



The Breeze

Of Park Point

Upcoming Events

**Lafayette Community
Edible Garden
Potluck,
Monday, July 10th
6-8PM at Lafayette**

**Park Point 5-Miler
Thursday July 13th,
6:30PM**

**Lake Superior
Writers' Group
"Murder on Park
Point"
Friday, July 14th, 4-
5:30 PM at Lafayette**

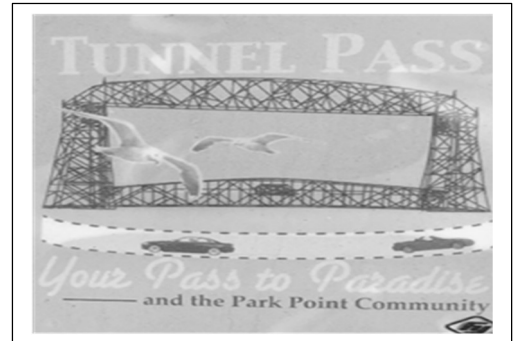
**Duluth International
Regatta, Saturday
July 15th, All Day, at
the Duluth Rowing
Club**

**Park Point
Community Club
Meeting
July 18th, at Lafayette
social at 6:45,
meeting at 7PM**

**Park Point Flower
Garden Club
July 27th
Dinner Out & Garden
Tour
contact
Sue Solin
218-349-0682**

It Never Ends!

The Park Point Tunnel: What could've been.



A few years ago the Park Point Community club sold Tunnel Passes to residents as a fundraiser for the club – and as a whimsical way of suggesting that locals in the know could avoid being Bridged by taking a secret tunnel under the canal. I recently saw a story on WDIO's *The Lift* – actually a throwback from a story WDIO did back in 2003 – saying that a tunnel actually was proposed – and designed – to go under the canal. I was a little skeptical, but with only a little minor digging, I confirmed that it was true.

The Canal itself, of course, was dug through the Duluth side of Minnesota Point, and opened with much fanfare in 1871. That made Park Point a true island, accessible only by ferry (at one point there were ferries running from both Duluth and Superior to the Point.) But Duluth officials had a very different vision for Park Point than the residential area it is now. They foresaw grain elevators and other industrial developments along the harbor side of Park Point. And for that to happen, they needed to get a railroad connection out here. So in 1891 they drew up plans for a railroad tunnel under the canal. It was a pretty sophisticated one, with sump pumps and air vents, and an estimated cost of a million dollars. Now, in 1891, that was real money, and the city leaders balked at it. They figured they could build a bridge much cheaper. But because a bridge could impede shipping, it needed the approval of the Department of Defense. And it was denied.

So, back to the drawing board. In 1893, the city held a design contest to build that tunnel, and the winning design – plans of which are alleged to reside in a vault at City Hall- came in with an estimated cost of \$782,000. That was considered manageable. But ultimately, the plan became bogged down in what was termed "legal issues". Most likely it was property issues. To get a railroad track down under the canal would require a long approach. And it was planned to come down what is now Canal Park Drive, rather than Lake Avenue where the bridge was ultimately built. And take up a large amount on land on both sides. So in the end, no tunnel was built. And it was yet another decade before a bridge was approved and built, opening in 1905. That, of course, was the aerial ferry bridge, with a gondola car ferrying people and vehicles. It didn't get revamped into the Aerial Lift Bridge until 1929.

A lot has been said about how difficult it can be to get projects built in Duluth today. Apparently it has always been so. And I, for one, am glad this one never happened

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan

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Submissions for the July issue are due
by 7/27/2023

Park Point Community Club officers:

President: Dawn Buck
parkpointcc@gmail.com
525-1764

Vice President: Tom Griggs
3429 Minnesota Ave.
Thom0313@gmail.com

Secretary: Rory Strange
rstrange3@icloud.com
218-340-7220

Treasurer: Gale Kerns
ggkerns@mac.com

Committees:

Art Fair: Carla Tamburro
coordinator@parkpointartfair.org
218-348-7338

Rummage Sale:
Deb Strange
debstrange2008@icloud.com

Hospitality:
Diane Gould 727-4067
Ted Buck 525-1764

Lafayette Square Rentals:
**Chris Seversen, Parks Permit
Coordinator** 218-730-4305
www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration

The Postcard: Dawn buck
parkpointcc@gmail.com

Sunshine: Pam Griggs
pamgriggs101@gmail.com
218-260-6032

Park Point Community Club
P.O. Box 16326
Duluth, MN 55816-0326
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President's Report

Hi Neighbors,

When it's calm and beautiful on extraordinary Minnesota Point it's very easy to be lulled into blissful complacency. Worries around rising and raging waters, damaging winds and erosion, and the bigger problems behind it all, can easily fade away when the backdrop is lovely, serene and stunningly beautiful. Meanwhile, engaged and intrepid Park Point volunteers and community stakeholders who are watching these processes closely and learning more about them (PPCC High Water & Erosion, MP50, Executive Committee) agree that the time has come to take additional actions towards implementing solutions to the resiliency challenges ahead. One PPCC Board member used the term "jumpstart" to refer to what is needed at this time. Please join us at the pre-meeting on Tuesday, July 18th at 5:30pm to learn more and add your thoughts on the MP50 Business Plan. In the proposed plan, MPPS, Minnesota Point Preservation Society, the 501c3 created by the Club about ten years ago, will play a key role as the charitable 'arm' for grant seeking. We'll have something delightful to eat & drink at 5:30pm while we share the plan and ideas. Please contact Paul Treuer with questions and read Paul's update in this Breeze edition.

The June 2023 festivities have wrapped up with memorable Rummage Sale and Art Fair experiences. Thank you for having your sales on the dedicated weekend; kudos to Rummage Sale chairperson, Deb Strange, for putting all of the infrastructure & comfort pieces in place for the big sale. The weather held up nicely and a lot of good loot traded hands and departed the island.

The 51st Art Fair came together despite the wind & the weather was not as awful as it might have been; hoping you had a fun time shopping and visiting with the artists.

It's inspiring to watch neighbors work together, some as brand new volunteers and others with decades of art fair service on their resumes. The outcome is somewhat of a marvel with each year bringing new challenges, unique problems and new things to try and ponder for the next year. A huge thank you to the artists and to longtime Art Fair coordinator Carla Tamburro, her family, and the crews of dedicated and hardworking volunteers. Meeting the artists and learning about their passions and hearing their stories is one of my favorite parts of the weekend.

Time to go into bliss mode today while it's calm and you want it to last forever :) Please note these events for July and see you soon:

Next meeting, Tuesday July 18, 5:30pm pre-meeting info session on MP50 Business Plan Draft then 7pm PPCC meeting, update on Sky Harbor terminal is moved to August.

Park Point 5 Miler: Thursday, July 13, at 6:30 PM, want to volunteer? Contact Greg Greg@grandmasmarathon.com or Alivia at alivia@grandmasmarathon.com or 218-727-0947.

Murder on Park Point, Friday July 14, Upper Lafayette 4-5:30pm PPCC with Lake Superior Writers Group and author Jeffrey M. Sauve

63rd annual Duluth International Rowing Regatta: Saturday, July 15, all day, Duluth Rowing Club, 39th and MN Ave.

Here's to enjoying, preserving and recognizing the good life on MN Point!

Kindly,
Dawn

PARK POINT COMMUNITY CLUB
TRAFFIC SAFETY/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

A great deal of work has been happening behind the scenes over the past month, including substantial assistance from Councilwoman Roz Randorf to get answers and action on several fronts.

TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATES (Roz Randorf and PPCC)

Decoy Car to deploy on Park Point

DPD will deploy a decoy car after Grandma's Marathon. Lt. Dave Drozdowski confirmed this in a conversation on Friday, June 9. He said that City staff would move the vehicle every day or two throughout the summer. An assessment will be made after that about the effectiveness of this strategy.

Increase Awareness through the Press

DPD will get a Park Point speed post on Facebook reminding visitors and residents to drive with due care in this area. Two messages developed via the PPCC were provided to Lt. Drozdowski and refined by the City's Press Officer on June 12; these messages will be posted within a week and on rotation throughout the summer.

Diamonds/Painted Symbols Designating Rec Lane

Still PENDING. A conversation with James Gittemeier at City Engineering confirmed he is looking for ways to address the Bike/Rec Lane designation. We originally asked about painting diamonds at strategic locations; however, MnDOT uses this symbol only for HOV so not a possibility at this point. The MnDOT engineer did suggest that sections of the Bike/Rec lane could be painted as a 'community art project'; the 'art' would need to be decided upon as they cannot resemble traffic symbols (including bicycles), and must use only one color of paint. The community can volunteer to do the painting. Initial permission would need to be granted from property owners where sections would be painted in front of their homes. Best would be areas where there are major parking issues during the summer such as Lafayette. This can be a FUN community project as well as a good trial run both on images and placement.

Additional Signage

Park Point Residents are able to purchase and place additional speed signage in hotspots. A big thanks to Roz for clarifying this one!

Educating Park Point and Canal Park Businesses

The area is well signed. DPD is not able to accompany PPCC members on visits to local businesses. DPD will continue to do extra patrols in the neighborhood as time permits for traffic enforcement. The PPCC will continue to contact businesses with information about Traffic Safety.

Letters to Car Owners

Statutory limitations do not allow DPD to run plates based on a letter from PPCC to then send to vehicle owners.

Emergency Services

DFD is not able to staff Park Point with an engine every time the bridge goes up.

REPORTING NON-EMERGENCY ISSUES

To report a missing sign or other issues related to streets, sidewalks, etc., please report online via the Resident Reporter <https://rpr-duluthmn.hub.arcgis.com/>. I reported a missing sign near 37th and it was replaced within 3 days.

PARKING

There has been a bit of consternation about the City's recent enforcement of parking rules on Park Point. We reached out to Mark Bauer in Parking and received the following clarifications: "Below is a link to the City's Parking webpage, on which all common parking rules can be found, as well as an alternate side parking calendar: Parking Services (duluthmn.gov) Parking Services enforcement staff have been noticing a large number of parking violations, including alternate side parking violations. This, in many cases, poses a significant set of safety concerns, as this type of parking can impede Fire Department access to the beaches and slow down water rescues. For alternate side parking, the sides of the side street that are closer to WI are even; the sides closer to the aerial lift bridge are odd. Most of the addresses reflect this, but there are a few instances of addresses referring to Minnesota Avenue that might throw this off; in those cases, just use the guide above." Parking Services is also working on the idea of a placing one large sign near the S-curve publicizing Bayside Parking only.

For further questions, contact the Parking Services office at (218) 730-5470.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Sterner

News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

As in all matters of life, planning ahead is also important to gardening. Essentially, it is a hurry up and wait proposition. Hurry up and get the plants and seeds in the ground at the optimal time, say a little prayer for sunshine and rain, and then wait and see if the garden grows verdant and productive. Planning ahead is perhaps most essential for our beloved winter squash since they take the longest time to grow and their long vines can choke out other plants in the garden if they are not given enough room to grow.

We have had success with many types of winter squash in our garden and they make annual appearances, be it where their seeds have been carefully planted as planned, or where volunteer plants surprisingly sprout up in the compost bins. Kuri squash is one of the old varieties that we have planted in the garden every year using seeds we have saved from previous crops. For our butternut squash, we use the Burpee Hybrid variety since it ripens early, especially when we start the seed indoors before it's warm enough to transplant. We love the Fairytale pumpkin for its sweet buttery flavor – just perfect for pumpkin pies or eating raw. This year, we are also trying Bulgarian Lady Nail pumpkin, whose seeds look like fingernails. This is another excellent eating pumpkin. We thank our Park Point neighbor, Milka Yordanova, for sharing these seeds with us from her family in Bulgaria. Now we just wait to see if they sprout and produce.

At our June 12 potluck dinner meeting, past garden member Dori Decker shared her composting expertise and gave us an update on the happenings at WLSSD. She encouraged us to try the compost prepared from donated yard waste and food scraps that WLSSD processes. The techniques they use heats the compost to a much higher temperature than what we achieve in our garden compost bins, thereby doing a better job of breaking down the organic matter and yielding a higher quality compost.

Coral McDonnell, one of our founding members, has been our fearless leader, organizer and constant support since 2009. While she will still be active in our garden, she is stepping down from the organizer role. So, if you want membership information or to join us for future meetings, Missy King is the new contact person for folks interested in our community garden and potluck dinners. She can be contacted at 515-991-7280, mjking@siu.edu. Our monthly potluck dinners are FREE and open to all Park Pointers. They take place at the Lafayette Community Club. Please bring your own plates, silverware, beverage and a dish to share. We will continue to have our monthly potluck dinner meetings on the second Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, July 10, 6 to 8 p.m., potluck dinner meeting.

-Susan Peters

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Sometimes we all just need a hand, and often that hand isn't too far away. You may have a neighbor or two who are willing and able to lend that hand. It was suggested to the Community Club that we collect an e-mail list of neighbors who may be able to help another neighbor with various tasks or problems. The list could be posted on the PPCC website

(www.parkpointcommunityclub.org), so that a person in need could send out a group e-mail to those who have added their names to that list, stating what their need is, and asking if anyone is able to help. There would be no demands, just an opportunity to help when and how you are able. If you think you would be willing to be on this list, please send your name and e-mail address to me at breezeditor@msn.com. I'll put the list together and send it on to Dawn for posting on the website.

Alan Dartanyan

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Park Point
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what you see and
hear

Scoops @ St. Andrew's
Tues, July 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for ice cream
and
Michael Cochran
sharing
tales & history
about rowing on Park Point

2802 Minnesota Ave | 218-727-1262
info@standrewsbythelakeduluth.org



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LYNN BENTFIELD  

Park Point Community Club Minutes

The June 2023 monthly meeting of the Park Point Community Club was called to order by Dawn Buck, President at 7:03 pm on June 20th, 2023.

Dawn welcomed residents, Councilor Roz Randorf and Shawn Krizaj, representing the Duluth Fire Department.

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Motion was approved to accept the minutes as written in The Breeze. All in attendance voted aye.

Treasurers Report – Gale Kerns

End of April balance \$39,301

End of May balance - \$69,306

Motion was made and approved to accept the report.

Sunshine Committee - Pam Griggs

Since the last meeting, 3 get well cards were sent.

Watch Committee – That's us

Please view info on ongoing traffic and safety issues on the PPCC website and in The Breeze.

High Water & Erosion – Hamilton Smith

No report

Edible Garden - Coral McDonnell

No report

Summer Youth Program – Britta Desutter

SYP going well. There are approximately 60 kids enrolled and things are going well.

Art Fair – Diane Gould

Carla thanked the community for their help and things are going well. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Diane at 727-4067.

Rummage Sale - Deb Strange

Another successful year! The weather was great, and the turnout was strong. Thanks to all who hosted a yard sale.

Environmental Committee - Dick Gould

No report

Program Committee – Dave Poulin

No report

Traffic Safety – Pat Sterner

See PPCC website for updates.

MP-50: Paul Treuer

Please see Paul's detailed report. Contact Paul directly at paul.treuer@gmail.com

The Breeze - Alan Dartanyan

No report

Special Presentation

There was a 40-minute Q&A with the DFD to answer questions regarding beach and dune fires, their overall presence at large community events and other issues brought forward by PP residents. We appreciate his willingness to come down and speak to the Community Club.

Motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rory Strange, Secretary

MP50 Minnesota Point Long-Range Resiliency Planning



Strengthening Coastal Communities Resilience in the Great Lakes Region Challenge: Minnesota Point sponsored by Association of State FloodPlain Managers (ASFPM)

- Self-Assessment Results:

Part I: Probability and Preparedness

- There is total agreement the coastal hazard of shoreline recession is high probability. High impact to property and business.
- High probability of coastal flooding . This has a high impact on business, property, and humans.
- Loss of biodiversity was not included in assessment, but any amendment to the form should include it (for MN coast). Probability of impact is medium.
- Localized flooding of roadway/ROW infrastructure also should be added. Probability of this impact is high, with medium impact to property and business.
- These responses indicate the community is not well prepared for shoreline recession, for minimizing loss of shore protection damage, or beach loss. There are other areas the community does not appear to be well- prepared for (beach impairment, marina damage, loss of biodiversity, and localized flooding/ROW infrastructure.)

- ASFPM Workshop. The Mn Point Team (DNR, Duluth City Planning and Naturalist, UMD, PPCC MP50) are attending a Workshop on Coastal Resilience, June 27-29, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The workshop focuses on how to reduce flood risk and build coastal resilience. Resources, tools, and examples will be presented that can be applied to Minnesota Point.

MP50 Business Plan

MP50 is developing a Business Plan intended to speed up actions that contribute to making the Point resilient to coastal erosion and flooding. PPCC members of MP50 Working Group have met with Pat Sterner to do a SWOT analysis to inform this plan. The Business Plan is in draft form. It was shared with the PPCC Executive Committee on June 20th and received support and constructive feedback. We plan to bring the Business Plan to the PPCC July meeting for discussion. An information session about this Business Plan will be held Tuesday, July 18th from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at Lafayette before the July PPCC meeting.

Thank you to all the artists and volunteers who participated in the 2023 Park Point Art Fair. We couldn't do it without you. And a special thank you to our sponsors!



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 are some helpful contacts

Public Works and Utilities 24 hr. emergency contact numbers:

Natural Gas 730-4100, Streets, Water & Sewer 730-4000

Lift Bridge Supervisor Dave Campbell 723-3387

Community Police Officer Ethan Roe 218-730- 5747 eroe@duluthmn.gov

PP water Quality issues: Chris Kleist, ckleist@duluthmn.gov, office 218-730-4063 and 218-355-0598

Parking Services 218-730-4000

Dog issues: Shelter: 218-723-3259

On-Duty Cell Phone: 218-390-2256

City Councilor Roz Randorf rrandorf@duluthmn.gov 218-443-8364

City of Duluth/home 218-730-5000

duluthmn.gov/contact

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