

Morgan Park Community Club Meeting – September 2, 2008

After being fortified with scrumptious bars provided by our Morgan Park hero, Lucille Kolberg, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by president, Louise Kolthoff.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and we delved into updates. The secretary, Wayne Purser, was not able to attend, so we did not approve the minutes of the July meeting. The August meeting was not held due to the community picnic.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Chet Johnson provided a treasury report. The total amount in the CC treasury is \$6,126.61, broken out as follows:

- Community Club: \$4,375.03
- Historical: \$1516.01
- Garden Club: \$221.90
- Stowe Recreation: \$13.67

The Morgan Park picnic took in a total of \$1,252.90 broken out as follows:

- Donations: \$27.00
- Meal: \$449.90
- Membership: \$145.00
- T-Shirt sales: \$375.00
- Raffle: \$241.00
- Garden Club Sales: \$15.00

Profits from the Spring Clean up were \$344.72 which will be used for Breakfast with Santa expenses.

\$695.00 was paid to Advantage Emblem for shirts.

\$1,041.50 was paid for brackets for the new Morgan Park banners.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Memberships for the Community Club cost \$2.00 per year. Please inform anyone you know who might want to become a member and support our community.

AGENDA TOPICS:

CLOSURE OF MORGAN PARK POST OFFICE:

Following committee reports, president Louise began the meeting by asking Debbie Isabell Nelson to update us on the news of the closure of the Morgan Park Post Office. Debbie passed out copies of a letter that had been sent out by the Post Office announcing that their lease in the historic Lakeview Store building was up at the end of September and they would be closing their doors at that time, citing the poor condition of the building as one of the main reasons. A representative from the Spirit Lake Manor expressed concerns about the lack of postal services for seniors living at the Manor, explained how they fought to keep the Post Office open 8 years ago with a petition and backing from Representative Oberstar, and were successful, hoping to be able to do the same now.

Debbie Isabell Nelson had contacted Post Office personnel in the Cities who offered other options, such as maintaining postal services at a business location in Morgan Park such as Park State Bank. Such services would not be run by Post Office personnel, but would be contracted out. Curtis Oil has also been contacted about offering services at the Super America store in Morgan Park. While keeping the current Post Office open is the ideal solution, it is not possible due to the health risks to employees who work in the building. The Post Office will not build a new facility and updating the current facility to meeting ADA standards and other Federal regulations is much too costly.

A motion was made and seconded to check to see if the current lease on the Post Office site could be modified to a month to month lease and the current level of services could be maintained until contracted services could be provided in another location in Morgan Park.

RECREATION UPDATE:

Pamela Page is now the only recreation specialist left in Duluth and is responsible for covering the entire city. Needless to say she was not at the meeting and there was no report.

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club had a good year and maintained 4 gardens in Morgan Park. Two members of the club will serve as judges at the upcoming St. James Fruit and Flower fest on Sept 9th. The club always welcomes new members so if you're interested in getting your hands dirty, contact Amy Johnson.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Community Police Officer Jim Rodman is in St. Paul at the Republican National Convention so was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He continues to send out his weekly crime reports. If you would like to receive them, send him your e-mail address.

U.S. STEEL GEARS

The gears remain in their original location. Efforts continue to find a site for them which will not require the prohibitive \$1.5M in liability insurance.

NEW MORGAN PARK BANNERS

The new Morgan Park banner arrived the day of the picnic. We will be receiving 60 banners in total and have already received \$1200 in donations from Morgan Park residents to cover the cost of the brackets. Ricky Flaherty has very generously been using the Charter bucket truck to hang the banners. Once they are all up, the company that made the banners would like to return to Morgan Park to take a picture of the banners along with residents sporting their new Historic Morgan Park t-shirts to be used in their future advertising.

MORGAN PARK SCHOOL

The Morgan Park School will hold an open house on Wednesday from 4:30 – 7:00 with students beginning their first day of school on Thursday. Anyone interested is encouraged to be at either one of the entrances to Morgan Park between 7:10 – 7:30 a.m., wearing their Morgan Park t-shirt, and wave and welcome the students on the school busses as they arrive. Bring coffee!

10th ANNUAL MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL FALL LUNCH

This 10th annual lunch will take place at the DECC from noon to 3:30 on Sunday, Sept 7th. It is open to all friends of Morgan Park High School. Cost is \$17.00.

COFFEE SHOP

Progress has been quite slow due to concerns about the economy, but Dan is still trying to move forward.

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

The senior lunch program offered by the City of Duluth will continue even in light of the budget cuts, however, it has not yet been determined who will run the program.

ST. LOUIS RIVER TRAIN RIDE

Morgan Park residents and their friends are welcome to join the fun on Sept 20th. The train will depart from the regular train stop behind the Little Store on Grand Ave at 4:00 p.m., or catch the train down the hill from Blackmer Park at 5:00 p.m. The ride is limited to adults only due to the presence of adult beverages—did somebody say slushes??? Pizza, pop, and I'm sure other goodies will also be available. The cost is \$10.00 per person. To register, call Brenda Blasey at 590-1481, or e-mail her at Bblasey2001@yahoo.com

NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES

Morgan Park's neighborhood hero, Lucille Kolberg, will receive an official award on Saturday, Oct 4th, during the Connect the Dots Showcase at the Coppertop Church. Be there with your Historic Morgan Park t-shirt to cheer her on.

President Louise read a thank you card from Lucille to the community for selecting her as hero.

Debbie reported that 5 billboards will be going up in various locations around Duluth, advertising the Connect the Dots Show and each will have one picture from each of the five neighborhoods, one of which will be a picture of Lucille.

REVITALIZATION PLAN

Debbie stated there would be an update on Oct 4th.

DISK GOLF

A disk golf course has been approved for Morgan Park. We already have 5 of the 7 holes proposed, and we are attempting to get additional holes. Cutis Oil donated \$500 for 1 of the holes. Super America has frisbies to distribute at the grand opening. This is a great thing for Morgan Park as disk golf has become very popular in Duluth as well the rest of the nation.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Brian Parenteau has been selected to attend a Community Leadership Training in October in San Jose. Way to go Brian. NHS will be sending a team of 8 "up and coming" leaders from their 4 core neighborhoods in Duluth. Debbie Isabell Nelson is coordinating and attending the training.

COMMUNITY CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

Elections may be held at the November meeting, or we may decide at the November meeting to hold the elections later (I think we were tired). If you would like to nominate someone for one of the offices, please contact Louise Kolthoff at 348-2252.

Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on October 7th.