

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 37 issue 4

April 2008

Calendar

Park Point Community Club Meeting
April 17th, 7PM
At Lafayette

Buoys & Gulls Mtg
Tuesday May 6 @ 1PM
Baypoint Estates
Speaker-Lou Campbell
Antique Dealer
Bingo every Thursday @
11AM
Same place-everyone
welcome

Let's Make Nice

Civility is a hot topic these days, as schools, organizations, and all levels of government have come to realize that present state of public discussion has become an obstacle to accomplishing virtually anything. The Park Point Community Club is no exception, and tales of bickering and uncivil speech have often been cited as the reason more people

choose not to get involved.

So, at our April meeting, Jake Kapsner of HT Klatzky & Associates (and a Park Point Community Club member) will give a brief presentation on the tenants of civil speech, and the nine simple tools for practicing civility.

The PPCC will then have an opportunity to make a pledge to adhere to the principles of civility in all our meetings and discussions.



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 Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is May 1st for the May 2008 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
722-9764

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR

Carla Tamburro
727-2661

Rummage Sale

Charlene Shimmin
722-6828

ENVIRONMENTAL
Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY
Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE
RENTALS

Barb Flaig 940-2613
barbaraflaig@yahoo.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

Here's the news on the Art Fair.

2008 participants have been selected.

We had a lot of good applicants - approximately 200 - and 115 have been chosen. We turned away some very nice work but our space requirements are such that we don't have a choice.

I think people will be especially pleased with the new artists in the mix. The glass category has grown and is exceptional this year as is the 2-D and photography. We had lots of jewelry applicants so those that were admitted should feel particularly proud. I would like to call attention to a painter who is from our very own Park Point. Congratulations to Bob Pokorney. He received particularly high marks in his category so lets not miss our 'neighbor' on June 28 & 29.

Some other developments include:

Michael Monroe will headline the music stage both days. He has agreed to run the sound as well so we will have extremely high quality sound given his equipment is state of the art and professional. Michael Monroe is a folksy singer/songwriter with an environmental message. Again we have some musically talented 'neighbors' who will play their part.

Park Point's own Lift Bridge Boys will play bluegrass music. Schedules have yet to be determined.

Food vendors have been chosen. This year we have Nanna and Pappa's Fry Shack who specialize in cheese curds. 9 to 5 beats 10 to Life Great name and great barbeque. Baja Smoothies returns for a second year. Muddsuckers will offer fresh squeezed juice and coffees.

Robert's barbeque has an awesome sounding pan fried walleye! P& D Delights specializes in desert and of course Kettle Korn from Cappy's

If anyone is interested in advertising in the art fair guide or in donating art supplies for the make and take area please contact me, Carla at 428-1916

I should mention that Dave Johnson and I had a second meeting with Kathy Bergen and Gail Walkowiak of Parks and Recreation. In regard to the special permit request for the Art Fair we are shooting for an April 24th agenda session and an April 28th vote in city council. I am confident we will procure a special permit with reduced fees that will allow us to run the event the way it has been for 38 years!

Carla Tamburro
Art Fair coordinator

St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church
727-1262

(temporarily worshipping at 45th and Glenwood
in Lakeside, 9:45 a.m. Sundays)

It may seem like there is not much life at St. Andrew's these days, but in reality, the community is very alive and well - as we meet in the former St. Edward's church in Lakeside. It has been an interesting journey to be displaced from our home on Park Point and we look forward to the day of our return when the renovation of the building is complete.

We have asked in prayer for discernment and wisdom in our decision making - and have trusted in God's presence through our ongoing pilgrimage as a Christian community. And so, we offer this prayer:

"Heal our inner sight, O God, that we may know the difference between good and evil, Open our eyes that we may see what is true and what is false, Restore us to wisdom that we may be well in our own souls. Restore us to wisdom that we and our world may be well.

The blessing of heaven, the blessings of earth,
The blessings of sea and of sky, On those we love this day and on every human family and creature, the gifts of heaven, the gifts of earth, the gifts of sea and sky."

(From: 'Celtic Treasure' by J. Philip Newell)

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References available

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Park Point Community Club March 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Winter was fighting tooth and claw to hold onto its last few official hours, and spring wasn't in any hurry to take the job away. The sour weather meant another small group - but at least a voting quorum - for tonight's meeting. The sparse crowd was good news for the Club's idiot secretary; it meant more cookies for him, and he was busy stuffing both his mouth and his pockets with them when Dave Poulin rapped on the front table and brought the meeting to order. It was 7:10.

Minutes from the February non-quorum get-together were approved, with these exceptions: It was reported that FedEx is flying into and out of Sky Harbor Airport. There is no evidence this is taking place. Also, rumors that Sky Harbor has an unmarked government hangar hiding a UFO could not be independently confirmed.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Flaig reviewed Club income and expenses for the past month. As of this night, the Club treasury stands at \$39,723. Income for the month, primarily from Art Fair jury fees and Club membership dues, was \$1635.50. Expenses totaled \$518. (Club net: \$1117.50 for February.)

Correspondence: A letter of concern from the Audubon Society introduced the topic of the Sand Point Marina. Their concern is the narrow section of public access land adjacent to Sand Point's property by Hearing Island. The Sand Point Yacht Club operates with a special-use permit for the marina; they have worked with the Corps of Engineers to keep the channel dredged out, which was no easy feat in low-water conditions. It's important to keep water moving through the channel, and between the shore and the island, to keep the area from turning into a stagnant, stinky, mosquito farm. The permit is up for renewal by the City of Duluth. **Motion:** To endorse the special-use permit granted to Sand Point Yacht Club as it exists within current parameters. **Motion carried.**

A letter from Charlene Shimmin noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary for the oldest parks in the city of Duluth, our own Franklin Park (by the s-curve) and Lafayette Square, which once was the Radisson School. She was interested in whether there would be interest in holding a celebration. The subject will be brought up again at the April meeting. Perhaps we could have an old-fashioned neighborhood social, with plenty of food, games, ice cream and free vodka.

The IRS has sent us a letter that requests an additional \$1800 for our 2005 taxes. Our accountant sent an immediate response requesting this charge be waived. Dave Poulin is watching the situation carefully and will report back in April.

A letter from Chuck Campbell (City of Duluth Parks & Rec Dept.) initiated our annual support for the Lafayette Summer Youth Program. In what would grow into a far-ranging discussion on the City of Duluth and its financial problems, the Club discussed, then eventually passed the following **Motion:** The Community Club shall contribute \$1500 to the City of Duluth Parks & Recreation Department; that money is a supplement to the Lafayette Summer Youth Program. **Motion carried.** As this is a donation, two successive Club votes will be required. The discussion also touched on the School District's Red Plan, our property taxes and how the City of Duluth uses public money to hide UFOs at Sky Harbor.

Liz Mackay noted that the Junior League of Duluth has plans to tear down Playfront Park and rebuild it at a different site, closer to the Lakewalk. Timbers used to construct Playfront are reaching the end of their 20-year life expectancy. There is strong support for keeping Playfront at its present site.

Committee Reports

Police: Duluth Police Officer Mike Tinsley was back again tonight. He distributed his statistical summary of emergency responses on the Point thus far in 2008. Mike promised (or warned) us he plans on more speed enforcement down here over the summer. Four-wheel-drive ATV's will again be in limited use; they are crucial for emergencies, and have been used for beach cleanups as well.... Chuck Flaig reported his house had been the target of a break-in attempt; the person did not gain access into the house, but had tried. Parked cars have also been prowled, all along the Point. Mike emphasized we need to lock our cars, and

don't leave expensive, tempting items inside them. He spoke about techniques used by thieves, and simple ways we can all safeguard our stuff.... If you're looking for a novel experience, consider taking a "ride-along" with Mike. There are two ways to do it: Call him up and arrange your schedule with him, or break a law and wait. The second method has the options of Tasers and fashionable steel bracelets.

Host: Our thanks from the Club to Diane Gould for tonight's coffee and cookies.

Art Fair (June 28 & 29): Jake Kapsner, reporting for Carla Tamburro, filled the Club in on progress for 2008. On March 15 a small group met in Lafayette to judge the work of 180 artists that had submitted applications to the Park Point Art Fair. From that pool of applicants, 115 were chosen. Confirmation letters are currently being sent out to successful entrants.... Seven food vendors have also been chosen. Jake passed the list around for review; it features new vendors and a wide variety of food. The food court will be in a different location this year, and will use a large generator for power.... A wedding party is planned for Lafayette on Art Fair weekend. Volunteers will have to get Art Fair materials out of the building by Friday.... Negotiations between the Club and the City of Duluth about the park fee we are to pay for the Art Fair have not been completed yet; Carla will be meeting with Kathy Bergen (Parks & Rec Dept.) at least once more.... The Park Point Art Fair web site is up and running, but it needs some tweaking and editorial contributions such as photos. It will grow into a very important facet of the Art Fair promotional effort.... The Club discussed putting out a "donations can" at the fair. Money raised would be used to clean up and maintain the park or for UFO surveillance.

Park Point Breeze: A dejected Alan Dartanyan, snubbed once again by this year's Pulitzer committee, brightened up long enough to give his update on the Breeze to club members. The peninsula's favorite community-based, club-sponsored monthly newspaper has attracted a few new advertisers. We haven't had time to insult them yet, so for now, the Breeze is "doin' ok." Alan did add that several of the Breeze volunteer distributors had difficult times getting around on icy walkways and un-shoveled stairs. In response, Club members decried winter, and demanded more spring-like weather. Dave Poulin will look into it.

Environmental: Dave Poulin began with a report about the Sky Harbor Airport Advisory Committee, which had met the previous evening. As a temporary solution for their dilemma, the Duluth Airport Authority has "shortened" the Sky Harbor runway. Though not physically any shorter, they adjusted the landing area for planes approaching from the south. This takes the proscribed glide slope away from any obstructions caused by the old-growth pines that are the focus of our preservation efforts. This solution is temporary. **A public informational meeting will be held from 5-6:30 on April 17, in Lafayette prior to the next Park Point Community Club meeting.** Representatives from the Duluth Airport Authority will attend.... Tree planting is an annual project on Park Point. We always need help from volunteers; consider joining the crews on Saturday mornings in May. **Motion:** The Club shall allocate \$800 for the purchase of trees from St. Louis County and the DNR. **Motion carried.** As this is an outright purchase, not a donation, the expenditure required only tonight's vote of approval.... Improvements to the S-curve parking lot will also be back on our projects list as the weather warms up. These two reminders: the deadline on the grant from St. Louis County was extended until February 2009, and we still have no acceptable contract from the City. This has held up reimbursement to the Club for money we spent to construct the popular S-curve dune boardwalk.

Nominating Committee: Club elections take place in May. An ad hoc nominating committee has been assembled to coerce and bully potential candidates; for the committee's first priority they hope to learn what a "hoc" is.

Rummage Sale (June 13 & 14): Dave Poulin once again referenced the letter from Charlene Shimmin, chair of the Park Point Rummage Sale. She'd appreciate the assistance of one or two volunteers; please call her. Also, we need to make it crystal-clear that **no rummage sales are allowed on public land.** These areas

(especially through the S-curve and Lafayette Square) need to be posted as off-limits earlier in the week of the sale.

April Agenda: Dave Poulin will be unable to attend in April. As the Club has functioned without a vice-chair for oh so many years, the Club's idiot secretary was assigned the task of running the next meeting. Not coincidentally, Jake Kapsner suggested that we begin the April meeting with a civility training course he is familiar with. The idea quickly met the approval of the other Club members in attendance, but what do those clods know?

Lafayette Square: Because Lafayette no longer serves meals from its kitchen, we have received permission from Kathy Bergen (City of Duluth Parks & Rec Dept.) to rid ourselves of the malfunctioning commercial refrigerator. It can now be replaced with a regular one. Also, the basement refrigerator might date as far back as the Eisenhower administration. These facts led to this **Motion:** The Community Club authorizes up to \$2000 for the purchase of two refrigerators. **Motion carried.** Alan Dartanyan will head a small team to find the replacements; the old ones will be thrown from a bridge along Skyline Drive.

There was silence in Lafayette's hall as Club members looked at each other. Before anyone could come up with any other topic, there was an abrupt move to adjourn, voiced by someone with his mouth full of cookies. Dave Poulin tapped the gavel to end the meeting at exactly 9:00 p.m. Meanwhile, in a windowless hangar at Sky Harbor, men without names worked deep into the night....

(And on the lighter side) Ole and Lena hatched the business idea of their dreams. They would take orders for firewood over the Internet, and deliver the wood to people's homes. Lena would handle the business and computer orders; Ole, the timber cutter, would deliver oak and maple hardwood all cut and ready for the fireplace. They opened the business with a splash, but their few inquiries came only from paper industry giants like Boise-Cascade and Stora Enso. Those corporations were looking for huge amounts of timber, but from soft, fast-growing trees, like Quaking Aspen or Silver Poplar.

"Ole, look at the orders we could fill if you'd cut trees like that!" Lena would exclaim as she'd scroll through the e-mail requests, but time and again, Ole stubbornly refused.

"Oak and maple, hardwoods only!" he insisted.

Sadly, the rift split them apart and their online business failed. Their dreams were shattered; Lena never got poplar, and Ole never got to haul e-wood.

(Used without permission from the book "Let's Lampoon the Budgeteer")

Dave Johnson, Idiot Secretary



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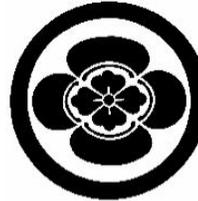
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Back in Business

The tarps and dividers are gone and both lanes of the Aerial Lift Bridge are open for traffic again – at least until next year. The newly painted sections look good – but they also accentuate what’s yet to be done. One more season and hopefully it will all be done!

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Editor's Corner

April, I must admit, is not my favorite month in the Northland, and the nasty winds we're "enjoying" as I write this are a testament as to why. Still, this "shoulder season" – between snow shoveling and beach parties – is a good time to do a little housekeeping.

I've already seen a few people out sweeping up the leftover sand and gravel that remains in the street after winter sanding. A reminder to people not to just sweep it into the gutter, where it will wash into and clog storm sewers. Shovel it up. Sometimes the city has put out notices that if you leave it in buckets on the corner, they will pick it up, but I haven't seen anything on that this year.

Also, now that the sidewalks are wide enough to actually walk down, check to see if any of your trees or bushes obstruct the walk, and trim them back if they do.

On the inside, I'm hoping to get a few people together to paint the lower level at Lafayette. We did the upstairs a couple years ago, and it looks great. I'd like to see the downstairs looking as good before the summer youth program starts. I'll bring the project up at the April meeting.

I've gotten a little update on the predator situation. Spring is of course breeding season for many animals. We're already seeing lots of baby bunnies in our neighborhood, and the baby ducks and geese won't be far behind. For our growing predator population – coyotes, foxes, fishers, even owls – it's like a moving buffet table. And they don't discriminate – as small animal is a small animal, domestic or wild. I've already heard a report of a coyote going after a poodle before being chased off. The area around Bayshore Health Center – long a rabbit stronghold – has been particularly active. Dave the Painter describes it as looking like the drive-thru at McDonald's! So be careful out there.

PARK POINT GARAGE SALE

Friday June 13 and Sat. June 14.

Less than 2 months before the BIG SALE. We realize some must work on Friday. It is OK if you can only set up on Saturday. Buyers are encouraged to return on Saturday for more bargains.

The Park Point Garage Sale and Art Fair Events are both sponsored by the Park Point Community Club. PLEASE NO GARAGE SALES THE WEEKEND OF THE ART FAIR.

If you have a Non Profit Organization setting up in your yard please let us know.

Name of the Non Profit Organization, a little about the Org. Address of where the sale will be. Also, what will be sold (food or rummage sale items.) Information is needed by May 15 for the News Releases that will be sent out.

Yards are needed for some food vendors. If you have a yard that might work a food stand please let call or email. You are paid by the vendor for your the use of your yard (you set your own rate). Some need electric hook up.

Remember all food stands must be license by the St Louis County Health Department. The health department does come down during the sale and check. How big or how small your food stand is, it is a must to have a license.

Don't forget to tell everyone about the sale. We depend on all of you to spread the word.

Volunteers are still needed to help out during the Garage Sale.

Please call Charlene 722-6828 or parkpoint@clearwire.net

The Breeze

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



Park Point Resident

Numbers you can use

Got (non-emergency) issues you'd like to discuss, but don't know whom to call? Here's some numbers you can use: Parks Maintenance Division: 723-3425 (after hours 723-33330

Fire station #5 (Park Point): 723-3215

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