

EAST HARRIET FARMSTEAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 7th, 2008 7:00pm
Lyndale Farmstead Park, 3900 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis

Board Members present: Matt Perry, Dean Carlson, Bruce Wadman, Staven Bruce, Pam Meier, Patty Selly, Bruce Thomson, Roger Worm, Michael Dietrich, Chris Gallaty

Board Members not present: James Thorson

Others present: Angela Amundson (resident), Ruth Barrett-Rendler (resident), Fabrizio Ciccone (Business Owner), Marilyn Bell (Hennepin County), Beryl Deskin (resident), Council Member Betsy Hodges, Robert Smith (resident), Roger Sahr, Emily Winter (EHFNA Staff)

1) Announcements: Jay Walljasper, author of 'The Great Neighborhood Book' will be the featured guest at the June EHFNA meeting; e-News article deadline is May 8th; Sale-o-Rama (neighborhood garage sale) is May 31st, 9am-3pm; Clean Air Fair (Bryant/BEAT fair) is Sat. May 17th, 9-11am at Barton School—students projects on display, sign up for MN Energy Challenge, bring old jeans for denim drive to recycle for insulation.

2) Consent agenda: Item #3 (approval of April minutes) **MOTION: Move to approve consent agenda, by S. Bruce, second by M. Dietrich. Approved unanimously.**

4) Councilmember report -- Betsy Hodges, Councilperson Ward 13: Ward 13 Public Safety Fair on May 3rd went very well—other Wards may duplicate. Minneapolis Police Dept hired 32 new officers in April—it is a very diverse class of officers. Betsy has created a brochure that details four tips for a safer block—she would like to get them to Block Club leaders to distribute on their blocks. The week of May 12th is "Bike/Walk to Work Week" - the kickoff is Monday, May 12th, downtown at 8:30am. Activities are also planned for Wed. May 14th for Bike/Walk to Work Day. Betsy will be biking home from work that week. A work group has been established to set up guidelines for demonstrators during the Republican Convention this summer—meeting on May 21st, 1:00pm to discuss these guidelines—written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk or to Betsy. City Council is lobbying the state Legislature to get an extension on the TIFF districts that help fund NRP—legislature seems to not be in favor of an extension. On June 19th, the NRP Work Group will present to the Committee as a Whole its proposal regarding a future framework of NRP. The next Ward 13 breakfast with Betsy is on May 21st, 8:00am at Pearson's (50th/France). Lyndale Ave. construction should start in early June—50th to 38th section will be first phase. Betsy was asked how many of the 32 new officers hired in April will be stationed in 5th Precinct—Betsy didn't know but will ask Precinct Inspector Arneson.

6) 4427 Colfax Ave S. Tax Forfeiture -- Marilyn Bell, Hennepin County Senior Property Management Specialist: Property at 4427 Colfax was forfeited on Aug 17th, 2006 for failure to pay county property taxes for previous five years. Every effort was made to assist owners in paying this tax debt, but it was very difficult to get them to accept any help. Property was extremely dilapidated when occupants were evicted, Substantial improvements were made to property including asbestos removal. Property is currently being maintained to keep a tidy appearance and current assessed value of property is \$334,000.

There are now three options for this property: 1) sell at auction, 2) convert to affordable-housing property, 3) convert to adult-care group home. Affordable-housing option is eliminated because property would end up being too expensive to be considered 'affordable housing.' Group-home option is currently being explored and a community meeting to gather neighborhood comments will be held in early-summer. The County wants to keep the neighborhood in loop to prevent incorrect information from being circulated. A group home would have a 5-year lease, with a subsequent 5-year lease possible. After the 5 or 10 years, the

property would be either sold at auction, or the County could explore the affordable housing/group home options again. Question was asked how the County decides which of the three options to pick? Ms. Bell replied the affordable-housing option has been eliminated, so now they research the group-home option (including consideration of neighbor opinions). If group-home option is not feasible, presumably the property is sold at auction to highest bidder.

5) Rose Garden Centennial Presentation - Mary Lerman, Rose Garden Horticulturalist: Mary Lerman presented a slide show and talk regarding the history of the Rose Gardens at Lyndale Park. The Rose Garden was planted in the Spring of 1908, so this is its 100-year anniversary. Mary is planning a celebration to mark this anniversary to be held on Sunday, July 27th. Activities will include a vintage-clothing contest, music, 1908-era food, community sing-along.

Other Lyndale Park news: there will be a Mother's Day celebration in the Peace Gardens on May 11th hosted by Mayor Rybak and his wife.

Fundraising for the new Peace Bridge is going well—getting close to the \$100,000 needed to fund the new bridge—hoping for a Sept. 24 dedication; another \$100,000 is needed to completely overhaul the Heffelfinger Fountain in the Rose Gardens—fundraising underway for that project.

The largest River Birch tree in Minneapolis, which was located near the Phelps Fountain in the Rose Gardens, had to be cut down due to safety concerns. Pests had eaten away the interior of the tree and it was unstable. Branches from the tree are being cloned to potentially produce 25 new river birch saplings. The bottom 10 feet of the river birch stump was left to possibly create a carved sculpture as part of the Centennial celebration.

Mary would like the wooded area between the Lakewood Cemetery and the Peace Gardens to be called Bossen Peace Woods, after a former Parks Superintendent. She said EHFNA would need to request that the Park Board officially name the woods, which she will discuss with EFHNA at a later time.

The Heffelfinger Urn at the Lake Harriet Bandshell has been renovated and will be dedicated on July 26th at the Bandshell.

Mary says she has been inside the Wirth House to see the recent renovations and says they look great. She's happy the Wirth House will be open for tours at RoseFest on July 19th so the public will get a chance to see the nice improvements to the interior of the House.

7) New restaurant at 43rd & Bryant -- Fabrizio Ciccone, owner: Mr. Ciccone will be opening up a new restaurant called Agri in the old My-T-Fine space; it will be an organic, vegetarian restaurant with gluten-free food and occasional fish dishes and will feature local sustainable food with a philosophy of 'field to fork.' He wants it to be an affordable neighborhood restaurant with good food. Plans are for a 'soft opening' on the weekend of May 15-18th, with a grand opening scheduled for July. Initially it would be open for dinner only Monday-Friday and brunch and dinner on weekends. Hopefully, after a month, lunch would be served Monday-Friday. Closing time will be 10:00pm. There are 26 seats inside. Mr. Ciccone will be pursuing a wine/beer license; wine will be served only to customers who also order food.

Councilperson Hodges commented on the wine/beer license process. The establishment must be at least 300 feet from the 'primary' entrance to nearby school (Barton School is across the street); Agri will be slightly over the 300-foot required distance from Barton. Important dates for the licensing process for Agri will be—June 4th, neighborhood meeting to hear public comments; June 11th, public hearing at regular City Council meeting; June 28th, City Council may vote to approve/decline license.

8) RoseFest update-- Pam Meier: The MPRB Showmobile has been secured for RoseFest. Mary Lerman no longer needs it for the Rose Garden Centennial celebration as it has been moved to July 27th. Sponsorship letters will be going out soon; we are looking to have specific people solicit specific businesses to avoid multiple people asking same business—volunteers needed to solicit. Bands are being recruited. Bethlehem Church has agreed to staff the kids' games area again.

9) Park report—Ann Lynch: tabled until June meeting due to lack of time

10) Committee reports: tabled until June meeting due to lack of time

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Minutes submitted by:

Bruce Wadman, board member

Minutes approved by:

Matt Perry, EHFNA chair