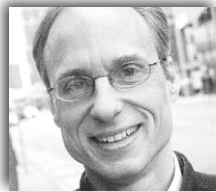


Connects

On the web
www.eastharriet.org

A Monthly Newsletter for the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood

FEBRUARY 2009



Notes from the Chair

Matt Perry, EHFNA president

My mother is a sweeper. Her outdoor work is not complete until she has swept her driveway, front walk and, especially, her sidewalk. Picking up fallen twigs, leaves, the occasional trash blown down the street or any clean up around the yard to make the house look great. But in my mom's mind, what really completes the task is a thorough sweeping. It is this final act that makes for a "good job done." Why? She told me recently it is because it shows that people have taken pride in their home and in their neighborhood.

In my travels to Germany I noticed residents and shopkeepers also took equal care of their sidewalks as they did their homes. A German friend shed some light on why. A smaller percentage of people in Germany own their homes - many of which are handed down through generations. Similarly, people typically remain in their homes until they die rather than owning several homes throughout their lives as is common in the U.S. Great personal value is placed on "home" both as private property and the public space around it. This fosters a sense of community. Her short answer to my question of why Germans care as much for their sidewalks as they do their private property: "It simply is what you do. It simply is your responsibility."

Minneapolis has approximately 2,000 miles of sidewalk for its 1,000 miles of road. For context, Edina has approximately 25 miles of sidewalk for 230 miles of road. When it comes to sidewalks in Minneapolis, pedestrians are on an equal footing with the four wheeled type of locomotion. Sidewalks can foster a dense network of relationships across all demographics by creating opportunities for casual contact as we do our errands and get our exercise.

As the Canadian urbanist Jane Jacob notes in one of her books, "A city sidewalk by itself is nothing. It is an abstraction." She notes it only means something in conjunction with buildings and other uses that border it. Those buildings are our homes. Those uses are things like planting flowers in the boulevard; shoveling the sidewalk in the winter and sweeping it in the summer; sitting on your front porch or stoop during warmer weather. As my mom says doing these things "makes the whole neighborhood look better and makes people happier." Who could argue with that?

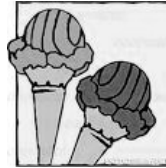
Warm regards,

Matt



Update on Proposal to Expand Lake Harriet Concessions

At the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) meeting on January 21st, Commissioners were presented with a proposal to add seafood to the existing concession offerings of popcorn, ice cream and hot dogs. The MPRB staff proposal calls for the existing concession building to house a seafood restaurant, Sea Salt, and to construct a new building to the east of the band shell to house the traditional concession fare.



EHFNA has asked Commissioner Bob Fine and MPRB staff to delay the project while community input is gathered on the proposal. EHFNA is also working with the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council to host a community forum to discuss the proposal. A date for this community forum has not yet been determined.

At its next meeting, the MPRB will be voting on whether to establish a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for this project. Part of the creation of a CAC is to define the scope of the committee's charge (ex. comprehensive review of the changes versus review of the placement of a new building). The meeting is being held at the MPRB Administrative Offices, Board Room Suite 255, 2117 West River Road starting at 5:00 pm.

Residents may also contact Commissioner Fine at (612) 230-6443 or bfine@minneapolisparcs.org.

Lyndale Ave Lighting Schedule

Hennepin County's Senior Project Manager, Don Shaffer, has provided an update to the schedule for the installation of the street and signal lights on Lyndale Ave. So. The installation of the street lights, both the 30' "shoe box" lights and pedestrian-level ornamental lights, will be completed by late spring / early summer of 2009. The permanent signal lights will be installed by mid-summer of this year with the exception of the new 38th and Minnehaha Parkway signal lights which will be installed at the end of 2009.

For more information, visit the "Lyndale Project" page on the East Harriet website: www.eastharriet.org.

More Connects on next page!

Minneapolis Public Meetings Seek Input on Activity Plans

Minneapolis citizens have had the chance to share their ideas on biking, skating, walking and running as well as field sports in Minneapolis parks at a series of meetings in February. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is hosting public meetings on the plans, among the first to be initiated under the MPRB's new Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The **Bike, Walk and Roll meeting** closest to our neighborhood is on Monday, Feb. 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Lynnhurst Park, 1345 Minnehaha Pkwy. W. The final **Fields Sports Plan meeting** Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Headquarters Board Room, 2117 West River Road in Minneapolis.

For more information about the CIP or to view all of the meeting locations, call 612-230-6400 or visit www.minneapolisparcs.org-capital-improvements.



Neighborhoods to Participate in Selection Process for Community Engagement Commission Spots

The Mayor, City Council and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) finalized their eight appointments to the new Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) on January 22nd. The 16-member commission is composed of two appointees by the Mayor, five appointees by the City Council, one appointment by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and eight people selected by the city's neighborhood organizations. Matt Perry, the Chair of EHFNA was one of the two mayoral appointments. The full list of appointments can be found on the East Harriet web site (www.eastharriet.org) on the "NCEC" page. The NCEC has the charge to provide direction to the next phase of NRP and be primarily responsible for the review of neighborhood plans.

Neighborhood organization leaders will be attending an NRP-hosted meeting on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Northeast Armory (1025 Broadway Street N.E.) to discuss the process by which their eight representatives will be selected. The meeting is open to the public but discussion and voting will be limited to the designated representatives from each neighborhood organization. How and when neighborhood representatives to the NCEC will be selected has not yet been determined.

Spring Park Registration

Sign-ups for Spring activities at Lyndale Farmstead and other parks begin online on March 1 and in-person on March 9. To register go to: www.minneapolisparcs.org

EHFNA Housing Loan Program

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) is making available up to \$81,000 of its NRP Phase II funds to implement a home improvement program in the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood. The loans are to finance improvements to properties located in this neighborhood in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Attachment A of the Request for Proposal (RFP). Attachment B of the RFP outlines a Scope of Services that EHFNA will perform as well as the duties and responsibilities of the selected program administrator. Attachment C lists the line items for proposals. To view the RFP Attachments, please visit the "Committees" page of the EHFNA website. If you have questions about the loan program, you may call our office, 612-824-9350, or email us at info@eastharriet.org.

Start Planning Now for the Neighborhood Sale-O-Rama

Spring will soon be here and that means it's time to clean out your closets, basement and garage! Join us for the East Harriet Sale-O-Rama, our annual neighborhood-wide garage and yard sale, on Sat. May 30 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. This year we're hoping to sign up over 50 households and make this event the biggest, most successful Sale-O-Rama ever!

To sign up, send an email to info@eastharriet.org or call 612-824-9350. Be sure to include your name, mailing address, phone number and email address. We will get an



application to you so you can start planning (you can also download one from our website). The \$10 fee will get you: advertising, flyers, a Sale-O-Rama Kit and clean closets. Deadline for applications is Wed., May 20, 2009.

Upcoming EHFNA Committee Meetings

Tues., Feb 17: Crime, Safety & Transportation
7:00 - 8:00pm | Java Jack's

Mon., Feb 23: Parks, Environment & School
7:00 - 8:00pm | Java Jack's

Wed., Feb. 25: Business, Housing & Zoning
7:00 - 8:00pm | Lyndale Farmstead Park

Thu., March 12: Community Building
7:00 - 8:00pm | Java Jack's

Watch for agendas to be posted on our website: www.eastharriet.org.