

The Breeze

Of
Park Point

July 2007

Vol.36 issue 7

Calendar

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting**
July 19th, 7PM
At Lafayette

Park Point 5-miler
July 20th

Buoys & Gulls Club
August Mtg
Tuesday Aug. 7 @ 1PM
1902 Baypoint Estates

Bingo every Thursday @
11:00
Bring your lunch=
Coffee provided

Neighborhood Night Out
August 7th

International Regatta



A pair of Women's Eight's crews strain for the finish line in 49th annual Duluth Invitational regatta (DRC in back)

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

The 49th Annual Duluth Invitational Regatta was held July 7th on the lake side of Park Point. This is the second straight year that west winds forced the event, normally held on the bay, over to the lake. But organizers were well prepared for the eventuality, and despite about an hours delay as the boats were carried over the trail alongside the Franciscan Health Center, the event went off with few hitches. Although the location change is always a disappointment for bay side residents, who enjoy watching the regatta from their back yards, on a hot July day, the lake proved a blessing, as a small village canopies popped up along the beach, and resting rowers cooled their feet and soothed their blisters in the water.

Nearly 250 rowers from clubs throughout the Midwest and Canada were expected to compete, and judging by the number of tents crowded onto the narrow strip of grass next to the Duluth Rowing Club, turnout was good. Rowers raced along a 2000 meter course between rows of orange buoys, with support boats close behind, as officials with spotting scopes called out the winners. As always the DRC put on a quality event.

The Breeze

**Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110**

Submissions

The deadline is August 3rd for the August 2007 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: Open

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

Secretary: Dave Johnson
722-98764

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR

Carla Tamburro
727-2661

ENVIRONMENTAL

Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY

Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE RENTALS

Barb Greene 940-2613
Barbinha69@aol.com

S-CURVE SIGN

Dave Johnson, 722-9764

SUNSHINE

Pam Griggs
727-2158

Park Point Community Club P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326

www.

parkpointcommunityclub.org

Park Point 5-miler July 20th

The Park Point 5-Miler is the oldest running road-race in Northern Minnesota. This Duluth tradition is also a fund raising race for the Young Athletes Foundation (YAF), a Grandma's Marathon program that was developed in 1990 to assist with the promotion development and growth of youth athletics in the Twin Ports area. Since its inception, the foundation has contributed over \$200,000 to young athletes and athletic programs.

The 5-mile race begins at 6:30 p.m. and runners will travel around the Park Point ball fields down Minnesota Avenue to approximately 23rd Avenue where they will turn around and run to the finish line near the beach house. We want to inform residents that beginning at 6:15 p.m. on July 20, Minnesota Avenue will be temporarily closed from 2328 Minnesota Avenue to the south side of the ball fields. It will reopen at approximately 7:15 p.m. Also, traffic will increase on Minnesota Avenue between 3:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. (prior to the race) and after 7:15 p.m. as race participants depart the Point. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate the cooperation and support of all of the Park Point Residents.

Low flying aircraft landing away from the authorized area at Sky Harbor

Don't bother calling the Duluth Airport Authority, they will tell you there is nothing they can do about it and refer you to the, "tower", who will tell you to call a Mpls. # 1-612-713-4211 which is the # of a pilots assoc. problem organization. They promised me they would do something about it and call me back, I'm waiting and the plane went away. Yey! If you don't like what you see in the air get the ID # from the side of the aircraft and call.

Dick Gould

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THANK YOU to all who have supported our
teens in their fund raising endeavors for their
Pilgrimage. Many of you participated or bought
something, or helped out at the Brat Stand,
Popcorn stand, Dinner Theater, or came to a
Swing Dance.

Speaking of SWING DANCE -- there will be
another on Friday, July 13th. Lessons from 7-8
pm. Dancing from 8-10 pm. Refreshments
provided. Come and have a great time. \$10 at the
door (Lafayette)



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Another Amazing Art Fair



New to the Art Fair this year was a glassblower giving demonstrations near the music stage. This, like the live music and children's make and take table, is another innovation added by Art Fair Coordinators Carla Tamburro and Jake Kasperek. The whole area gave a much needed respite from the hot sun on the artists midway. Just another reason why the whole Park Point community owes them the biggest thank you of all

The Editor

The Art Fair was a great success thanks mostly to the volunteers who helped artists get situated, booth sat while they took breaks, brought artists treats and helped with the dinner as well as helping with the set-up in the park. The positive feed back from artists was overwhelming and no one failed to mention the volunteers. I for one could not do this job without you. It would be overwhelming but for your support and help.

Special thanks are on order to the following volunteers: Bill Silver, Mark Eldon, Tim Sobczak, Drew Anderson, Kay Vance, Denny and Sue Johnson, Tom Ward & Beryl Peyton, Tracy Valentine, Charlene Shimmon, Cheryl & Alan Dartanyan, Marci Tuggle, Dennis Hoelscher, Marilyn Stoneburner, Dave Poulen, Liz Mackay, Sara Beal, Ellen Dunlap, Annette King, LeAnne & Bruce Rutherford, Karl & Jan Olson, Kathy Peterson, Maggie McGillis, Dave Johnson, Dick and Diane Gould, Sherrie Foster and Judy Dwyer. If I forgot anyone I do apologize.

This community is amazing when it comes to support for the Art Fair. If you care to get more involved please contact Carla at 727-2661. We will be starting to plan next year in committee soon. I invite you to meet and discuss the future. Thank you again.

Carla Tamburro, PPAF Coordinator

To The Park Point Community Club

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoy reading the Breeze. My last subscription was a gift from Marion and Frank Puglisi, my Duluth Family. I enjoy it and read every word of it. I left Duluth nearly 50 years ago after graduating from Duluth Central High School. Many of my classmates are still on or around Park Point. Please accept my small check to renew my subscription and also a portion toward the Club

Thank you for helping me to keep in contact with the Point and what's happening there.
Sincerely, Suzanne Nakoa

(This note came with a \$100 donation to the Club)

Park Point Community Club June 21, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Dave Poulin sighed as he opened up another metal folding chair. A wedding reception upstairs at Lafayette had dislodged the Park Point Community Club for the night, moving the club down into the tight confines of the old building's basement. Certainly the other club members would adapt, but this simple disruption wasn't going to sit well in the delicately-balanced mind of the club secretary. Sure enough, when the secretary arrived (late) he was wearing a rusted WWII army helmet on his head; the word "resist" was lettered in magic-marker across its front. His eyes held the panicky, spooked look Poulin had grown to loathe. It was 7:10 as Dave began things; to everyone's continuing mystification, minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Tonight's regular meeting order was suspended to allow for guests. Joining us were City of Duluth Architect Terry Groshong, Fire Chief John Strongitharm and other firefighters from the DFD. Their topic was Firehall 5 and Lafayette Square. Mr. Groshong opened his remarks with a simple statement: A proposal put forth by the City of Duluth to move Firehall 5 to Lafayette was no longer under consideration. The project had proven to be cost-prohibitive to accomplish in the time frame necessary for the fire department. Support for the idea had been lukewarm, but those opposed to the idea had been extremely so, and vocal about it. **"Moving Firehall 5 to Lafayette Square is no longer an option."--City Architect Terry Groshong.**

City officials turned to the topic of Firehall 5. Renovation of the existing hall is the most likely option, and the plan they have is already fairly complete. Mr. Groshong spoke about other Duluth fire hall conversions he has designed, including the award-winning Lakeside station. He understands the importance of keeping the historic look authentic, and so plans for Firehall 5 will keep the old front of the building intact. The existing garage will become living quarters and office space, including an occasional police desk; the emergency vehicle "apparatus bay" (garage) will be attached to the back of the building. The fire truck will have more driveway space, and would actually fit through the garage door. Groshong said he was still planning on using new "green" technology for the new fire hall.

Fire Chief Strongitharm addressed Park Pointers' concerns about fire hall staffing. Firehall 5 is the last of Duluth's halls to have firefighters working solo shifts. That is due to change along with the physical changes coming. He also said the truck itself is now 27 years old, and will also be replaced in 2008. He added a few thoughts about the condition of the existing hall, especially the tight squeeze into the garage and the uncomfortable living quarters for the firefighters.

Firefighter Erik Simonson is the president of the local Firefighters' Union. He spoke about firefighter safety; they are glad to hear Park Pointers are pushing for additional staffing for the fire hall.

As the discussion opened up to Park Pointers, the topic of needed repairs to Lafayette Square came quickly to the fore. The plan to combine functions with the fire hall has been dismissed, but Lafayette's many problems are now on City Architect Groshong's mind. The building desperately needs a new roof. *(Note to self: Skylights and solar panels too? Oh, if only people would read these minutes!)* Members of the community have also learned valuable lessons about dealing with the high-traffic beach-access sites; they shared their insights with Groshong.

One other option remains for the new Firehall 5, and although the odds are now against it happening, a case can be made for combining the hall with the new Duluth Boat Club building being planned for 13th Street on the bay. Representatives of the Duluth Boat Club were on hand to discuss that option. Water rescues, waterfront fires and proximity to the busy 12th Street Beach make the site worth considering, and preliminary engineering work for the site has already been done. It would also give a boost to the boat club's funding as their ambitious plan moves forward. The Boat Club members made it clear this plan doesn't involve the Duluth Rowing Club, a separate entity with their own clubhouse at 39th Street. Projected cost for the new structure is \$5 million; it is designed to resemble the ornate and long-lost Duluth Boat Club building that once stood nearby.

(continued on next page)

(minutes, continued)

Regular meeting order resumed at this time. Dave Poulin threw a styrofoam cup at the dozing club secretary (who had been dreaming about sailing on Apparatus Bay), then steered the club towards committee reports:

Art Fair: With the fair starting in less than 24 hours, Director Carla Tamburro confessed to having some butterflies, but she's ready to go. She made one last call for volunteers, and added her warm thanks for everyone who helped distribute the (truly cool) Park Point Art Fair posters. Jake Kapsner spoke about their P.R. efforts and the (also cool) guide that will be handed out to fairgoers.

Summer Youth Program: Many different Club members contributed to a glowing report about the weekday program. This year's program is well underway, and is averaging 35 kids a day. The group has already been on field trips, competed in the whippersnapper races and have spent plenty of time on the beach. All kids are invited along, and parents are encouraged to volunteer. Ice-cream days and pizza days lay ahead on the schedule.

Community Club members cooped up (and stewing in their own gravy) in the stifling basement where the Summer Youth Program takes place once again voiced their concerns about Lafayette's condition to Terry Groshong. The architect responded with concern, but added Duluth has 150 public buildings to maintain, and sometimes problems can best be solved by the people who use the buildings every day. It seems all the projects under discussion tonight are suffering from a paper shortage. The paper they need the most is cut into small rectangles and printed with green ink. This observation led to complaints from Club members that a lucrative fundraising source was effectively cut off due to the recent crackdown on counterfeiting.

Environment: This year's tree-planting schedule has wrapped up. Severe poison ivy took its toll on volunteers, but many bare erosion areas have good, healthy shrubs and trees growing in them now. The 12th Street project is on "simmer" for awhile. Lumber for Lafayette's damaged boardwalk railings has been purchased; repairs will be done when time permits after the Art Fair. The railings were broken by snow and ice during the March blizzard.

Audit: Club members have talked to a couple different accountants, and a new plan for handling Park Point's growing financial and paperwork entanglements is looking clearer.

Paying someone to handle routine items takes the nuisance off volunteers.

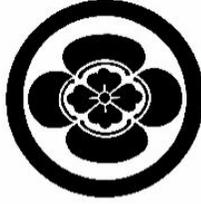
Rummage Sale: Charlene Shimmin emphasized she's never given anyone any sort of permission or encouragement to set up a sale on public property. Her comments were in regard to people who set up their sale on the S-curve green space and were booted by police. She would like to have a co-chair for next year's sale planning.

The Community Club returned to the topic of the fire hall for one last serious discussion, and it led to this **Motion: The PPCC formally endorses a minimum of two firefighters per shift for Firehall 5. Motion carried.**

Nothing else of significance was brought forth for the Club. Dave Poulin rapped his gavel on the table, and as the crowd made for the exit, the club secretary leaned over to him. "I'm watching you, Comrade Vladimir," the secretary said in a hoarse whisper. He had concluded Dave Poulin was Russian President Vladimir Putin. Dave was too hot and worn out to correct him. It was 8:50 pm.

Remarkably Submitted,

Dave Johnson, Idiot Secretary



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At left, The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank (with special guest singer) perform at the Freedom Fest

So with the Art Fair and Rummage sale behind us, as well as the Canal Park congestion of Grandma's Marathon and the fireworks crowds of the 4th of July, you'd think things would quiet down around here. Oh no, not on Duluth's playground, otherwise known as Park Point. On July 7th, also the date of the rowing regatta, The Park Point Recreation Area was host to the first Annual Freedom Fest. This free music festival was piggybacked onto a previously scheduled Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. This tournament is worth mentioning by itself, as it included a dozen teams from around the Midwest, but I must confess some ignorance here. Even after watching (with divided attention) for a couple hours, I still don't quite understand the rules. I was impressed with the energy and athleticism of the players, though, even in the 90 degree heat.

But back to the Freedom Fest. This free event had a musical lineup that put the Bayfront 4th Fest to shame, with some of Duluth's best and best known musician's performing outside, on a stage set up in a picnic shelter. Event organizer Marc Gartman mentioned a few things he might have done differently, such as changing the direction of the stage. It faced and open and sun drenched area near the beach house, normally a good option, but in the 90 degree heat much of the crowd was scattered around the edges, grabbing any scrap of shade they could find. It wasn't until evening, as the sun got lower and the shadows longer, that the crowd crept out and filled the front of the stage.

I have to mention the crowd itself. Freedom Fest was billed as a "Family Friendly" event, and it truly was, judging by the number of babies and small children interspersed throughout the crowd. But the hot weather and exposed skin revealed an array of tattoos and piercing seldom seen outside of Pizza Luce on a Saturday night. (perhaps in recognition that this was "their" crowd, Pizza Luce employees were circulating about, handing out guitar picks good for a free pizza slice and a tap beer. I'll be visiting soon.) And unlike 4th Fest, coolers were welcome at Freedom Fest, even though food vendors were on hand, and they didn't seem to slow sales much.

Now while supporters are hoping to make this an annual event, Gartman says he's leaning toward finding another site, due, among other reasons, traffic concerns. His main concern was the difficulty involved for festival goers to make it through Canal Park, but with the regatta also taking place on the same day, traffic on Park Point itself was a mess. Certainly that's not unusual on a hot summer day on Park Point, and even if this event moves on, something else is sure to take it's place. It's where we live, but it's where Duluth plays.

Alan Dartanyan

Editor's Corner

Can anybody remember a year when we had two straight days of good weather for the Art Fair – and for the Rummage Sale? Perhaps the weather is the only thing Carla, Jake, and the crew of volunteers can't take credit for. For the rest, great job, all.

Don't relax yet – we've got more "events" coming up. I'm a little fuzzy on the details, but right about the time this issue comes out, the tall ship "Nina" should be sailing into the Duluth Harbor, and to my understanding it will dock here on Park Point and be open for tours. Then, on July 20th, the Park Point 5-miler will take place, starting at the recreation area. Details on Page 2.

Many people came to the June Community Club meeting prepared to debate the pros and cons of relocating the fire hall to Lafayette Square, but city officials quickly quashed that debate. Due to "budgetary concerns", a move to Lafayette is off the table. For some that was a relief, for others a missed opportunity. Although the boat club site was also discussed, it's clear that the fire hall will remain at its current site at 22nd Street. Plans now are for a combination of remodeling and rebuilding that will retain the character of the present building.

Perhaps the most hopeful thing to come out of the June meeting was hearing both the Fire Chief and the head of the Firefighters Union come out in favor of increasing staffing at Firehall #5. This has been a "one man" fire hall for many years, and really isn't a safe situation for either Park Point residents or the firefighters. In a rare show of unanimity, the Park Point Community passed a resolution supporting having "at least two" firefighters on duty. Ideally, an ambulance, in addition to a firetruck, could be stationed on the point, as most calls are for medical reasons rather than fires. But any other these changes require the one thing that the city has the least of – Money.

So, do you have any plans for Neighborhood Night Out? Block Parties, gatherings, events? August is coming fast.

Opinions

A Few Ideas

In my opinion, which is just that, and folks I have talked to, the community club could use a bit of tuning up. Here are some ideas that people and myself have come up with.

- 1) A life membership which would do away with waiting from December when you wrote your six or three dollar check to June to see it appear on your statement because the Treasurer did not have time to get all the names listed as 2007 members. How about \$22.00 for the rest of this year, \$25.00 next year and a buck more every year after that until it gets to \$50.00 for a life membership?
 - 2) Let's hire a CPA to do our form 990 federal returns that have not been done for the last three years. The Treasurers job is a big one, he needs the help.
 - 3) Let's find a professional grant writer. Lafayette and all of Park Point qualify for all kinds of grants all the way from erosion problems to reviving the building and grounds.
 - 4) Quarterly meetings instead of monthly, we could have four social meetings with anything from guest speakers to spaghetti dinners, ball games, ect.. Let the executive board meet each month in between and report back.
 - 5) How about a meeting dedicated to trying to help our City Council and the Mayor realize that our City is bankrupt and needs to get rid of things like that airport used by just a few rich folks and people who fly too low at the expense of us the taxpayers, aquariums, golf courses, Spirit Mountain, all these authorities that could be privatized. Maybe we could get our street paved then. Hmm.
- Boy am I in trouble now!

Dick Gould

The Breeze

Park Point Community Club
P.O. Box 16326
Duluth, MN 55816-0326



Park Point Resident

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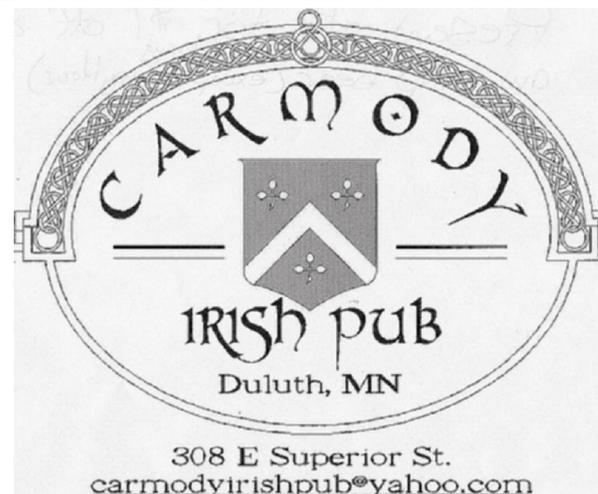
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