

MINUTES OF June 3, 2008
MORGAN PARK-SMITHVILLE COMMUNITY CLUB (MPSCC) MEETING

Tonight's meeting commenced at 6:35 PM with "The Prez" President Louise presiding. Proceedings began with self-introductions of all attendees which included 19 Morgan Park residents plus Pam Kramer (LISC), Keith Hamre (Duluth Housing Commission), and Ben Small (CHUM). Also in attendance was Officer Jim Rodman, West Community Officer.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval Motion to approve last month's minutes was seconded and unanimously voted for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report Chet reports the following totals:

Community Club	\$4,251.84
Stowe Recreation	\$ 13.67.
Historic Fund	\$ 1516.01
Garden Club	<u>\$ 125.26</u>
Total	\$5,906.787

Chet reported the MPSCC netted \$644.00 after expenses at last month's spring clean up.

Garden Club Amy reported the MPSCC Garden Club grossed \$983.75 at last month's annual Duluth-wide plant sale in Leif Erickson Park parking lot including the \$300.00 sale of one Bob Parenteau-designed portable watering system.

US Steel Gears Bill reported the bill of sale for the \$1 purchase of the gears from US Steel is complete. Although much of the effort to finish and move the gears will be donated, it will cost \$600 for transportation to/from and final preparation at the contractor in Proctor who will sandblast and paint the gears. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to fund the \$600 from the MPSCC treasury. There will be an approximate \$160/year cost for liability insurance which will be addressed at a later meeting. As previously planned, the gears will ultimately be displayed in the small grass triangle-shaped median at the intersection of Arbor Street and 88th Avenue West in front of the United Protestant Church. Timing for completion is yet to be determined.

Crime Update Officer Jim Rodman reported the perpetrator going door to door begging for money was caught and appropriately dealt with. Over the last couple of weeks, there has been a marked increase in "tagging" (spray painting graffiti) particularly in neighborhoods of Lincoln Park, Central Hillside, and West Duluth. Jim was recently designated to document and oversee these types of crimes, and he reports although there are no suspects yet, the many taggings appear gang-related. Cost to remove this graffiti run into the thousands of dollars. Jim asked we call 911 if we see any kind of tagging activity. The forum discussed the issues of several neighborhood nuisances, including unleashed dogs running loose and several recurring reckless-driving incidents by ATVs, motorcycles, and cars. Residents and Duluth Police Department are keeping an eye out for the offenders.

Banners Debbie reported we will be able to afford approximately 60 new banners and brackets for the \$5000 start-up grant. Debbie ask attendees to vote for one of the several samples she provided during tonight's meeting, and the contractor will move forward on making them of the majority-preferred color/format. Note: while the MPSCC's first choice for the \$5000 start-up grant was to fund granite "Historic Morgan Park" markers at both the Arbor and Idaho Street entrances, Minnesota DOT (MNDOT) cannot approve the markers at this time due to potential safety considerations on Grand Ave/Highway 23. Debbie and Bill will continue to work with the appropriate MNDOT folks to hopefully eventually get approval. As an aside Debbie reported the service-learning event at Morgan Park School went very well. She, Chet, and Bill talked to the kids about growing up Morgan Park.

Recreation Services Since Pamela Page (Good Fellowship Community Center recreation specialist) could not attend tonight's meeting, Louise noted summer hours will be 10:00 AM-4:00PM Monday-Thursday.

Neighborhood Heroes Program Louise notified us of this LISC-sponsored program to recognized individuals in all the five Duluth neighborhoods who go above and beyond to make their individual neighborhoods a better place to live. Nominations are due NLT July 9. Louise asked we bring nominations for Morgan Park candidates to the July MPSCC meeting

Community Club VP Since Louise has moved up to serve as the MPSCC President has left the VP position empty. Since Brian Parenteau has expressed interest, Bill moved to have Brian fill the VP position until formal elections in the fall. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved pending acceptance by Brian.

Lead Agency Pam Kramer (LISC), Keith Hamre (Duluth Housing Commission), and Ben Small (CHUM) briefed us on the need to decide on a lead agency to execute the Morgan Park Revitalization Plan. While the Spirit Valley Citizens' Economic Neighborhood Development Association (SVCENDA), who lead the effort to formulate the Morgan Park Revitalization Plan, could serve as lead agency, SVCENDA's plate is too full right now to fill that position for the effort. Other viable candidates are Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), Community Action Duluth, and Housing Referral Services. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded and vote taken to approve NHS as lead agency. The NHS has a great reputation among all participating Duluth entities and is an excellent choice to be our lead agency. Ben Small noted that since CHUM is serving as co-lead on the revitalization plans for the other Duluth neighborhoods, CHUM would also be willing to serve as co-lead for our effort.

With no other business to discuss, Louise closed the meeting precisely at 8:00 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Duluth Flower Fest Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Good Fellowship Community Center.

Morgan Park Garden Club Tuesday, July 1, 6:00-6:30 PM at Good Fellowship Community Center. Expect forthcoming notification from Amy about an ad hoc garden-club meeting between now and then to discuss summer plantings.

MPSCC Tuesday, July 1, 6:30-8:00 at Good Fellowship Community Center.

Morgan Park Picnic Thursday, August 21 5:30 PM-7:30 PM Good Fellowship Community Center.

District 1 Meetings are postponed for the summer.

Wayne Purser
Acting Secretary