

MINUTES OF November 4th, 2008
MORGAN PARK-SMITHVILLE COMMUNITY CLUB (MPSCC) MEETING

Once again our Morgan Park hero, Lucille Kolberg, made it worth attending the meeting by treating us to cupcakes in honor of her birthday. Thank you so much Lucille—and Happy Birthday. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by president, Louise Kolthoff.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Following introductions, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Chet Johnson provided a treasury report.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

There was no membership committee report

UPDATES

RECREATION:

No update. The city is still looking at which facilities it will close. The Riverside Community Club may consider using the Good Fellowship Community Center for its meetings as the community club in that community is scheduled to close.

GARDEN CLUB:

Amy Johnson presented a plaque to local hero Lucille Kolberg in recognition of all her help in keeping the flower gardens in Morgan Park looking so beautiful.

Bill Majewski reported that the city has an abundance of plastic flower pots that we can obtain to use for the flower sale next spring.

CRIME AND SAFETY:

Attendees reported that dumping (leaving junk on public property) is a big problem in the area. Officer Jim Rodman will work with the city on this issue.

Several new attendees reported on the occurrence of episodes of tire slashing, drug dealing, 4-wheelers in the area, etc. Officer Rodman encouraged them to call 911 when these crimes occur.

REVITALIZATION PLAN

The back of the agenda included the “Morgan Park Top Ten for 2008” which was actually a list of 15 items that Morgan Parkers will prioritize to work on in 2009 as part of the revitalization plan.

GEARING UP:

The gears are turning rather slowly at this time. Bill Majewski has staked out an area in his yard to show the size of the proposed actual site where the gears will eventually come to rest. This effort will no doubt be tabled until spring when we hope to move ahead with the project.

BANNERS AWAY

Debbie Isabell Nelson has applied for a \$2500 grant for brackets for the new Morgan Park banners. There are still 40 banners to be hung up. It was recommended we wait until spring to finish hanging the banners.

MORGAN PARK SCHOOL: Service Learning

Debbie Isabell Nelson reported that she and Carl found benches which could be used in Anderson Square (proposed name of new park where the gears will be). She also proposed that the Morgan Park Middle School students paint the benches as part of a service learning project. The students would proposed designs to be voted on and approved.

Two new attendees at the meeting offered to build a prototype of the bench, so the purchase of the benches was put on hold at this time.

MORGAN PARK RESTAURANT:

We are hopeful that the new restaurant will open next spring.

SENIOR PROGRAMS:

The senior lunch program will continue at the Good Fellowship Community Club.

OLD BUSINESS:

LAKEVIEW STORE BUILDING:

No good news here. CMRA, the company managing the building, had asked the MPCC to hold one of its monthly meetings in the building along with holding an open house, with the hopes that the owner would have completed improvements to the building by that time. Unfortunately no improvements have been made and CMRA called Debbie Isabell Nelson to say they would not be ready.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Debbie Isabell Neson and Polly Purser, along with six others from three other core Duluth neighborhoods, attended Community Leadership Training in October in San Jose, sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services. The four neighborhoods were given a \$2000 grant to complete a project that would benefit all the neighborhoods. The eight attendees agreed on developing and publishing brochures that would highlight the positive aspects of each neighborhood. The brochures will be distributed to realtors, Duluth businesses, and local tourist sites.

COMMUNITY CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

Elections have been postponed until January or February. If you would like to nominate someone for one of the offices, please contact Louise Kolthoff at 348-2252.

NEW BUSINESS:

MINNESOTA TEEN CHALLENGE

Dennis Bradshaw, Dean of Men at Minnesota Teen Challenge and Morgan Park resident, gave an informational presentation on the Teen Challenge program and the Morgan Park location of transitional housing for participants in the program. The participants who are living in the house are men, ages 18 and older, who have graduated from the program or who have been in recovery for over a year. The rules and restrictions are extremely stringent and a house manager is on the premises at all times. The location of the house is 1084-1086, 87th Ave W.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The annual Breakfast with Santa will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, December 6th. Donations are welcomed for the silent auction. Imagination Library will donate books through United Way.

RESIDENT CONCERNS

The meeting was attended by several new Morgan Park residents. One of the attendees expressed a concern about drugs being bought/sold in the parking lot of Super America. Jim Rodman gave her the phone number of the Drug and Gang Unit and recommended that anytime someone sees incidents such as this, they try to get the license plate number of the vehicles involved.

DIGITAL CAMERA AND PHOTO PRINTER

Discussion was held on the possibility of purchasing a digital camera and photo printer for Community Club events. To be continued . . .

Meeting was adjourned. There will be no Community Club meeting in December due to the Breakfast with Santa. The next official meeting will be January 6th.