

Feb. 22, 10-8pm, Reading and Raffle 5-8pm
2115 West 21st Street, 612-374-4023

Attend the Lake Street Council's Annual Meeting

Listen to Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges' remarks while you chow down on Salsa A La Salsa's top notch Mexican cuisine and network with your peers. Thursday, March 19, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Salsa A La Salsa | 2841 Hennepin Ave S., Minneapolis, MN, 55408. Advance: \$20 & Door: \$25 (Lunch Included). Questions: 612.822.1912 or zmartinez@lakestreetcouncil.org

Minneapolis Audubon Society Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S) Friday, March 13, 2014 1 p.m.

Chet Meyers, Chair of the Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Program will present a program on woodpecker research at 1 pm Friday, March 13 at the Minneapolis Audubon Society's monthly meeting. For more information call 763-533-8381.

Skaters at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden



Photo by Dorothy Childers

These youngsters enjoyed skating at the Walker Art Center's temporary ice rink, erected near the iconic Cherry Spoon Bridge to celebrate the grand opening of the exhibition 75 Gifts for 75 Years. Check www.walkerart.org/calendar for other upcoming celebrations.

Interesting Virtual Garage Sale Benefit

Southwest High School and other organizations are participating in a virtual garage sale February 20-March 20, 2015. Exchange4Good.com Reuse, recycle, raise money for schools! The basic idea is that people can post items online by going to www.exchange4good.com and choose a charity for the proceeds. Starting February 20th, buyers pay online and arrange with the donor about how to pick it up. No mailing, all local. Start shopping February

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board reminds park visitors that its ice rinks and warming houses will remain open but unmaintained for the rest of the winter season.

The rinks at Lake of the Isles, McRae, North Commons and Van Cleve will remain regularly maintained and open through March 1, weather and ice conditions permitting.

As ice conditions deteriorate and rinks close, we will update each rink's status daily.

Rink and warming house hours can be found at www.minneapolisparcs.org/rinks.

Be a part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's 21st Earth Day Cleanup Event on April 25th, 2015 from 9:30 am - noon! MPRB and City staff are looking for volunteers for various environmental education activities. Some of the activities include: a garbage, recycling and organics sorting game, making recycled arts and crafts, and assisting participants in making non-toxic cleaners. With over 35 parks hosting cleanup events this year, there's bound to be a convenient volunteer location near you! Contact Aubrey Fonfara to sign up at Aubrey.Fonfara@minneapolisismn.gov or 612-673-2737.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FEB. 20 VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE BEGINS

FEB. 22, BIRCHBARK BOOKS OPEN HOUSE WITH LOUISE ERDRICH, 10-8PM

FEB. 25 NOON LUNCH WITH LISA

MARCH 13, 1PM AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 19, 11AM LAKE ST. COUNCIL ANNUAL MTG.

APRIL 25, 9:30 TO NOON EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday, 6pm Jones-Harrison.

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

KIAA: First Monday, 7pm. Kenwood Rec Center

LHNA: First Tuesday, 7pm, Kenwood Rec Center

Eating Consciously ... Make 2015 the Year to Eat Healthy and Save the Planet!

By Betsy Allis

Learn how food and climate change are connected and practical tips for making better food choices in a 4-program series sponsored by the East Isles Green Team. Our speaker is Jesse Haas, an experienced Twin Cities nutrition educator and certified health coach.

Remaining programs:

Monday, March 9: The Skinny on Fat

Monday, March 23: Is this food bothering you?

Thursday, April 9: Foods with Super Powers!

All programs are from 7 to 8 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St

Sign up now with Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org. Free entry and low carbon snacks. Win a chance for a gift certificate at Amore Victoria by making and fulfilling a pledge for change! Learn more at www.Facebook.com/EastIslesGreenTeam

Lunch with Lisa February 25, 2014

Join Council Member Lisa Goodman for lunch and conversation. This Month we will be talking about ...

Urban Wildlife!

We get a lot of calls in our office about crows and coyotes, therefore we've decided to bring in an expert from Animal Care and Control to talk to us about these animals and others.

We Welcome...

Animal Control Lead Officer John Kilner III to present on how to deal with Urban Wildlife. Crows/Coyotes/Deer/Raccoons/Squirrels/Rabbits

OH MY!!

St Thomas University—Minneapolis Opus 202

\$10 Lunch is offered

Come early to get your lunch and a good seat.

Discussion starts promptly at noon

RSVP to 673-2207 not required but appreciated for food quantity

20th! For more info contact Erin Sjoquist at contact@exchange4good.com

The schools are: Barton Open, Burroughs Elementary, City of Lakes Waldorf, Judson, Marcy Open, Ramsey, Rotary Club- City of Lakes, Southwest High School, Whittier Alliance Neighborhood, Whittier



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, PHIL HALLAWAY

Craig Wilson interviews Phil Hallaway about his extensive adventures such as travelling in a VW bug in 1972 from Europe to North Africa and then overland to Nepal, his career as a scientist and his passion for the Hill Lake community and Kenwood School.

Your mother is French, how did your parents meet? My mother and her parents were living in Paris during the Nazi occupation of World War II. My father, an American army officer, was transferred from England to Paris after the city's liberation and was introduced to my mother by his friend and fellow officer, Philip. I was named after that officer.

Where did you grow up? I spent my first two years living on the Hallaway family farm in Dodge Center, Minnesota with my parents and maternal grandparents who had emigrated from France to the US. My parents bought their first home near the intersection of 32nd and Humboldt in the early 50's. Later they bought the home that I grew up in near Cedar Lake. I attended Kenwood Elementary, Jefferson Junior High, the Blake School and graduated from West High School.

Isn't a paper route part of your local story? At age 11, I delivered morning and evening papers 7 days a week in the CIDNA neighborhood. Over the years I had routes that covered France Avenue to Dean Parkway and from Lake Street to Basswood Road. I learned to always get your work done before you play.

What did you study in college? I earned a BA in Anthropology and a BS in Biology from the University of Minnesota.

Where did your wanderlust take you in the early 1970s? In 1969 I spent four months in Europe and North Africa. Then, having studied Meso-American archaeology I spent the summer of 1970 in Mexico and Guatemala and then in 1971 traveled overland from Minneapolis to Mexico, Central America, Columbia, Ecuador, and then into the Amazon Basin and on to



Cuzco, Peru and had the chance to camp overnight at the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.

How did you put 15,000 miles on a '59 VW beetle? In 1972, my friend (a Kenwood School classmate) and I bought a used VW Beetle in Luxembourg for \$100 after seeing it listed in a Luxembourg newspaper ad. We drove that car to southern Spain and took the ferry across the Gibraltar Straits to Morocco and spent the next three months exploring North Africa. That vehicle took us to the end of the road in southern Morocco and then to the end of the road in the southern part of the Algerian Sahara and back to Tunisia. My parents received no emails or texts about my whereabouts.

Why did you spend 10 days on a boat from India to Kenya? I had traveled to India and Nepal from Europe through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and wanted to go to East Africa rather than going back west, the way I had come. We found a boat that offered

passage to Mombasa, Kenya for \$85. All 385 passengers slept in the same quarters, in the hold of the boat. My parents received the occasional snail mail.

What type of research did you focus on at the University of Minnesota and how did it lead to forming a company? I spent about 16 years at the University of Minnesota researching hemoglobin, red cells, and blood. Because of the importance of iron atoms in hemoglobin, I got involved in iron driven oxidative reactions and ways to quench them. In 1986, three other scientists and I at the University of Minnesota discovered how to synthesize novel iron-binding compounds. That led to the formation of a small company to develop a drug product for the treatment of iron overload in humans. We were able to perfect a compound that eventually was tested in humans in a number of clinical trials, but did not reach commercial success.

How did you meet your wife, Janet? We met sailing at Lake Harriet. As members of the Lake Harriet Yacht Club, we raced against each other every weekend. She was the cutest one in the club!

As President of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and former treasurer of the Kenwood School PTA, you're very community minded. What's your hope for the future of the Hill Lake community? I hope that all our residents, especially newcomers, get to know their neighbors and local businesses and get involved in community activities. Support the stores and eateries along Hennepin or Franklin Avenues, volunteer to coach youth sports at our Kenwood Rec Center, attend neighbor gatherings and meetings to meet other residents and provide input on community improvements. It's a much richer experience to live in a place where you know and appreciate your neighbors.



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Josh Zueblke

Michael Wille

Jennifer Carpenter

Modern Freight Rail from page one

\$37.4 million and Class III carriers have less than \$37.4 million in revenues. These smaller railroads do not have to adhere to all of the PHMSA safety regulations even though they might be shipping the same hazardous materials that the Class I railroads carriers haul.

Many Hill & Lake Press readers are familiar with the Twin Cities and Western Railroad (TC&W), a Class III railroad that operates a regional route back and forth between Milbank, South Dakota and St. Paul, Minnesota. South Dakota is one of the top producers of ethanol, and TC&W transports ethanol tank cars through environmentally sensitive locales such as the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi River in addition to traveling through urban and residential areas, sometimes within 15 feet of residents' homes. This is the case in the Kenilworth corridor.

In addition to the normal concerns of shipping hazardous cargo by rail, the proposed colocation of Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) in the Kenilworth corridor will result in the passenger rail being within 12 feet of the TC&W freight rail line. The close proximity of the TC&W trains with the SWLRT cars means electrified wires will run adjacent to trains that carry ethanol cars. It is known that ethanol is prone to ignite with an electrostatic charge.

Currently there are no specific safety requirements for commuter lines that share rights-of-way with freight but do not share tracks. The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 1988 gives the FRA jurisdiction over most types of rail-

roads including shared track LRT (Pub. L. No 100-342), but the FRA has historically not chosen to exercise this authority. This leaves shared rights-of-way LRT projects in a netherworld of un-regulation, which seriously compromises the safety of people, property and environment along these types of corridors.

Despite the lack of action by the FRA, there are published guidelines for shared rail corridors. American Railroad Engineering and Maintenance-of-way Association (AREMA) guidelines recommend a minimum distance of 25 feet between adjacent tracks, measured from center rail to center rail. The Federal Transit Administration's own guidelines of shared use corridors are even more stringent – they suggest a 30-foot minimum between adjacent tracks. But because there are no mandated safety standards, the Metropolitan Council will not be obliged to follow these safety guidelines in building the SWLRT. A derailment of either TC&W freight or SWLRT could be devastating, and an intrusion of either train onto the other's track could lead to dire consequences – especially if an ethanol train is involved.

In the case of an ethanol or oil train derailment, the U.S. DOT Emergency Response Guidebook indicates that the area within 1/2 mile of the incident is to be evacuated (see Southwest Minneapolis Oil/Ethanol Train Evacuation Zone map). Actual emergency response and containment capability is a major concern, however. Some firefighters are being trained, but there are concerns that the training is neither comprehensive nor occurring fast enough. Additionally first responders do not typically have access to the train manifest, which indicates what hazardous cargo is on board. Traditional firefighting techniques generally do not apply to ethanol fires, as special fire retardant foam is required. City fire departments do not have immediate access to this fire retardant foam and railroad industry officials indicate that it may take up to 2-3 hours to get the foam to the site of an incident. Unlike crude oil, ethanol is water-soluble meaning that a spill could be devastating for the Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi River, depleting oxygen in water and settling to the bottom of lakes or riverbeds thereby contaminating ground water.

Today's railroads present hazards that the railroads of yesteryear did not. Longer trains carrying large quantities of single commodities, like oil and ethanol, mean that a derailment could place whole communities at risk. The lack of regulations in some areas, the inconsistent application of regulations to all classes of railroads, and the abdication of governmental authority puts our communities at risk. Federal, state and local regulations need to quickly advance to protect the American public and the environment against the realities of the 21st century railroad industry. The state of Massachusetts has pursued improved public safety in the transportation of ethanol by rail. Minnesota residents also deserve to be protected. Officials must make train safety, especially in populated and environmentally sensitive areas like the Kenilworth corridor, a priority.

Defending Minneapolis Parks

by David C. Smith, minneapolisparkhistory.com

For decades, public and private parties have claimed that they just need a little bit of Minneapolis parkland to achieve their goals. And now even Governor Dayton has joined the shrill chorus of those who think taking parkland is the most expedient solution to political challenges. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is justified in examining very skeptically all desires to take parkland for other purposes and in rejecting nearly all of them categorically.

Commentators writing in December in the StarTribune asserted that the Park Board is wrong to object to just 28 feet of bridge expansion over Kenilworth Lagoon for the construction of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) corridor. They write as if that bridge and expansion of rail traffic across park property were the only alternative. Gov. Dayton seems to repeat the error.

Other political jurisdictions involved in the proposed light rail corridor have objected to this or that provision of the project and their objections have been given a hearing, often favorable.

I didn't hear Governor Dayton threaten to slash local government aid to St. Louis Park when officials there objected to the Met Council's original proposals for SWLRT. But the Park Board is supposed to cave into whatever demands remain after everyone else has whined and won. Minneapolis parks are too valuable an asset – for the entire state – to have them viewed as simply the least painful political sacrifice.

Should the SWLRT bridge be built? I don't know – but I do want the Park Board to ensure that all options have been investigated fully. That desire to consider all feasible options to taking parkland for transportation projects that use federal funds was first expressed in 1960s legislation. The legislation was meant to ensure that parkland would be taken for the nation's burgeoning freeway system only as a last resort. In the present case, the Park Board was not convinced that the Met Council had investigated all options thoroughly once it had acquiesced to the demands of other interested parties.

A Park Board study in 1960 identified more than 300 acres of Minneapolis parkland that were desired by other entities both private and public. Hennepin County wanted to turn Victory Memorial Drive into the new County Highway 169. A few years later, the Minnesota Department of Highways planned to convert Hiawatha Avenue, Highway 55, into an elevated expressway within yards of Minnehaha Falls – in addition to taking scores of acres of parkland for I-94 and I-35W. In the freeway-building years, parkland was lost in every part of the city: at Loring Park, The Parade,

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THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

NATURE, RED IN TOOTH AND CLAW

Alfred Lord Tennyson, England's beloved Poet Laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign, wrote a line in his elegy "In Memoriam" that the world remembers still: "Nature, red in tooth and claw."

That image was much on my mind last month as I inspected a trail of feathers and blood left near our backyard bird feeder by a raptor visitor, a Cooper's hawk. The remains were of a house sparrow. That's good news, as cardinals and woodpeckers are bigger, ergo more meat for the Cooper's beak and claws. But the house, or English, sparrow (*passer domesticus*) is the prolific pig at our trough, and we are glad to be rid of one and many more.

We have been noting occasional visits of the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) at the corner of Girard and Lincoln for the past several winters. It is similar to its smaller cousin the sharp-shinned hawk, but with a larger head, batman cowl and fearsome red eyes, both species designed especially to prey on birds. Short, wide wings and a long narrow tail provide astonishing maneuverability through forest branches in pursuit of flying prey.

A sure sign that Mr. Cooper's has appeared is a sudden absence of prey birds and birdsong in the yard. Sparrow chatter vanishes, along with the sparrows themselves, huddling in the safe confines of thick spruce or euonymus branches. Also vanished are the quieter woodpeckers, cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, all native birds we love. No bird wants to be a Cooper's lunch.

If I notice the sudden quiet, I look into the nearby

trees, and often enough there he is, roosting and malevolent, in the cedar hedge or on a branch in the boulevard maple overlooking our backyard feeder, if not springing off the ground below the feeder after a successful surprise attack.

If you sense mixed feelings about his arrival, you are correct. We hate house sparrows. They are English imports that, like we humans, crowd out much of native life, not only at the feeder, but by colonizing native nests. And we love our array of native birds - woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, finches - that we have patiently lured to our feeder only to be shouldered aside by hovering hoards of house sparrows.

So if the Cooper's hawk feasted on dozens of sparrows we would be happy. But, efficient a predator as he is, there will always be more ravenous sparrows. His bloody eyes, hooked beak, and needle-sharp claws are simply not enough.

Forced to contemplate our own "nature, red in tooth and claw," we have ordered a sparrow trap. If we have the stomach to use it, we'll put it out this spring. But the instructions have given us pause. Once a bunch of birds have entered the trap (baited with millet), we are to separate and release any good birds - for example native sparrows or chickadees. That's easy. Then we dump the cage full of house sparrows into a mesh laundry bag, spin it wildly around and around, and then... smash it into the side of the house. Hmmm. We are not sure we hate the sparrows quite that much. In theory, we have no compunction controlling the sparrow overpopulation. In

practice...? Our own predatory convictions seem weakened when our own claws are reddened.

And what should we do with the lifeless bodies? Bury them in the yard, where our daughter wouldn't even let us bury the ashes of the family dog (now in the closet)? Leave them lying on the ground as a warning to their piggish sparrow compeers (actually all we'd do is attract feral cats)? Or, since they are so well fed on the quality seeds we offer, shouldn't we, like the king of the old nursery rhyme, bake them into a pie?

Sing a song of sixpence,

A pocket full of rye.

Four and twenty blackbirds,

Baked in a pie.

For we, like the Cooper's hawk, have sharp teeth and claws for tearing the flesh of our food. And like the sparrows, our appetites are ravenous.

Nature indeed is "red in tooth and claw," and humans are forever part of, not apart from, that natural cycle. So hurrah for the arrival of the Cooper's hawk in the neighborhood to remind us of our bloody, ravenous natures. Even our highest-minded pursuits are built from the fire in our bellies, not for fame or good works, but for food, however conflicted that makes us feel.

The full Tennyson quatrain reads:

Who trusted God was love indeed

And love Creation's final law

Tho' Nature, red in tooth and claw

With ravine, shriek'd against his creed.

Ageism, the persistent 'ism'

By Deb Taylor who is CEO of Senior Community Services (www.seniorcommunity.org) and its Reimagine Aging Institute, a nonprofit that advocates for older adults and helps seniors and caregivers maintain their independence through free or low-cost services.

We frequently hear about racism and sexism in our culture, but we hear little about another persistent 'ism' - ageism. As our society grows older, due to the large number of retiring baby boomers, ageism remains a growing challenge and concern.

Researchers at Yale University were disturbed when they compiled negative comments about older adults that were posted by young people on Facebook. Elders' mobility and debilitation accounted for three-quarters of the comments. Here are a few examples: "Old people are a pain in the (expletive)." "They are a burden on society." "They are cheap and smell of (expletive)...they are senile, they complain about everything, they couldn't hear a dump truck..." according to the Yale study.

A study by Duke University researchers found that 80 percent of seniors had experienced ageism in the form of comments about memory or physical impairments. Nearly one-third of the respondents reported being ignored or not taken seriously because of their age. An AARP survey found that 64 percent of seniors have witnessed or experienced age-based discrimination on the job.

These negative stereotypes are quite literally hurtful. Yale psychologist Becca Levy, PhD found that older adults with more positive self-perceptions of aging lived nearly eight years longer, and enjoy better memory and balance, compared to those with negative self-perceptions.

Here's the reality; the vast majority of seniors are largely self-sufficient, middle-class consumers, with time and talents to share with others.

We need to work harder to engender more positive views of older adults. Visit most any senior care campus and you'll find many employees of African origin. These individuals typically have a reverence for elders in their culture. They love their work and consider it a calling. In Africa, they will tell you, elders usually live with their families.

We can reshape our view of our friends and neighbors

who are now in the autumn of life. Age stereotypes are typically internalized as early as age four and reinforced over children's lifetimes. Let's begin by being better examples for our children and grandchildren - they listen to us and model what they hear.

Seniors still have much to contribute to our communities. At age 80, Minneapolis resident Ellen Boroughf lives vitally and maintains a blog about her aging experience at

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Dayton threatens Park Board with loss of regional parks funding, citing 'obstruction' and 'irresponsible' behavior

By Michael Wilson

Hill and Lake residents were surprised — and many were no doubt appalled — to see upon opening their morning newspapers on January 27 that their governor intended to punish the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board by recommending a \$3.77 million reduction in its state funding because of “the Board’s continuing efforts to obstruct progress on the Southwest Light Rail Transit project.”

The Park Board had behaved in a “very irresponsible” manner, Gov. Dayton charged, referring to the Board’s decision late last fall that the Metropolitan Council’s intransigence at thoroughly studying all options for running light-rail trains across the Park Board-owned Kenilworth Channel left it no choice but to hire its own consultants to conduct such a study.

“In my view,” Dayton said, “if they have all this money to hire consultants ... they don’t need all the state money that’s been allocated to them.” The money Dayton referred to — \$1.26 million from the state general fund and \$2.51 million from the natural resources fund — is part of a larger two-year appropriation intended to help the Met Council and 10 local park agencies develop and maintain parks that are regional destinations, such as Wirth Park, the Chain of Lakes, and Minnehaha Falls.

The Park Board is required under federal law — Section 4(f) of the 1966 Department of Transportation Act — to certify to the Secretary of Transportation that no feasible and prudent alternative exists to the taking of parkland for the Southwest LRT project, or that the effects of the proposed taking of parkland would be negligible. The way Dayton sees it, however, is that the Park Board is threatening to challenge the route before federal transit administrators, thus risking putting the project behind others competing for federal rail dollars.

“They shouldn’t be compensated by the taxpayers of Minnesota for causing this kind of mayhem,” Dayton charged. He said he might support restoring the money to his proposed budget, but only if the Park Board ceases what he sees as its opposition to the way he and the Met Council want to build the LRT line.

‘An interesting way to negotiate’

Park Board President Liz Wielinski said she was dismayed at Dayton’s move and his characterization of the Park Board as obstructionist. “I am extremely disappointed that the governor wants to punish the Park Board and more than 15 million users of regional parks [under the care of the Minneapolis Park Board] because the Met Council did not do their job in their pursuit of taking park land,” she said.

Reflecting on the governor’s rebuke and threat to punish the Park Board, Senate Minority Leader David Hann (R-Eden Prairie) said with wry understatement that Dayton’s approach to the Park Board is “an interesting way to negotiate.”

The governor is only the latest in a long string of

elected officials, however, who have threatened to defund or even dismember the Park Board in their exasperation over the board’s following a course not to their liking. As recently as 2009 Minneapolis City Council Member Paul Ostrow authored a proposal aimed largely at reducing the cost of city services but also containing a provision to eliminate the then 126-year-old Park Board and its elected commissioners. “We are almost unique in the country in having a separate, elected park board,” Ostrow said at the time. “Most cities have an advisory board that makes recommendations to their council and mayor on capital [funding] and operation of their parks.”

Ostrow wanted an appointed panel of park advisors. He told MPR News that his provision would cut many areas of overlapping and redundant services. He said his proposal also would do away with an independent board that has sometimes clashed with the city council. Cited was a recent example when Park Board commissioners denied a city request to use park land for the city’s Wi-Fi network construction.

The proposal elicited a huge debate among citizens, according to the StarTribune. Ultimately, the City Charter Commission voted 12-3 to deny the proposal a place on the fall ballot, acceding to a suggestion from the mayor and several council members that the issue be given more study.

Supporters of Park Board independence, however, pushed for the City Council to let the voters decide whether to grant the Park Board status as a separate unit of local government, subject to powers to be defined by the Legislature, thus essentially reaffirming the decision of Minneapolis voters in 1883 to create an independent Park Board — an outcome strongly opposed by the City Council at the time.

The issue did not appear on the 2009 ballot and in 2012 Ostrow, who had left the council, acknowledged that the study had been quietly shelved. And there the issue of Park Board independence rests — until the next time it resurfaces.

Picnicking, necking at Lake of the Isles in 1963

All Minneapolisians cherish their parks, none more passionately than the residents of our Hill and Lake neighborhoods. Those passions came to a boil in the summer of 1963 when many residents around Lake of the Isles decided they’d had it with the Park Board not enforcing rules and city ordinances.

Lake of the Isles, they said, according to the Minneapolis Tribune, had been turned into a public picnic ground with charcoal grills used for cooking and some picnickers staying for hours. Fishermen casting from shore, they said, were hooking pedestrians and cyclists, and a few were digging up the turf to get worms for bait. Some sunbathers were taking their shirts off. And “indiscreet love-making” of “overly amorous couples” presented still another kind of prob-

lem.

Lest Lake of the Isles residents in 1963 be simply thought of as NIMBYs — a charge lobbed today at CIDNA and Kenwood residents who question the Met Council’s plans for Southwest LRT — it should be said that Lake of the Isles and all Minneapolis parks were under intense pressure. The city’s population of 482,000 was near its all-time high and Hennepin County’s park system was in its infancy. One might say that all Minneapolis parks, not just Lake of the Isles, were being loved to death.

Compounding the problem, as David C. Smith points out in “City of Parks,” the park system was woefully underfunded and the Park Board was struggling to fund both maintenance and improvement.

Enter Arnett Leslie and Frank Moulton, aldermen (as City Council members were then called) for the 7th and 10th wards, which encompassed Lake of the Isles. Leslie and Moulton also sat on the city’s Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee (CLIC), created in 1953 to make recommendations to the City Council and mayor on capital improvement program development and annual capital improvement budgets, a role it still plays today.

In July 1963 Moulton and Leslie led CLIC to kill a Park Board project for \$285,000 (\$2.2 million in 2015 dollars) worth of improvements to Lake of the Isles planned for 1964 in order to force the Park Board to clamp down on “the ‘mob’ which was using, or you might say overusing Lake of the Isles,” as Moulton put it. “I would hope this would challenge the Park Board and its superintendent to come up with a policy for Lake of the Isles,” Leslie added.

‘Sedate Use’: shirts on water-skiers?

Seeking a compromise that both residents and park users could live with, the Park Board in early September adopted a “Sedate Use” policy, stating that Lake of the Isles park should be used for “the more sedate appreciation of beauty.” “Beach activities, gymnastics and ‘active play’ should be prohibited,” the statement declared, without further elaboration.

The issue of proper clothing caused a furor earlier that summer, according to news reports, when park police ordered sunbathers to wear shirts. Since Isles had no beaches, residents demanded enforcement of a long-standing Park Board ordinance requiring people using parks where there are no beaches to cover “the upper part of the body.”

Proper clothing, the Sedate Use policy declared, “should be consistent with the present taste and convention and follow the same decency standards as would be required on the city streets.”

One Park Board commissioner, Alexander Gallus, was reported to have “guffawed” at this portion of the statement, but made no further comment.

Dayton Threatens Park Board...to next page

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Dayton threatens Park Board with loss of regional parks funding from page 6

Superintendent Howard Moore said that sunbathers, fishermen, high school cross-country runners working out in the park must henceforth wear shirts. He allowed, though, that he didn't know how the shirt ordinance would affect the Aquatennial Water Ski Tournament and Show of Stars, since men in the shows had skied in past years without shirts. "Maybe the ordinance is obsolete," he pondered.

Four teenagers – 18-year-olds Bob Webb, John Baskin, and Steve Feinberg, plus 17-year-old Doug Melamed – expressed their feeling about the crackdown on shirtless park users by picketing Alderman Leslie's house. Their signs carried such messages as, "Is Sunbathing Sin?" "You Support the Community Chest. What's Wrong with Ours?" and "You Allow Canoes on the Lake. What's Wrong With a Little Navel Display?" The young men said their signs "point out what we think of the law. We can't be any more serious than the law is."

"I talked with the boys, who were very courteous, and told them to have their fun," Leslie told a reporter. "But I said this has a serious side – we're trying to improve conditions at our lakes – and I urged them to consider that side too."

Perhaps 1963 was a less litigious, more considerate era, or perhaps residents and park users back then were more inclined to tolerance. Whatever the case, park police reported generally good compliance with their enforcement efforts. One man who left the lake after police said he'd have to wear a shirt said he thought residents were being "a little fussy. I think they're carrying their complaint to extremes. But then, maybe if I lived here, I'd feel the way they do."

One resident told a reporter, "There's an inherent conflict here. This is a public lake, but residents sometimes get a proprietary feeling toward it. We live by the lake and we want it kept nice, but we certainly have to

realize that others can enjoy it too."

East Isles homeowners declare conditions improved

By the fall attention to residents' concerns and stepped-up policing seem to have done the job in the eyes of many. Henry Haverstock Jr., an attorney representing a group of homeowners, told the Park Board that increased policing "has improved conditions at the lake." "The lake," he said, "is a place of scenic beauty, not a playground. We like the tenor of [the superintendent's] report very much and endorse it."

The president of the East Isles Homeowners Association, J.J. Moran (no relation to current KIAA board chair Larry Moran), said in a letter to CLIC that the park police force was now doing a good job of "correcting abuses" around the lake and asked CLIC to approve the Park Board's request for funds to fix up the park's old lighting and crumbling walks, curbs, and gutters, and to do some replanting especially in low-lying areas that become flooded after heavy rains.

CLIC responded to the "Sedate Use" policy with skepticism, however. Leslie and Moulton said it contained "too many 'should-be' clauses and not enough 'will-be' statements." According to news reports, CLIC member Dave Roe called the policy "plainly ridiculous." "It covers everything except wearing spats on Sunday," he said. "What's good for one lake ought to be good for all of the lakes." Roe demanded a detailed policy statement covering the use of all city lakes.

But the Park Board refused to go further and furnish a policy statement on use and law enforcement for all city parks. Board President Henry Rosacker told the Minneapolis Star that he "definitely" agreed with charges that the City Council is trying to infringe on Park Board duties. "But they have the purse strings," he added, "so probably they're entitled to some interest." The board adopted a statement in October saying it is

responsible only to the voters for its policy.

In the end CLIC approved money for improvements at Lake of the Isles, although the scope and nature of the improvements underwent modifications. There is no indication whether the problem of "necking" or "too much amour," as one reported put it, was satisfactorily addressed.

Conflict over policy, preservation, and use has been a constant throughout the Park Board's 132-year history. Supporters of Minneapolis parks might hope that Gov. Dayton will realize that co-operation and taking the long view are better negotiating tactics with the Park Board than threats.

(Author's note: Hill and Lake residents seeking knowledgeable reporting on Southwest LRT developments can read Peter Callaghan's frequent posts on

Ageism from page 5

www.thecontentedalfie.com. The pen name she selected - with a twinkle in her eye - was The Old Baguette.

Author Laura Ingalls Wilder published her first book at age 64 and her last at 76. Famous test pilot Chuck Yeager was 75 when he made his last flight as a consultant.

We can do more to appreciate what improves with age and what we can continue to offer the community, rather than viewing the natural aging process as unusual and unsatisfying.

And when aging does begin to take a toll, rather than falling prey to feelings of irritation or impatience toward older adults, let's respond with our better nature and do as they did when we were children. They patiently answered our questions, held our hand, showed us new things, and walked with us on the journey.

Truth is, we stand on their shoulders and they deserve all we can do to assist them in their time of need. Older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

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Lake of the Isles Ice Skating Party 2015

Thanks to organizers and volunteers: EIRA, CIDNA, LHNA, KIAA & to Isles Bun & Coffee for "puppy dog tails".

A tough year for ice and snow from page one

course looks like this:

Dry, frozen, well-formed and ready to go.



This year however, our luminaries looked like this.

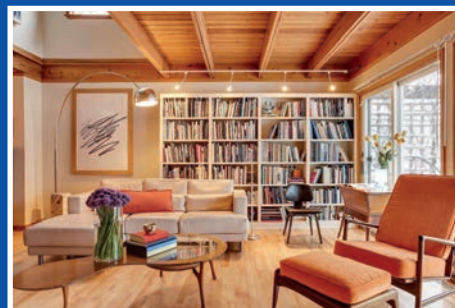


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The warm temperatures caused a weakening of the ice on which the luminaries are stored (they were made 3 weeks prior to expected date of use). The weight of the luminaries and their snow packed cover on the softer ice caused the ice to depress. The luminaries were left to sit in this depression which filled with water. They sat like this for days – dissolving in the cold lake water. As can be seen in the picture, some of these luminaries are completely submerged. Other were in a shallow pool that repeatedly froze and thawed over days resulting in hundreds of luminaries frozen solid to a shallow solid floor of ice. They had to be chopped out and trimmed of excess ice. This escalating problem was not apparent to anyone, Their distress was hidden the massive snow covered tarp that should normally protect them from the any warm temps. If not for the quick action of our indefatigable leader, David Bryan, and his emergency crew extracting the luminaries (all 1300 of them) from the water and cleaning them up, it would have been paper bag luminaries with sand and candles. It took 10 people with wet clothes, sore hands, and frozen bodies to rescue the luminaries – and the event.

A second temperature related problem involved the crown-of-planks structure we call Ice Henge. In its best form, Ice Henge looks like this:



Closely spaced monoliths that create an intimate candle lit enclosure. This year, the ice below Ice-Henge was too soft and the loading of so much ice on such a small area proved too much for the lake. The ice started to sink at the center of the assembly. The Ice-Henge team, led by Erik Wardennar and Willie Anderson (and his unlimited number of family members) moved quickly to try to pull

Loppet photos by Hal Galvin

the ice forms into a formation of great diameter, but this proved to be very challenging, and some of the forms collapsed. One slab actually fell flat on the ice and was generally viewed as unsavable.



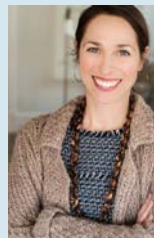
This team was not to be deterred. In the end they were successful in widening the footprint of the array, raising all the planks, and creating an excellent Ice-Henge sculpture in time for the event. (btw – there were more Andersons on the lake than Hans Christian could have ever imagined).

A third potential show stopper of the year was the general lack of snow. Snowfall this year has been sparse, but would have been adequate for skiing, had it not been for extraordinarily warm days preceding the event. For days prior to the Luminary Loppet there was endless deliberation regarding keeping the event on the lake or

A tough year for ice and snow to page 15

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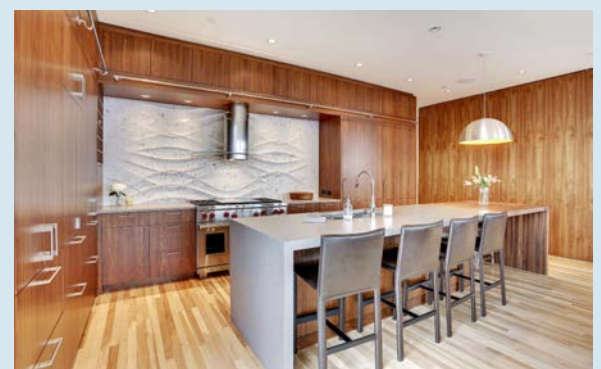
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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting February 10, 2015

Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (10 of 11): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice-President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Jasna Hadzic, Nancy Johnston, Bruce Larson, Brian Milavitz, Carla Pardue, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is February 25, noon at the University of St. Thomas. The speaker is a wildlife expert. A field trip to the emergency operations center is being planned for May.

Public hearing for landmark designation for the Thomas Lowry Memorial (in Smith Triangle Park) is February 17, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

A public hearing for a Registered Land Survey for proposed building at 1710 W Lake St (to separate ownership for the below-grade parking) is February 23, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The property tax valuation notices have been mailed. Follow instructions on the notice if you would like to contest the listed value.

Kathy Spraitz, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden renovation

Kathy Spraitz serves on the Sculpture Garden Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The budget for the project is \$10 million and focus on infrastructure, accessibility and energy efficiency. The garden will close in August 2015 for the renovation (concurrent with the Hennepin /Lyndale project) and remain closed for 14 months. The final CAC meeting is February 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Walker Art Center. The project will be presented to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on March 4th.

Spraitz also reported that she (along with Harvey

Ettinger of East Isles and a Kenwood representative) will meet with Commissioner Anita Tabb to discuss improvements to the Isles of the Isles ice rink warming house.

Linda Schutz, Thomas Lowry Memorial

Linda Schutz presented a resolution in support of the historic designation for the Thomas Lowry Memorial (Smith Triangle Park). The resolution contained a detailed history of the memorial and EIRA's involvement with the park and the memorial over the years. The EIRA Board unanimously approved the resolution, which will be sent to the Heritage Preservation Commission in advance of the February 17th public hearing. The complete resolution can be found at www.eastisles.org.

Open Forum

The Loppet was a success despite the lack of snow.

EIRA representatives staffed an information table at the Uptown Association annual meeting, which provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of the organization in the community.

REPORTS

Outreach & Nominations, Nancy Johnston

The committee is asking for help in recruiting three new board members and two alternates to stand for election at the annual meeting scheduled for April 14.

The board approved the search committee to hire a new EIRA Coordinator: Chair Nancy Johnston, Bruce Larson, Amy Sanborn, Karen Carney and Dan McLaughlin. Any candidates for EIRA president will be invited to participate in the final interviews.

The EIRA Board received the committee's 2014 annual report as approved by the committee.

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

The January 20th meeting included a second presentation from CPM and Peterssen/Keller Architecture for a new building at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St (project name: seventeen10). The building is four stories plus one level of underground parking to be used by residents of 1800 Lake. The building is within the Shoreland Overlay District (SOD) and the Uptown Small Area Plan. The project will be seeking a conditional use permit to exceed the height restriction in the SOD and variance for setbacks and parking. The committee send a letter to the project team asking for

improved interface with the sidewalk and expressing concerns about the east side setback variance. The team indicated that they will work to address the sidewalk interface but they need to maintain the footprint of the building to accommodate the parking. The Zoning Committee will invite the team to the next meeting and formulate a resolution to present at the March EIRA Board meeting.

Wells Fargo also attended the January meeting to discuss plans for a new bank building on the SW corner of Lake and Humboldt.

The EIRA Board directed the Zoning Committee to consider drafting a letter regarding concerns about the excessive lighting of the MoZaic building.

Council Member Lisa Bender is looking at reducing the city's parking space requirements for new residential projects near transit stations.

The next meeting is February 17, 5 pm at Grace.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The January meeting did not have a quorum.

A multi-modal traffic study will be conducted for the area around the proposed West Lake Station for Southwest LRT.

The next committee meeting is February 26, 7 pm at Grace and will include a discussion of possible projects for NRP funding.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

EIRA is in compliance with the guideline for allowable spending of NRP/PPP funds for community building events.

Minneapolis Health Department is launching Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative.

The Community Connections Conference will be March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Park Board will begin work on a Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. The budget for 2015 is \$700K (\$200K for planning and \$500K for projects – mostly trail improvements). The Park Board is seeking an additional \$3 million from the state legislature in 2016. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed and will meet ten times between April-December. EIRA will be able to appoint one representative to serve on the CAC.

The Park Board will be launching RecQuest – a system-wide needs assessment of Minneapolis recreation centers and programs to discover gaps between current facilities and offerings and the needs of the community. Community engagement will begin in early spring.

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will begin updating its Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. For more information: www.minnehahacreek.org/2017.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

The Ice Skating Social held on January 25th was a big success.

The EIRA Board approved the date for the Ice Cream Social for August 13, 2015.

The Wine Tasting fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for June 17.

Green Team, Monica Smith

Upcoming presentation in the food and climate

EIRA to page 11

Job Opportunity

East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) seeks a Coordinator to perform various services and administrative duties and provide support for its projects and community engagement initiatives.

Candidates should have strong communication skills (both verbal and written); a working understanding of the City of Minneapolis (including programs: Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Community Participation Program) and Park Board; experience with community engagement and working with volunteers; strong organizational skills; event coordination; website support and administration; and the ability to build partnerships with various groups including city departments and other neighborhood associations.

This is a part-time contract position, 10-15 hours per week at \$22 to \$28 per hour, depending on skills, experience, and qualifications. There are no benefits attached to the position. Coordinator will be expected to have their own workspace and computer.

See the EIRA website, www.eastisles.org, for job description, information on how to apply and other information on EIRA.

Deadline for application: must be received by March 27, 2015.



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CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, February 11, 2015

The meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Ryan Fox, Steve Goltry, Barbara Lunde, James Reid, Amanda Vallone, and John Wessinger. Staff: Monica Smith

Ryan Fox served as chair for the meeting that was called to order at 6:05 pm

Announcements

The city is rolling out organics recycling beginning in August (to be complete by spring 2016). Sign up now by emailing swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov.

Registration is now open for the Community Connections Conference, March 21, go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/conf.

NRP/CPP Report, Monica Smith

The committee approved up to \$200 of NRP funds

EIRA from page 10

change series (all at 7 pm at Grace): The Skinny on Fat on March 9, food allergens on March 23 and super foods on April 9. Email nrp@eastisles.org to sign up.

Board Review

The annual meeting will be April 14 at Grace. Council Member Goodman, Commissioner Tabb and Commissioner Greene will be invited.

Linda Schutz presented a resolution that encourages EIRA zoning committee members and EIRA Board members to become familiar with the shoreland overlay in Minneapolis and the Shoreland Overlay District ordinance and its provisions. The EIRA Board directed the Zoning Committee to review the resolution and bring it back to the EIRA Board for consideration.

Topics for upcoming meetings: Friends of Walker Library in March and Midtown Greenway Coalition in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.

for the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee for traffic study supplies.

\$500 of Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) funds was approved for printing the 3,000 page document that the Met Council sent to the FTA for the 30% project completion submission for Southwest LRT.

The committee is working on the Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report that will be presented to the CIDNA Board in March.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is partnering with the Lake Street Council to hold a board member training.

Reopening Nicollet at Lake St: Walgreens purchased land to build a store and is a positive sign for redevelopment of the area.

Land Use & Development Committee

The January edition of the Hill and Lake Press featured an article written by Bob Corrick and Ryan Fox about the proposed Calhoun-Isles connector trail.

Transportation

The publication date for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) has been delayed until the end of the year.

Craig Westgate attended a Section 106 meeting, which focused on the bridge over the channel.

The first meeting of the Southwest LRT Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is February 12. The CAC will meet the last Tuesday of each month, 6:00 pm at Beth El Synagogue. Doug Peterson will represent CIDNA on the CAC.

Community engagement will begin this spring for public art at the SWLRT stations.

The Park Board continues to study if it is prudent to tunnel the LRT under the channel.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is February 25, noon at the University of St. Thomas. The speaker is a wildlife expert. A field trip to the emergency operations center is being planned for May 27.

The property tax valuation notices have been mailed. Follow instructions on the notice if you would like to contest the listed value.

The Small Business Administration is offering a free mini MBA for small businesses. Applications are due in early March. Contact Nancy at 612-370-2324 for details.

A memorial for Caitlin Barton will be held February 12, 5:30 at Lake St/Market Plaza (the site where Caitlin was killed by a truck while crossing the street).

Park Board Updates

The Park Board will begin work on a Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. The budget for 2015 is \$700K (\$200K for planning and \$500K for projects – mostly trail improvements). The Park Board is seeking an additional \$3 million from the state legislature in 2016. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed and will meet ten times between April-December. CIDNA will be able to appoint one representative to serve on the CAC. CIDNA will also need a representative to serve on the CAC for Cedar Lake South Beach.

The Park Board will be launching RecQuest – a system-wide needs assessment of Minneapolis recreation centers and programs to discover gaps between current facilities and offerings and the needs of the community. Community engagement will begin in early spring.

Residents from East Isles, Lowry Hill and Kenwood are meeting with Commissioner Anita Tabb to discuss improvements to the Lake of the Isles ice rink warming house.

Property Damage Resolution

CIDNA received a response from the Met Council regarding the resolution requesting that the Metropolitan Council review its policies for resolving damage disputes resulting from its construction projects. The response included the following: "We appreciate your communication regarding the frustration that some homeowners are experiencing. This has caused us to re-examine our process and our involvement with not only our contractors, but also the community. Continuing with future projects, our goal is to ensure that claims are promptly and appropriately investigated to determine whether or not they may be related to the project. Depending on the facts of the claim, this may involve independent experts, as in the CIDNA case." CIDNA will ask the Hill and Lake Press to publish the response.

Special thanks to Gail Lee for spearheading the CIDNA resolution.

2728 Chowen Ave S

Decisions have not been finalized about the existing house but the owner has a remodeling contractor interested in renovating the property.

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee, Steve Goltry

Steve Goltry has replaced Ryan Fox as Co-Chair of the committee. The committee is working on organiz-

CIDNA to page 12



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Defending Minneapolis Parks from page four

Riverside Park, Murphy Square, Luxton Park, Martin Luther King Park (then Nicollet Park), Perkins Hill, North Mississippi, Theodore Wirth Park and others, not to mention the extinction of Elwell Park and Wilson Square. Chute Square was penciled in to become a parking lot.

In 1966, faced with another assault – a parking garage under Elliot Park – Park Superintendent Robert Ruhe, backed by Park Board President Richard Erdman and Attorney Edward Gearty, urged a new policy for dealing with demands for parkland for other uses. It was blunt, reading in part,

“Those who seek parklands for their own particular ends must look elsewhere to satiate their land hunger. Minneapolis parklands should not be looked upon as land banks upon which others may draw.”

With that policy in place, the Park Board resisted efforts by the Minnesota Department of Highways to take parkland for freeways or, as a last resort, pay next to nothing for it. Still, the Park Board battled the state all the way to the United States Supreme Court over plans to build an elevated freeway within view of Minnehaha Falls – a plan supported by nearly every other elected body or officeholder in the city and state, including the Minneapolis City Council.

Robert Ruhe, middle, Minneapolis Superintendent of Parks 1966-1978 proposed a tough land policy to defend against the taking of parkland for freeways and other uses. In a 1968 photo he is accepting a gift of 60 tennis nets from General Mills. Before that time, nets were not provided on most city courts. Players had to bring their own. (MPRB)

The driving force behind the park board's defense of its land was better known as a Minnesota legislator and President of the Minnesota Senate from 1977-1981. Ed Gearty was President of the Minneapolis Park Board in 1962 when he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives. He had to resign his park board seat, but was then hired by the park board as its attorney. He helped devise a pugnacious strategy that helped keep park losses to freeways as small as they were. Gearty deserves credit along with Ruhe, counsel Ray Haik and park board Presidents Dick Erdman and Walter Carpenter for trying to keep Minneapolis parks intact as a park “system.”

While the Supreme Court chose not to hear the Minnehaha case, its decision in a related case involving parkland in Memphis, Tenn. established a precedent that forced Minnesota to reconsider its Highway 55 plans and provides the basis for the Park Board today to investigate alternatives to taking park property for projects that use federal funds.

The Park Board is right to do so, even at the high cost it must pay – which the Met Council should be paying — and regardless of the results of that investigation. The Park Board needs to reassert very forcefully that taking parkland is a very serious matter and not the easiest way out when other arrangements don't fall into place.

In a report to park commissioners on a proposed new land policy on April 1, 1966 Robert Ruhe concluded with these words, “The park lands of Minneapolis are an integral part of our heritage and natural resources and, as such, should be available to all present and future generations of Minneapolitans. This is our public trust and responsibility.”

That trust and responsibility has not changed in the intervening 50 years. And it is not exercised well if the Park Board allows land to be lopped away from parks – even 28 feet at a time – without the most intense scrutiny and, when necessary, resistance. It could help us avoid horrors like elevated freeways near our most famous landmarks.

What I find most troubling about events of the past year relating to Minneapolis parks is the blatant disregard by elected officials – from Minneapolis's Mayors to Minnesota's Governor – of the demands and complexity of park planning and administration, as if great parks and park systems happen by accident. They don't. They take conscientious, informed planning, funding, programming and maintaining. We can't just write them into and out of existence as mere bargaining chips in

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Janis Clay

LHNA Neighborhood Association Board Minutes Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Present - Board Members: Phil Hallaway, President; David Weinstein, Vice President; Janis Clay, Secretary; Sarah Janacek; Thomas D. Huppert; Michael Cockson; Jimmy Fogel; Mark Brauer; Ann Seltman.

CIDNA from page 11

ing volunteers to record traffic violation data to help inform the Multi-Modal Traffic Study.

CIDNA Bylaws Review, Rosanne Halloran

Rosanne Halloran is leading a team working on revising CIDNA's bylaws to present to the community for approval at the May annual meeting.

New business

The board discussed forming an Events Committee. Amanda Vallone volunteered to serve as chair.

The annual meeting will be May 13. Council Member Lisa Goodman and Commissioners Anita Tabb and Marion Greene will be invited to speak. The board will discuss the meeting in more detail next month.

Rep. Frank Hornstein is working on legislation to require railroads to replace dangerous tanker cars (DOT-111 model) such as the tankers that recently ignited in a derailment in Iowa. These tanker cars are used by TC&W in the Kenilworth corridor.

The board did not take action on the following: a request from the Loppet Foundation to support a new bridge over Wirth Parkway nor on a donation request from Kenwood School.

Ryan Fox will draft a resolution to seek a safe pedestrian crossing of the railroad tracks from CIDNA to West Calhoun once the LRT is built.

The CIDNA Board will host a table at the Community Connections Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 6:00 pm at Jones-Harrison.

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

some grander game. Parks should not be an afterthought in the crush of city or state business.

I worry when an outgoing mayor negotiates an awful agreement for a “public” park for the benefit of the Minnesota Vikings without the input of the people who would have to build and run it. I wince when an incoming mayor trumpets a youth initiative without input from the organization that has the greatest capacity for interaction with the city's young people. And I am really perplexed when a governor makes so little effort to engage an elected body with as important a stake in a major project as the park board's in the SWLRT.

Other elected officials seem more than happy to rub shoulders with park commissioners and staff when the Minneapolis park system receives national awards, or a President highlights the parks on a visit, or when exciting new park projects are unveiled. But they seem to forget who those people are when they are sending out invitations to the table to decide the city's future. That is a serious and easily avoidable mistake.

Present – Guests and staff: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative, Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator.

President Phil Hallway called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: David Weinstein moved and Tom Huppert seconded approval of tonight's agenda and of the January 6, 2015, minutes. All approved.

Community Announcements: Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman: Lunch with Lisa will take place Wednesday, January 25th at the Normandy. The topic is to be determined. In May, Lunch with Lisa will be a field trip. A hearing will be held on February 17th on a Heritage Preservation Application seeking Local Landmark status for the Thomas Lowry Memorial statue. Temple Israel is planning an expansion project. Notices of property valuation are in the mail.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Hallaway gave the Treasurer's report. There is \$31,000 in the bank. All invoices have been paid. Phil will speak with Robert Thompson about LHNA's year-end report, due in March. LHNA contributed \$1000 to Friends of Thomas Lowry Park for the Barbara Fogel recognition.

Committee Reports:

Environment: Michael Cockson is working on arranging a meeting with Anita Tabb.

Zoning and Planning: David Weinstein reported on a Floor Area Ratio variance requested for 2000 Fremont Avenue for construction of a home with an attached garage. The variance, which had been denied by the Zoning and Planning Committee, was approved by the City Council and the project will move forward. Temple Israel is planning an expansion of the education wing. The project will use a portion of the parking lot and will change traffic flow.

Crime and Safety: Phil Hallaway gave the Crime and Safety report. It has been a quiet month again, probably due to the cold weather.

Events: Mark Brauer reported a good turnout for the Ice Skating Social. The LHNA Annual Meeting will take place Tuesday May 12th because the Walker Art Center was not available May 19th. The Board discussed the format for this year's meeting, including the possibility of holding the meeting outside on the lawn, and making the event more social with grilling or appetizers.

Neighborhood Priorities Survey Working Group/Community Participation Program: Sarah Janacek expressed appreciation for the many ideas Phil Hallaway presented last month. Phil Hallaway reported that Kathy Spraitz has been getting good neighborhood support for possible improvements to the Lake of the Isles warming house. The Board discussed other possible projects including new historic Lowry Hill signs, contributing money for more or bigger trees in the neighborhood, organizing one or more neighborhood events, and lighting and crosswalk improvements. The Douglas median greening project, which has been on hold for several years, is another possibility. This would have to be coordinated with the Hennepin Lyndale reconstruction project. The intersection of Colfax and Franklin remains a problem. The situation is particularly dangerous when motorists left turn off of Colfax. Jimmy Fogel will contact the City to discuss the possibilities to address this.

New Business:

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at the Kenwood Rec Center. 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 at 8:04 p.m.

+++++

KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

by Shawn Smith

February 2015 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met February 2, 2015 at Kenwood Rec Center.

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

Board Members present: Larry Moran, Jack Levi, Josine Peters, Jeanette Colby, Kathy Low, Ed Pluimer, Shawn Smith (minute taker).

Others present: Council Member Lisa Goodman; 4 neighbors.

7th Ward Update - Lisa Goodman

Lunch with Lisa on Feb 25th and the topic is TBD at the time of this meeting. There will be a communication shortly to provide interested residents the time, place and topic. The last lunch was well attended with a speaker from the Youth Homelessness Initiative.

There is a wrecking permit pulled for a residence at 2536 Upton S for a replacement house.

Property valuation notices for 2015 have been mailed to residents. If residents would like to have a review for equalization of their property value, it must be done at this time. If you believe your property is not correctly assessed, please refer to the City of Minneapolis website for instructions. You will need to pull your own comparative properties and submit an application for review.

SWLRT Update, Section 106 Review (potential affects of SWLRT on historic properties) – Kathy Low

Kathy Low informed that the next SWLRT section 106 consultation meeting is 2/6. KIAA will attend the meeting along with the other consulting parties; SWLRT project staff, the State Historic Preservation Office, City of Minneapolis, the Park Board, CIDNA, and others. This meeting concerns solely the impact on the historical Kenilworth Channel crossing. Adverse effects on neighborhood historic properties from construction as well as operation of the trains and related traffic will continue to be the top focus of KIAA at future 106 meetings. Jeanette Colby motioned to approve \$500 for the KIAA retained consultants Preservation Design Works to attend the meeting, Josine Peters seconded. The motion was approved.

There was a follow up discussion led by Larry Moran regarding the need for specifics from the SW Project office for what to expect in 2015 on the project to be able to inform residents and how best to obtain that information. Suggestions that were made would be finalized after the meeting as a follow up but included contacting representatives to request their attention to any concerns that are not being addressed.

East Cedar Lake Beach Update – Larry Moran

The KIAA task force is continuing to work on solutions for the 2015 beach season. The importance of continuity was stressed for a neighborhood strategy to address neighborhood concerns regarding the beach. If

KIAA funds extra park police patrols in 2015, KIAA would work with funding recipients to align on how the money would be spent, and would look to include Chief Ohotto and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams in the conversations. Jack Levi to follow up with Kathy Williams for an update from the task force on long term strategies and next steps.

Reminder: KIAA Annual Gathering

While not discussed in the meeting, the date of the Kenwood Annual Gathering will be May 4th. All residents are welcome to attend and more details to come soon. Last year was a huge success and we will be electing the 2015-2016 KIAA board.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Larry Moran at 8:32 p.m.

Updates: If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at kiaa55405@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, March 2nd 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 kenwoodminneapolis.org

Walker Library Events Winter/Spring 2015

Job Search Assistance-Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

Stop in for free one-to-one assistance with a job search representative. Presented in partnership with Goodwill/Easter Seals.

Library Lab for Kids: Doodling Saturday, February 7, 10- 2pm

Grades 3-6. Doodling helps you stay focused, learn ideas and remember things, according to The Wall Street Journal. Materials provided. Sponsored by Friends of the Walker Library.

Game On! Board Games –Friday, February 13, 1-4pm.

For families. Join us for an exciting time of playing board games!

Walker Library Non-fiction Book Club-February 11 & March 11, 6:30-7:30pm

What we're reading: February 11: Gang Leader for a day. March 11: A Walk in the Woods

Baby Storytime- Fridays, March 6- 27, 9:30am

For children from birth to 24 months and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format designed especially for babies.

Family Storytime- Fridays, March 6- 27, 10:30am

For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. T

Work of Art Series: Saturdays, 10:30am- 12:30pm, March 7 through May 9

Library Lab for Kids:Duct Tape—Saturday, March 14 2-3pm

Walker Book Club—March 9 & 11

What we're reading, March 9: Gone Girl: a novel by Flynn, Gillian. May 11: Particular sadness of lemon cake by Bender, Aimee

Lego Lab—Tuesday March 31, 10- 4pm



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TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11-5
SUNDAY 11-4

612-374-5555

SAVE THE DATE

East Isles Residents Association Annual Meeting

The evening will include guest speakers, topics of interest past, present & future and election of East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) Board of Directors! All EIRA members are eligible to vote for Board positions.

Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Grace-Trinity Community Church
1430 W 28th St
Social hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 pm
Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm

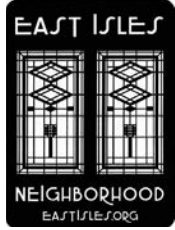
WANTED


East Isles residents* interested in serving on the EIRA Board of Directors

Get involved and help make your neighborhood even better!

- Candidates needed to fill three director and two alternate positions on the EIRA Board. Any EIRA member may run for a position.
- Elections will be held at the East Isles Residents Association Annual Meeting on April 14th.

Want to learn more?
Contact Monica Smith, at 612-821-0131 or nrp@eastisles.org





For more information, go to www.eastisles.org

***East Isles boundaries:**
south side of W 22nd St to the north side of W Lake St, and E Lake of the Isles Pkwy to the west side of Hennepin Ave S

The East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) invites and encourages participation by every resident to each event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please contact us at nrp@eastisles.org or 612-821-0131 at least five days before an EIRA sponsored event.

Hill & Lake Press

www.hillandlakepress.com

LETTERS

Dear Readers,

The Minnesota legislature has mandated that as of January 1, 2015, all health care providers including psychotherapists and physicians must enter patient information into electronic health records (EHRs), which are accessible on the Internet via passwords. Continual Internet data breaches demonstrate the vulnerability of passwords to hackers and other criminals. It has been claimed that “cloud-based EHRs are as secure as online banking,” which is more than worrisome given that our country’s largest bank, JP Morgan, was hacked last summer and took two months to discover the fact. Numerous large breaches of patient files containing our most personal information are listed online at the Health and Human Services “Wall of Shame.”

Shouldn’t our most private and personal health information (especially mental health and psychotherapy records) be something we can choose to keep offline if we so desire? The ability to keep psychotherapy private is at the heart of its ability to be useful. Some claim EHRs will save costs, but EHRs are so expensive and intrusive that some practitioners are retiring early. Even if costs are not the issue, privacy is. The limited federal mandate at least allows providers the freedom to opt out of EHRs and thus protect patient privacy by accepting small Medicare payment reductions. But the Minnesota mandate goes much too far. It’s not too late to repeal it. The legislature is now in session. To protect your right to privacy in your relationships with health care providers, please spend ten minutes asking your state representative and senator to repeal the mandate, thus allowing both patients and health care providers the choice to opt out of EHRs. Your voice counts.

Dr. Valerie Golden, PhD, LP, Kenwood



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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.

Sand Upon the Waters from page 16

an older and arguably wiser but I know even five years ago I would have seen the proximity of the bike as an omen, and I would have bugs in my teeth today! I do not feel differently healthwise from that arbitrary half decade ago milestone, but the volume has been turned up on safety and practicality and it is drowning out the lyrics.

“Like a true nature’s child
We were born
Born to be wild
We can climb so high
I never wanna die...”

Tom H. Cook was born to be mild. Although he once possessed a raucous Walter Mitty-esque inner life, even that has become more pedestrian.

Open House for Brett's Well



Photo by Dorothy Childers

In an event hosted by Pablo Vielguth, Brett Schoppert exceeded his goal of raising \$15,000, the amount of money required to drill a well in Haiti, to build a well house to protect it, and to train the Haitian community to maintain the well on their own. He has decided to continue his efforts and to fund raise to build another well. If you would like to contribute, donations may be directed to www.haitioutreach.org/ad-opt-a-well/bretts-well. Brett is shown here with his parents Wendy and Bill Schopper

Where we are Now.

By Jean Deatrck

Once again, I want to thank our loyal advertisers without whom we could not publish our monthly neighborhood newspaper.

And thank you to residents who participate in our neighborhood organizations. Our four neighborhood groups contribute greatly to our quality of life. They meet monthly and monitor issues such as parking, zoning changes and complaints. Readers know how much time has been spent on Hidden Beach and the SWLRT proposals. Other important topics include complaints about restaurant parking and teardowns of our old houses. Although not in our footprint, but located in our adjacent East Lowry Hill neighborhood at 2320 Colfax Avenue South, the proposed demolition of the Orth (Healy) house has generated righteous outrage among proponents of our architectural heritage.

Please support our neighborhoods by attending neighborhood meetings and maybe even become a board member. We need your help. Read minutes and find contact information on pages 10-13 for EIRA, CIDNA, KIAA, and LHNA.

HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales January 2015											
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED	BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
1770 Bryant S #202	149,000	-	71	135,000	C	1/1	850	130,500	3,159	1968	
821 Douglas Ave	147,750	6,000	74	141,250	C	1/1	671	102,000	1,828	1963	
50 Groveland Terr #C302	169,900	5,100	91	170,000	C	1/1	850	135,000	2,420	1966	
2885 Knox S #508	203,000	-	222	187,500	C	1/1	875	138,500	2,103	1979	
1770 Bryant S #416	199,900	5,000	70	190,000	C	2/2	1,350	169,500	2,721	1968	
2521 Humboldt S #310	234,900	-	80	220,000	C	1/1	831	176,000	3,155	1922	
3145 Dean Court #901	279,900	-	123	240,000	C	2/2	1,209	212,000	3,530	1983	
2950 Dean Pkwy #1503	372,500	-	174	341,000	C	2/2	1,500	334,500	6,347	1977	
3116 W Lake St #128	364,900	-	34	350,900	C	2/2	1,665	247,000	4,413	2007	
1801 Fremont S #101	425,000	-	57	390,000	C	3/2	2,264	321,500	5,615	1906	
3411 St Paul Ave	500,000	-	139	425,000	H	3/4	2,306	485,000	8,665	1998	
2315 Newton S	639,000	15,130	13	605,200	H	6/3	3,720	711,500	13,538	1917	
1775 Humboldt S	659,900	15,500	301	620,000	H	5/4	3,852	600,500	11,239	1903	
2014 W 21st St	875,000	-	96	824,500	H	4/3	3,328	649,500	12,188	1910	
2120 Girard S	897,500	-	41	822,500	H	5/4	4,118	843,500	16,546	1895	
2713 Irving S	895,000	-	22	895,000	H	4/4	3,163	621,000	11,568	1905	
2036 Kenwood Pkwy	935,000	-	42	883,975	H	3/3	2,501	735,500	14,060	1909	
1903 Kenwood Pkwy	1,200,000	-	28	1,040,000	H	4/4	4,223	1,069,000	21,320	1898	
1617 Franklin S	1,590,000	6,125	326	1,120,000	H	4/5	4,188	956,900	19,217	1907	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger		Steve Havig	cume	Condo	C						
				Home	H						
				Townhouse	TWN	(Go to mplsrealtor.com for additional info)					
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County											

A tough year for ice and snow from page nine

moving the event, luminaries and all, to Wirth Park for a walking event. No one wanted to move the event. While it would have been possible to move the general body of luminaries to the park, participants in the event would miss out on the other amazing features that were too heavy to move. Still, if the event were left on the lake there was a concern for public safety. The lake was quickly becoming one big ice skating rink. People would fall.

Once again, we found a solution. We would create a course by grinding the ice surface into a snow-cone like ice texture, giving the appearance of snow and adequate traction for walkers. This was a great solution and our long standing equipment-heavy volunteer, Jeff Richards, came to the rescue with his ice grinding machine (everyone has one of these, right?) and a tractor to pull it. Here is Jeff on his tractor, rescuing the event by creating a snow walking path:



For more than 12 hours Jeff and others drove the tractor and ice grinder over and over the Luminary Loppet path until we had a wide, safe walking path. It was not very good for skiing, so a decision was made to have this year's event be a walking-only event.

Looking back on the evening, it didn't seem to matter that it was for walking only. The event was held! The features were awesome, the rescued luminaries along the path were in place and made more beautiful by the irregular texture imposed by their ice water bath trauma – and the event satisfied over 8000 participants who enjoyed the evening.

Few people who walked the event that night had any idea how close the event was to being cancelled. Few knew about the extraordinary measures that were taken by the many volunteers who spent countless hours in the cold, doing back breaking work to save the event. And few know that none of us get paid to do this work.

We, the general collection of committed people who light up the lake each year do this because we love it. We are proud of it. We created it and we are committed to keeping it going. We love that other people love it too: the participants. That is our reward. We certainly appreciate that people come and pay to participate, because that feeds the bigger cause of the Loppet Foundation – a cause we all support. But mostly we do it as a labor of love. I don't think you could pay anyone to do this. I don't think anything short of the passion and commitment of our leadership and our faithful volunteers could get this done, especially in years like this.

This year had some scares, but each year has its unique challenges and they are all draining. Not a year goes by that I don't find myself standing back looking at the lighted event underway and say to myself "Who would do this?"

80 Degrees and Sunny

By Madeleine Lowry

Last week I was observing a clever Asian woman at the downtown YWCA pool. While I paddled away in the lap lanes in fairly cold water, she luxuriated in the hot tub reading a book. I thought she looked like she was having more fun than I was.

After a time she took a seat on a bench by the pool and kept reading. Eventually, I saw her pop into the sauna. Then she reappeared at her spot on the bench, and finally into the hot tub again. Forty-five minutes later I was wet, prune-y and tired and she was pink-cheeked and rested. No contest: she was definitely having more fun!

This was an "Aha!" moment for me. We've been members of the YWCA for over ten years and in all that time I'd never thought of it as a place for rest and recuperation. Or a potential warm weather mini-vacation very close to home.

The more I thought about it, the more convinced I was that this woman was a genius!

At this time of year when many of us spend thousands to fly south for a short break from winter, it makes a lot of sense to consider the options for a warm weather staycation. Let's face it—one warm weather trip is usually not enough to cope with our sometimes epic winters.

As most parents know, there are definite pros and cons to family trips. There is the hassle of packing, unpacking, boarding the dog, stopping the mail and the newspapers. The line at security will be too long, the kids will fight, the plane will be crowded, delayed or both and you could miss your connection—all of which tends to make everyone cross. You'll stand in line at security, you'll stand in line at the car rental office, and you'll sit in traffic getting, yes, even more cross.

This is crazy! No one in their right mind would do this! Yet we do. "We", means the Luminary Loppet leadership. "We" also means all the great volunteers who come out to freeze with us (double entendre intended) and make this event possible. "We" includes our friends and neighbors who also contribute their time and their craft to enhance the event (special thanks to Jenny Hedberg for her contribution to Kathy Loeffler's forest). We all hope "We" can continue to do this for a long time.

Compare this to the relative bliss of packing up the kids to go to the pool at, say, the Midtown YWCA. When our kids were little we would let them work off their copious reserves of energy by riding the water slide umpteen times. (Hint: check the leisure pool schedule on the website to make sure the slide or fountains will be on when you go.)

Not a member of the Y? No problem. Head over to the Tropics Indoor Water Park in Shoreview. For a mere \$10 per person (or \$35 per family), you can pretend you are in Florida. Heck, they even have birthday party packages. Birthday party in Florida, anyone?

Not into pools? Try the Como Conservatory. It's a great deal for a \$3 donation. See the Winter Flower show at the Sunken Garden (dazzling on a sunny day) or visit Tropical Encounters. For peak humidity exposure trot over to the Fern Room, Palm Dome or Orchid House.

The Minnesota Zoo is offering a \$69 Winter Family Passport deal. What a deal: giant sandbox, palm trees, exotic animals and more! You could spend every weekend from now until the end of March on the Tropics Trail. Or watching the fish at the Tropics Reef (just like snorkeling but less complicated). While you are there, don't forget to commune with sharks and rays at Discovery Bay.

For more family fun, try the Mall of America. Ride the new Zipline or get wet in the Log Chute at Nickelodeon Universe. Or skip the rides and ogle 10,000 sea creatures at Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium. At \$12.99 per person (the online ticket price for Minnesota residents) this beats the cost of a flight to Orlando. No sunscreen required, no sand in your shoes, no sweat. Plus, there is an actual glass barrier between you and the teeth on that sea life. Priceless.

Only have an hour, or less? Don't feel like driving that far? Try the Cowles Conservatory at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (right behind the Walker Art Center) on a sunny day for a micro-vacation. Sit by the ginormous glass fish and turn your face towards the sun. Unzip your coat. Wiggle your toes in your boots. Stay a while.

This fish definitely doesn't bite.

Birchbark Books
Your neighborhood bookstore

Late Winter Celebration!
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sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

It's not a big motorcycle
Just a groovy little motorbike
It's more fun than a barrel of monkeys
That two wheel motorbike

—Little Honda by The Beach Boys

Get your motor runnin'
Head out on the highway.
Looking for adventure
In whatever comes our way...

I like smoke and lightnin'
Heavy metal thunder
Racing in the wind
And the feeling that I'm under...

—Born To Be Wild by Steppenwolf

Even a casual reader of this column would not be surprised to learn that I have never rocketed rudderless down the highway firing all my guns at once in a smoke-filled hell-for-leather cacophony of mufflerless 1000 cc. rage and deafening music. I have not ridden a hog full throttle, howling at the moon, chasing the night, looking for adventure. I do have a history of riding my Honda 70 around the lakes on summer days. In truth I have many less fond memories of my scooter in repair shops because I had not ridden it enough or drained the oil from it in the winter. I was delighted to sell my last bike eight years ago.

So why am I staring out the window and pacing? Living on the corner of a fairly busy street (think Lyndale Avenue), many people avail themselves of the car and pedestrian traffic to advertise for sale vehicles by parking them in front of our house. I have never been tempted by the two decade old BMWs or the "runs excellent" Dodge SUVs. Yet four days running a neighbor I know slightly has placed his mint condition Vespa almost on my lawn.

He is a former music producer who lived in the hills but since his divorce has rented a much more modest



house across from me. He is about my age and is engaged to a young lady (emphasis on the young, she is less than half his age). She lives in the Philippines and he, like Douglas MacArthur, plans to return. The General's trip was complicated, my neighbor merely needs to sell his bike and some furniture. I have seen photos of his fiancée. I believe we are talking motivated seller. Even though the price is very fair, I know the condition, and this has always been my reach bike, I am going to pass.

When I tried to explain my ambivalence to JoAnne (wife/editor) she suggested the bike was a metaphor. I

told her it was a Vespa Piaggio BV 250. This ended the conversation. She had again been tricked into believing, futilely as it turned out, that I could share an honest emotion. I in turn, faulted her for leaving a hanging curveball out over the plate.

As usual she was correct. The loss I felt was not just the Vespa, but the realization that I was making the mature albeit joyless decision. I was leaving years of impulsive, poorly thought out, half-baked plans behind. I

Sand upon the Waters concluded on page 14

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