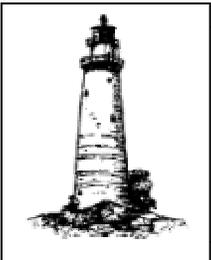


Welcome Home 477th!



The Breeze

Of
Park Point

February 2005
Vol.34 issue 2

Calendar

Park Point Community Club Meeting
Lafayette Square
February 17, 7PM
Presentation by Lynelle Hanson, "Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan"

Buoys & Gull Club Meeting
March 1, 1PM
Lafayette Square
Bingo every Thursday
Bring your lunch, Coffee is provided

Tai Chi at Lafayette
Beg: Mondays 7:30-8:30P
March 14-May 16
Int: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30P
March 16-May 18
10 classes, \$50
Contact: Gary Hooper,
722-2357

The mission of the Breeze is to serve the community by:

- 1) Publishing the minutes and financial statements of the Park Point Community Club
- 2) Informing the community of upcoming meetings, events, happenings and projects
- 3) Providing a forum for Park Point residents to air their concerns
- 4) Sharing the history, stories and anecdotes that make Park Point a unique place to live

Dude, Where's My Car?



This snowed under and plowed in car near 29th St. was just one of many as Real Winter returned to Park Point. Conflict over shoveling walks and plowing streets have been met with a combination of exasperation and humor. But not everyone minds the snow. Little Quinton Homstead, at left, was happy to come help his uncle shovel out. And let's face it, this is some of the best snow shoeing and beach skiing we've had in years! But if you want more to grumble about, here's an article the Breeze ran back in 1977. **Sorry, but the rules still apply!**

An article that was in the Breeze a several years ago may be appropriate this year.

The PPCC voted to take action on cars that are parked within 10 feet of the center line on the avenues of Park Point.

Due to the heavy snows, the street-side plowed snow is some distance from the curb, thereby forcing the cars to park well outside the legal distance of 1 foot from the curb. When the car is parked within 10 feet of the center line (about four feet from the curb), it presents a hazard to cars meeting each other on the traveled way. In some cases the on coming cars cannot pass each other except in certain location. If you park your car on the street, please dig into the side street drift so your car can be parked more than 10 feet from the center line, otherwise the car can be ticketed and towed.

Lloyd Vienneau (I am not the author of this).

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is March 4 for the March 2005 issue. Please send submissions to Alan Dartanyan at breezeditor@msn.com by e-mail or deliver to 1540 Minnesota Ave.

Park Point Community Club Officers:

President: Dick Gould
3003 Minnesota Ave
727-4067

Vice President: Dave Poulin
3101 S. Lake Ave.
722-1511

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR
open

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON
Cliff Tchida, 722-4966

ENVIRONMENTAL
Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY
Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE
RENTALS
Barb Greene 727-2814

S-CURVE SIGN
Dave Johnson, 722-9764

SUNSHINE
Carl Isadore, 727-5281

www.parkpointcommunityclub.org

From The President

Congratulations to Dave Johnson for making the front page with his curve sign wit!

As president of the club I am pleading with the caring soul I know is out there to come forward to volunteer as the secretary for the club.

Also, when I accepted the job I also became the art fair chair person. I had opportunity to meet with the City this past week to go over their requirements for the fair.

I wasn't too surprised when I was told that the rent for the park was being increased again.

To give you some rent history, it was increased by the parks and recreation dept. in 2002 from \$70.00 total to \$10.00 per vendor or \$1,100.00. In 2003 the City denied us any police coverage for the fair forcing us to provide our own security so that we could buy the City required insurance policy, this cost is \$450.00. Along with the park rent there is a \$125.00 charge to rent the two pavilions, a \$120.00 charge to turn on the water and power, giving us a total cost to the City of \$1,795.00. What the City really provides for this is about 20 garbage cans with bags that we service. This rate of increase shows no signs of slowing and judging by the fiscal condition of the City, it will accelerate. We are already charging higher than average fees than some to the artists and food vendors and are beginning to see competition slow our number of quality applicants. The handwriting is on the wall, the art fair is becoming rapidly less viable as a fundraiser for the Club.

What are our alternative choices? The City suggests Bay Front Park where the fees will be higher. If we want to continue to have a quality art fair we must look at some alternatives.

I took the liberty of inquiring about both Billings Park and Barkers Island in Superior and Two harbors, all can be had rent free with a few insignificant fees for use of some facilities.

By the way, both these cities are quite excited about the inquiry and fiscally in good shape.

I have looked into the possibility of sponsoring a winter fishing contest on the Bay between Park Point and Barkers Island, there seems to be very strong potential. The resulting revenues to the club would be much greater than the art fair.

Any thoughts, ideas, suggestions good or bad? Come to the meeting in February or if you can't attend mail them in to 3026 MN Ave..

I feel a committee should be formed to investigate the future of the art fair as well as the potential of other fund raisers such as the ice fishing contest and grant writing. There are many potential grants that could be applied for with a small amount of effort.

Come on let's make Park Point the show place for the City!

How about those pot holes?

Dick

Parks Maintenance Numbers

If you see a problem such as overflowing trash cans or porta-potties, or any issue concerning our park facilities, you can contact the Parks Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department at 723-3425, Monday thru Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM
Weekends and after hours call
723-3333

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Upcoming Events

February 15, March 1, 15 -- Men's Group (6:45 a.m. at Jitters Coffee)

February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16 - Soup Supper/Art & Spirituality (5:45 p.m.)

March 5 - Women's Spirituality Group (9:30 a.m.)

March 11 - Friday Prayer Group - (9:00 a.m.)

March 20 - Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday (9:45 a.m.)

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US !

Bless to us, O God
The moon that is above us,
The earth that is beneath us,
The friends who are around us
Your image deep within us,
The rest that is before us. Amen

BaySide Market

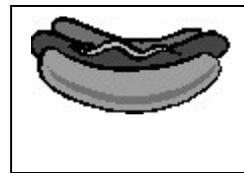
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Park Point Community Club January 20, 2005 Meeting Minutes

With the perfume of spaghetti and meatballs hanging deliciously heavy in the air of the Lafayette meeting hall, pasta chef Dick Gould gaveled the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Minutes of the last Club meeting (November) were approved.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: *Chuck Flaig requested comments from the Club regarding the lengthy financial summary published in the January Breeze. Tom Lyle asked whether the total Art Fair profits could be singled out from other Club revenues. Chuck said this would be easily done for the next report. **Tangent 1:** This opened a discussion on the Art Fair, including exploring the option of moving it to Barker's Island to increase profitability for the Club and decrease Art Fair expenses paid to the City of Duluth. **Tangent 2:** This opened a discussion on how the City of Duluth doesn't operate very well. Comparisons between Duluth and Superior park rental policies were given as examples; other Club members reminded us that the City of Duluth is broke. Returning to the Treasurer's Report, Alan Dartanyan said that ad revenues for the Breeze were up, but billings and payments necessarily follow publication dates. Chuck Flaig said the next Treasurer's Report would reflect this. **Tangent 3:** This opened a discussion on ice-fishing. Really, it did. Specifically, President Dick Gould said that if the Club is sincere about generating another revenue stream, we should consider co-sponsoring a major ice-fishing contest on the bay. Such events are enthusiastically attended and can be extraordinarily profitable for the sponsoring groups. He set the topic aside until 'new business'. Treasurer's report approved; checking accounts hold over \$27,000.*

President's Report: *Communications received by the Club include a tribute to Evelyn Maynard sent by her relatives in California. Dick suggested to the Club that this tribute might be well and appropriately spent on trees to be planted in her memory as a part of our annual spring planting efforts. This idea was roundly approved by club members; Evelyn's family will be informed.... Special thanks to Bill Silver, for donating a working refrigerator to Lafayette. This replaces a poorly-working refrigerator that the City of Duluth had insulated with red tape.... Thanks to the Club were received from CHUM (and Muggs McGillis) for our annual holiday donation.... Thanks were sent out to the Duluth Rotary for their construction of the dune boardwalk closest to the airport.... Annual spring planting tree and shrub order forms are now available through the South St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District (SoStLoCoSWaCoD) or call Dick.... The hockey rink is in tough shape this year; trees were growing up in it, and the hockey nets are missing.... The two guys taking care of the Lafayette rink and warming basement have done a good job, and deserve a gratuity from the club to show our appreciation. This would be reopened later.*

Breeze Report: *Alan Dartanyan noted again that ad revenues were picking up, and he was considering adding a page or two to the next issue. Dave Johnson annoyed everyone present when he awakened briefly and announced that he too thought Dartanyan was doing a superb job at the helm of the Breeze. He then fell back asleep, a leftover breadstick dangling from his mouth.*

City Liaison: *Cliff Tchida said issues that warranted Club interest include new regulations regarding cell phone antenna tower placements. Also, Duluth City Council was poised to examine so-called "blue laws"; unenforceable laws cluttering up the books. Removal and streamlining will be attempted by Russ Stewart.... (Continued on next page)*

Funding for repainting the bridge is on hold.... Snow and ice plowed onto sidewalks by City plows is the City's responsibility to remove, not the responsibility of the homeowner.

(Murmurs of hope swept through the crowd of exhausted shovelers. Could this be true?)

Tangent 4: *This opened a discussion on how the City of Duluth doesn't operate very well. Plow crews and maintenance crews are understaffed, and that makes road repairs and the condition of Lafayette important to all Park Pointers. Would the Club be better served if we were to move from Lafayette to the new boat club planned for the Naval Reserve site at 14th? Dick would like to discuss it with Boat Club members.*

Lafayette Report: *Chuck Flaig continued with the specifics of Lafayette's condition, both inside and out. A new roof, painting and redecorating are primary concerns if the club is to continue renting it out for special occasions. Discussion returned to the two rink attendants. Dick requested a motion from the floor to award a gratuity of \$200 apiece to Adam and Travis. Motion passed unanimously.*

Web Site Report: *Chuck Flaig has been working on the new site. The address is: parkpointcommunityclub.org. Thanks to Chuck for this patience-testing but important work.*

Long-Range Planning: *Jay Laundergan described the process and progress made previously as "in limbo." Dick Gould said Lloyd Vienneau had been calling him, wanting to be involved with it.*

Quality of Life: *Dennis Hoelscher said the large response to the committee's survey had given them a lot to decipher. His summary would be finished soon.*

Police Report: *Officer Mike Tinsley stated Park Point is indeed a quiet place in the dead of winter. He would prefer to make his community crime summaries on a seasonal basis; this was fine with Club members. Mike then gave a brief, impromptu anti-theft lesson, and concluded by promising to look into the missing hockey nets.*

Membership Report: *VP Dave Poulin said he was pleased by the turnout for spaghetti, and that he'd have a full accounting by next meeting. Thanks from Dick Gould to his wife Diane and all the other volunteers who had pitched in on the dinner.*

Environmental Report: *Dave Johnson was startled awake again. In his thin, reedy voice he said that the annual Living Green conference would be held at the "Coppertop Church" in early February. The Club has maintained an informational table at the event for several years. He requested first that the Club approve our presence at, and therefore pay the \$20 table fee for attending the Living Green Conference. Kinnan Stauber was volunteered to attend, since she was not present to say no. Motion carried.*

New Business

Alan Dartanyan noted the 100th anniversary of the Aerial Lift Bridge was coming up, and that the City of Duluth was anxious to have Park Point representation on the committee. This opened a discussion on how the City of Duluth doesn't operate very well.... An idea for a "New Neighbors' Night" was discussed. Plans might include a picnic, interviews in the Breeze and/or ritual hazing.... On the last topic of the meeting, President Dick Gould returned to his growing interest in hosting an ice-fishing contest. Such contests are a strong regional draw, are a good opportunity for positive publicity and have the potential to bring in perhaps \$50,000 to the Club. He will continue his research, with Club support.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10. Club members hastily tugged on their parkas, mukluks and great carnaks, then bravely stepped out into the frozen tundra. Only one figure remained behind, sound asleep, dreaming of breadsticks. Mmmm. Breadsticks.

*Rspctfllly Sbmttd,
Dave Johnson*

Quality of Life Committee Report - Dennis Hoelscher

Results of the 2004 survey titled: WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE AUGUST OF 2003?

The August 2003 PPCC monthly meeting was a panel discussion including city, county, and state officials, who listened to concerns presented by residents. Residents gave a clear message as to specific issues that most impacted their lives relative to public safety, peace and quiet, and health. They provided documentation noting 146 specific items.

The result of their concerns was the formation of a committee to develop specific action plans to address these issues. That committee (Quality of Life) constituting twelve members, was formed in September of 2003. The agenda has focused on the 146 items.

Action plans developed by this committee were handed out at a Community Club meeting early in 2004. Progress updates were shared in the BREEZE and at monthly meetings. Meetings and discussions with city officials are ongoing.

An August 2004 survey was sent to every residence. It's purpose was to determine community perception relative to their concerns being addressed. It had five categories, with 26 specific items, and a comment area. For each of the 26 items a choice was made as to IMPROVED, the SAME, or WORSE. A second choice was between SATISFIED, or NOT SATISFIED.

Survey results included 822 responses to the 26 specific items. Comments were added by nearly 50% of the respondents. Even though respondents recognized improvement for many items, the overwhelmingly majority were not satisfied.

The CATEGORIES and ITEMS were:

- * VEHICLEACTIVITY: Speeding ,Passing, Careless& drag racing,& Noisy vehicle or radio
- * PARKING: S-curve, Wrong side of Street, Non-motorized lane, & Park property after hours
- * OTHER ACTIVITY: Park use after hours, Public urinate/defecate, Loud parties, Fireworks, Trespassing, Vandalism, Theft, & Litter
- * POLICE ACTIVITY: Presence, and Enforcement
- * INFRASTRUCTURE: Trash receptacles-number, location, & upkeep, Public toilets-number, location, & upkeep, Signage-information & location

VEHICLE ACTIVITY:

Over 1/2 indicated improvement with Speeding, however 2/3 are not satisfied.

Respondents were mostly not satisfied with Passing and Noisy vehicle or radio, but were generally satisfied with Careless-Drag racing.

PARKING:

Items of S-Curve, Wrong side of street, Non-motorized (bike)lane were generally marked improved. For the item of Park Property after hours, a large majority marked not satisfied.

OTHER ACTIVITY:

Nearly 3/4 were not satisfied with Park use after hours.

A majority were not satisfied with Public urinate/defecate, Fireworks, and Trespassing.

Most respondents were satisfied with Loud parties, Vandalism, and Theft.

82 % were not satisfied with Litter.

POLICE ACTIVITY:

For the item Presence, overwhelmingly respondents marked improved, however almost 1/2 were not satisfied.

For the item Enforcement, a large number marked improved, but nearly 2/3 were not satisfied.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

All items were marked improved, with Signage Information and Location at 95% & 89% respectfully.

The items Trash receptacles Number, Location, and Upkeep were overwhelmingly marked not satisfied.

RESPONDENTS WRITTEN COMMENTS INCLUDED:

WEATHER - the spring and first half of summer was one of the coldest on record, hence mother nature did a huge part in minimizing traffic and park use.

CANALPARK- inadequate enforcement of parking (often commercial vehicles) in traffic lanes, left turns on to Morse St., and lack of effective signage that indicates a dead end beyond the bridge.

BRIDGE- scheduled lifting for non-commercial water traffic needed.

TRASH RECEPTACLES- all need covers, and receptacles are not adequately serviced, some may need servicing daily. High volume areas of use needing attention are 12th St, Lafayette Square (on beach side), and the entire area beyond 43rd St. .

TOILETS - needed at Lafayette Square on beach side, and more for various areas beyond 43rd.

BOARD WALKS TO BEACH - need boardwalks for areas used to access the beach and protect the dunes.

PETS- control of off leash pets needed.

BEACH FIRES- not extinguished properly.

CONTRACTORS- dragging sand onto street and lack of enforcement of these violations.

COMMUNITY POLICEOFFICER- failed to attend more than half the Community Club meetings in 2004.

POLICEMONTHLY REPORT- reports lack detail, they need to provide more information.

12TH ST LOT - lack of police presence and citation of violators, particularly at dusk when individuals screech tires.

GATE AT 12TH ST - not closed and locked during hours park is closed.

AFTER HOURS PARK USE - police failing to cite violators.

PARKING - lack of citing violators parked in Park lots after 10pm (12th, Lafayette, and beyond 43rd), in bike lane (including commercial vehicles), wrong side of street, and near churches on

Sundays.

CONTRADICTION - inconsistency between the written police Park Point Plan and statements by the Chief. The plan declares "Cite ALL parking violators, All parking violations in the park", but at the June Community Club meeting Chief Waller's response to a question of "why citations aren't being issued", was "I believe in enforcement by compliance, not citation."

The MOST FREQUENT WRITTEN COMMENTS were -

- * Lack of police presence during times of frequent violations, i.e. dusk and between 10 pm and 4 am.
- * Failure of police to cite violators during times above and specific areas i.e. 12 St., Lafayette Square, and beyond 43rd St.

The August 2003 agenda still exists, and we will continue to work on it.

Additional issues of concern to residents were bridge lifting (regular scheduled lift times for non-commercial water traffic), upgrading the fire station crew to be fully staffed (three fire fighters), lack of paramedic and police services when the bridge is up, Lafayette Square infrastructure, and changes to make the non-motorized lane safer. We intend to commence working on these issues with help from residents and public officials. The committee is comprised of a number of dedicated individuals who spent many hours of their personal time working on the above issues. Quoting former Governor Elmer L. Andersen, "people never lose when pursuing a worthy cause.... persistence will eventually prevail. Substantial public improvements take time to accomplish they happen when interested people devote themselves for a long time in tireless effort to achieve a worthy goal."

"Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan" to be presented at February PPCC meeting

The Habitat Plan was developed with the intent of providing a vision for the Lower St. Louis River as a thriving human community connected to the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the river. This 15 minute power point presentation by Lynelle Hanson of the, St.Louis River Citizens Action Committee. will focus on the Plan with practical suggestions on what we can do to protect our water quality. Copies of the Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan; A Summary for Citizens will also be made available.

Editor's Corner

Whew! Another full Breeze. At the last PPCC meeting I asked permission to expand the Breeze as ad space increased, and was given the go ahead. So this month's Breeze is 10 pages long, up from 8, and I still can't fit in everything I'd like to. There's just so much interesting stuff out there! So I apologize if you sent something that didn't make it in, and for shrinking a couple things to make them fit. I'm realizing I'll never be able to cover the full cost of the Breeze through advertising, without raising our rates, or turning the Breeze into a virtual ad supplement, and I don't want to do either. But local businesses and organizations have really stepped up to help subsidize it, and I thank them.

I'd planned to do a full article on the plans for the Bridge centennial, but due to space constraints I'll have to settle for a little piece here. Diane Gould attended a Bridge Centennial Task Force Meeting at the public library on January 24th. She reported that the people attending were the who's who of Duluth. Ad agency's, media, Port Authority, Marine Museum, Arts Commission, Convention & Visitor agency, Tweed, Canal Park Business Asso, Bridge operator, bridge engineer, etc. Also interested citizens. The city is planning a celebration some time around Labor Day. The group will meet again on February 7th, and break down into smaller groups to pursue various areas of interest. Diane will miss that meeting, but will continue to keep us updated.

Here's a quick update on the Boat Club project between 13th and 14th Streets on the Bayside of St Louis Ave.

Another neighbor and I attended the Board meeting on January 24th, 2005. I requested the portion of the Board minutes that dealt with the project, to include with this update, but didn't hear back from the secretary, so this article will be sketchy on names/dollar amounts.

There are still no final drawings for the small (Rotary) building. The drawing that the Boat Club has been using is not adequate for bidding/construction, so payment to an architect was authorized for final drawings/specifications. The Board was trying to decide if the building should be 28 or 32 feet wide and how high the overhead doors would need to be to get boats on trailers inside. The architect had some interesting ideas. He suggested that with itemization of construction costs they might be able to get someone who would want to donate money for a certain item - like a window or a skylight.

The small (Rotary) building is being scaled down to economize. There was a preliminary estimate of \$120000 - \$150000, but the architect said it would be hard to come up with a figure at this point. The Board still needs to decide on details, like how many windows they want, what size the building will be and how large the doors need to be. Once the details are determined, it will be possible to come up with costs and drawings.

The Boat Club has abandoned immediate construction of the large lift station (for the sewer serving the larger building) since it was going to cost over \$60000 and they have to pay for it. They will build the smaller lift station (I think it was around \$20000) that will service the Rotary building this spring, and will core drill a pressure pipe for sewer under 14th St to access the sewer on Minnesota Ave. The Board members said we won't even know it's happening - no major vibrations/etc. The size of the pipe is quite small because it's a pressure system. The lift station will be on their side of St Louis Ave. I mentioned that we have some possible sink holes along 14th and that we are concerned that the drilling might make them worse. The Board members were not aware of them. One board member said there have been sink holes in another location on the Point, and that those were due to water main leaks. Hopefully, they will have the company doing the work monitor the sinking areas, now that they know about them.

The City will give some assistance with the sewer project. The City will pay for the installation of water and sewer but the Boat Club will be responsible for paying the money back over time. It will be treated somewhat like a special assessment, but can't actually be a special assessment since the City owns the land and it can't assess itself. The help with the sewer project will be like a loan. It sounds like there will be an interest payment required.

The Board expects to do the sewer and water line extensions (water from 13th, sewer under 14th) in the spring and start construction of the smaller (Rotary) building at the same time.

Nancy Anderson
echo@cp.duluth.mn.us

Spaghetti Dinner a Success

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Spaghetti Dinner and membership drive on January 20th. Exact numbers aren't available, but estimates of attendance run between 75 and 100 people. Dave Poulan reported that he received 43 paid memberships at the dinner, which, with those mailed in, gives the PPCC about 150 paid memberships so far. Have you sent yours in yet?

The Breeze

Park Point Community Club
3026 Minnesota Ave
Duluth, MN 55802



Park Point Resident

Tree Plantings

The heavy snow cover has given our plantings a welcome blanket of protection. The Great Gray owls have decimated the mouse population and it looks like a banner year for the seedlings that survived the past dry summers.

Blister rust has subsided a lot, probably helped on its way by the warm dry summers. Just goes to show nature is in control, but can always use a bit of help to offset the human element.

The SWCD tree and shrub list is out and can be found on line or I can get you a copy if anyone is interested. I also have a catalog from Itasca Nursery in Cohasset, they have some real bargains on White pine seedlings and many others.

Plant a tree, it will make you feel good.

Dick Gould



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