

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2008
MORGAN PARK-SMITHVILLE COMMUNITY CLUB (MPSCC) MEETING

Tonight's meeting commenced at 6:27 PM with Louise presiding. Proceedings began with self-introductions. Updates followed.

Gary-Morgan Park Hockey Association: Darryl Eckenberg spoke on the Association's efforts to save the Stowe School ice rink in face of city budget cuts. He was not exactly sure of what would be required at this point but was seeking MPSCC's support. He's meeting with Pamela Page (Duluth Parks and Red) and other city officials to iron out details on what can be done. There was a motion (Bill), second (Chet), and unanimous vote to support the Association's intent to save the Stowe School ice rink.

Vote Yes For Kids: Paul Goosen spoke on this citizens' group efforts to urge the passage of the forthcoming Duluth School District levy to mitigate the \$7.7M budget deficit. This levy is entirely for operations and has nothing to do with the current facilities issues (Red Plan/Blue Plan). The key issue for taxpayers is whether or not to increase taxes to help insure kids get an appropriate education. Paul encouraged all of us to go the www.voteyesforkids.org to educate ourselves on the facts. Voting takes place during the general election on November 4.

Treasurer's Report: Chet reports a total of \$6,128.10 in the various treasury sub accounts.

Membership: No report.

Recreation: Pamela was unable to attend so no report. A general discussion ensued among the attendees regarding the waning programs due to city budget cuts.

Garden Club: Amy requested a \$71 expenditure from the Garden Club account to reimburse Bob Parenteau for a water pump. A unanimous vote approved this expenditure.

Crime and Safety: Officer Jim Rodman updated on the usually heavy incidents in District 1 in general. Not much activity in Morgan Park proper. There have been an unusually high number of complaints about pit bulls in Gary-New Duluth and Morgan Park.

US Steel Gears: Bill reported we are pretty much on hold for renovating and moving the gears until we can sort out a proposed site, legal work, insurance, etc. Probably will be next spring before we can move forward on relocating the gears.

Banners: Debbie reported she has applied for a \$2500 grant to purchase needed brackets for the remaining uninstalled banners.

Morgan Park School: Debbie reported how grateful the school was to have several Morgan Park volunteers at the main entrance welcoming the kids to school on their first day back. Debbie will continue to work with the school's leadership on our partnering with them.

Morgan Park Restaurant: Debbie, Carl, Bill, and Wayne met with owner Dan Nelson at his building to see how the renovation is progressing. Dan had hoped he could get something up and running by this month (October), but right now it looks more likely for a spring grand opening.

USPS Morgan Park Branch: The Morgan Park Post Office closed at the end of September. Alternate locations for postal service are being sought at Super America or Park State Bank.

Minutes: September minutes were unanimously approved (motion Chet, second Debbie).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Leadership Institute (CLI) Forum: Debbie and Polly will attend this NeighborWorks America sponsored forum in San Jose October 23-26. Report in November.

November 4 Elections: Our next MPSCC meeting is on Election Day. We usually get a good turn out as MP residents will attend the meeting after voting. There was some discussion about holding MPSCC elections during this meeting but decided to delay until December or January considering some of the key contenders for leadership positions had to withdraw due to personal and professional commitments. Louise will have to immediately step down as President. In her role as Neighborhood Coordinator, Debbie will preside over forthcoming meetings until new officers are elected and installed. In a separate issue, a recommendation was considered to hold next month's meeting in the empty spaces of the Lakeview Store Building in a show of support for garnering new business. It was decided best to hold off on such an event in favor of attending a proposed open house at Lakeview Store.

Haunted Shack: Fund-raising event starts Friday, October 5. Unanimous vote (motion Carl, second Polly) to donate \$100 again this year (same as last year) to the cause.

UP Church Halloween Carnival: Fund-raising event starts October 17. Unanimous vote (motion Wayne, second Carl) for a first-time donation of \$100 to the cause.

Breakfast With Santa: Saturday, December 6, 9AM-noon.

With no other business to discuss, Louise closed the meeting precisely at 8:07 PM.

Wayne Purser
Acting Secretary