



The Breeze of Park Point

Report on Candidates' Forum - October 13th, 2015

Lafayette Edible Garden
Sunday, November 15th
5 to 7 p.m. potluck dinner
Lafayette Community Center

Park Point Garden Club
November 18th, 7 p.m.
All are welcome!
Call Harriet Meagher 722-6762

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting**
Thursday, November 19th,
7 p.m. Social at 6:30
Lafayette Community Center

Note: Dennis Hoelscher will be giving a presentation about "Emergency Services Concerns" on Park Point. More information is available on the PPCC website, under documents of interest. parkpointcommunityclub.org



The mission of the Breeze is to serve the community by:

1. Publishing the minutes and financial statements of the Park Point Community Club.
2. Informing the community of upcoming meetings, events, happenings and projects.
3. Providing a forum for Park Point residents to air their concerns.
4. Sharing the history, stories and anecdotes that make Park Point a unique place to live.



Several weeks ago, I was asked to write a synopsis of the forum for Duluth City Council candidates that took place at Lafayette Community Center on October 13th. Although I am more of a poet than a reporter, I have attempted to give a reasonable account of a selection of the questions posed to the candidates at the forum and the answers that they gave to those questions.

At this forum, questions from Park Point residents were posed to the candidates for the Duluth City Council that are directly connected to Park Point. The candidates for Councilor-at-large were Jim Booth, Elissa Hansen, Noah Hobbs, and Kriss Osbakken. The candidate for District 3 (Duluth and Central Hillside) is Em Westerlund.

The first question posed at the forum regarded how the candidates would balance the views of residents and the views of visitors. Booth and Hansen were of the opinion that residents' views were to be heard first, with the views of others coming as the next priority. Osbakken and Hobbs noted that a consensus of the residents should not be overridden by anyone else. Westerlund summed this up by saying, "What's good for the residents is good for the tourists."

The next two questions were closely related, so I will record them together. The first question dealt with how the City Council would deal with informal groups without elected officials that want to have a say in city politics. The second question asked the candidates what they would do if their instincts differed from those of the residents. In both questions, they all stressed the need for greater communication from the City to the residents, and from residents to the City Council. Hobbs said, "If we can move the process of communication to an earlier time, before an issue is voted on, much trouble will be alleviated." On the other question, Osbakken said we need to trust our "inner wisdom," but hear the opinions of all. The other candidates agreed to this, mentioning that the person who is elected has the indirect approval of the residents to act as they think most wise.

After this, the discussion moved to the topic of emergency services and public safety. Hobbs and Booth both emphasized that the Duluth Fire Department is understaffed and that this needs to be addressed. They also mentioned that the City has not always followed its original plan of having first responders that are paramedics come over to the Point before the bridge goes up, especially on busy summer days. Hansen also makes public safety a priority, as she has experienced a house fire personally. Westerlund and Osbakken made proposals to act quickly on this issue, with Osbakken wanting to have a solution to this within six months of her potential entrance into the office of Councilor-at-large.

The next item of discussion was about infrastructure and development. The first question covered was how best to fix the streets here in Duluth. Westerlund mentioned the possibility of growing the population of Duluth in order to have a broader base of taxpayers to support infrastructure concerns.

continued on page 3

The Breeze

Editor: Natalija Walbridge

Submissions for the December issue are due by Friday, 11/27/15.

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Letter from the PPCC President

Hi Neighbors,

The stretch of beach from the S-curve to the bridge looked a whole lot better after a short, but intensive trash sweep on a recent Friday accomplished by enthusiastic high school students from Harbor City International School. Dave Lehmann, an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow serving at the school, and science teacher Brian Scott lead the litter collection and sorting expedition as part of the "After School Special" program at Harbor City. On Fridays, the Student Forum hosts student mixers, outings or service projects designed to build community and foster friendships across all grades. Several students who go to the beach regularly said it is disheartening when people show their disrespect by "trashing the earth."

"If the beach looks nice, more people will come. It is important for people and animals to keep the beach healthy and safe," one student offered. "I love to volunteer and help clean up," said another.

What did the students collect? Among the items collected: 306 cigarette butts, 84 pieces of styrofoam, 326 pieces of plastic debris, a dog toy, a bottle of mouthwash, a flip-flop and a can of hairspray.

Thank you to these students and to everyone who packs that extra trash bag and cleans up our community!

The candidates' forum hosted by the Club was well organized and well executed by the committee volunteers. The candidates commented on the thoughtful, more specifically crafted questions they were asked at Lafayette, compared to similar experiences they'd encountered elsewhere, as well as the welcoming sense of community they found with us. Thanks to everyone who submitted questions for this successful event.

A by-law change will be discussed at our November meeting - a vote will be taken to change the meeting night to the third Tuesday of each month, in order to remove a scheduling conflict that makes City Council members currently unable to attend.

Sky Harbor Update: There has been a final decision made on the Sky Harbor runway reconfiguration. It's the "5a Short Design," with construction scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017. Details on 5a Short are on our website. This is the plan discussed in June at the regular PPCC meeting. Stop by and check in with Brian Madsen, Sky Harbor Manager, if you have any questions.

Small Area Plan & City Planning's Street End Study Group: The City's Study Group will be looking at a draft resolution on Oct. 29. The City Planning Department's goal is to deliver the final draft to the City Council via Councilor Sharla Gardner at the November 23rd Council meeting. Updates will be posted on our website, parkpointcommunityclub.org.

Thank you to the crews from the City who worked on the replacement of decking and repair of the key system. We are in good shape for election day at Lafayette.

Best wishes, and see you out and about,
Dawn and Klaus, canine companion



Report on Candidates' Forum continued...

Booth and Osbakken made it clear that it would be hard to do anything without raising taxes or cutting budgets in other areas. They said that we need to choose which of these alternatives would cause the lesser amount of difficulty. Hansen and Hobbs both mentioned that it would be hard to cut taxes at this time, so budget adjustments would have to be made with respect to environmental and developmental concerns. Hobbs also pointed out that Duluth hasn't had a budget shortfall in eight years, and a budget shortfall is still to be avoided.

Moving on to development, the next question addressed the topic of zoning variances. Booth, Hansen, Osbakken and Hobbs agreed that variances should be avoided except in cases of genuine hardship to the homeowner. These four highlighted the need for transparency when the City deals with the granting of variances, and keeping the character of a neighborhood a priority. Also, Hansen pointed out that the development code is still relatively new and may have some things that still need to be straightened out. Westerlund continued these themes, also mentioning the need for ecological integrity.

This led to a discussion on environmental topics; specifically, what to do with past environmental agreements and plans, and how to approach changing them. Hansen and Osbakken said that times and needs change, but we must give weight to past agreements and plans. Westerlund is of the opinion that some agreements need to be replaced, but that this process needs to be done carefully. Booth says that, "We need to honor past agreements until such time as they are changed." He also feels that we need to take personal responsibility for environmental questions even before the city has addressed them. Hobbs thinks that we need to hear the cases of those who want to change the agreements and those who want to keep them in place.

The issue of street ends was discussed at length at this forum. Osbakken stated, "I bet half the people will disagree with me, but in my opinion, street ends are streets and people should be able to access the lake through them." Booth said he would like to improve Tier 1 and then discuss Tier 2. Westerlund and Hansen want to continue studying the issue and gathering the public's opinion. Hansen has an interesting perspective on this issue, since she is a Park Point resident and has had people walk through her yard to access the beach.

The formal discussion concluded and the forum was opened up for questions directly from the audience. Some of the questions were repetitive of the earlier discussion, so I have not included them. Also, not all answers given by the candidates are recorded here. One question dealt with the library and what the candidates propose to do about it. Hansen, Osbakken and Booth would like to improve the current library before spending a large amount of money to build another.

The other question was about the recent moratorium on Vacation Rental By Owners (VRBO) properties, as well as properties listed on such online sites as Air B & B. All of the candidates supported the moratorium, feeling that the current saturation could set a bad precedent. They would like to study the issue more.

Hopefully, this report will help us to make informed decisions when it comes time to vote, so that we will have city councilors who can effectively represent our city and district. If I have done a good job recording this information, and if the candidates have campaigned effectively, we will be well informed for the task of voting.

Reported by Park Point resident Kofi Wing



PPAF: 2015 Recap and 2016 Primer

The 2016 Park Point Art Fair (PPAF) budget will be presented at the November Park Point Community Club (PPCC) meeting, along with a Coordinator contract, as requested by the Executive Board. Presentations were made both to the Art Fair Committee and the Executive Board last month. The PPAF Committee will also review the survey results and the budget from 2015. Here are some key points they will consider:

One thing we see from the 2015 budget is significant investment in the Art Fair made possible through Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) support. The 2015 budget shows every line item purchase. One focus was marketing and advertising to reach different target audiences: artists and consumers/visitors, as well as strengthening partner relationships. The previous year's grant had a different focus in that category, including creating and purchasing signage, tents, equipment and upgraded graphic identity systems, website and original content, and more. It all added up to a boost we hope to continue to build upon. In 2016, that line item will return to pre-grant budget amounts.

Evaluation for Improvement

The attendee survey (under "planning" in the budget) was conducted and analyzed by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, with our oversight and involvement. This survey provided valuable information that will help us make more informed decisions in the future. For instance, we learned that 52% of fairgoers hear about the Art Fair through word of mouth. This indicates we should begin marketing earlier, so the information has time to be disseminated and can sink in. That will take more coordination and volunteer time, as we are allocating less money for marketing in 2016, but that's the model we've been following for many years with our nonprofit mission in mind—and it's a prudent one.

Both 2015 and 2014 budgets focused on providing music, artist demonstrations and workshops. We had a printing press and an iron pour in 2015, as well as opportunities in clay and fiber in previous years. Goals that the PPAF shared with the State Arts Board, the entity that in two years contributed over \$44,000 to the PPCC, include fostering arts activities by artists, attracting Minnesota audiences to interact with the arts, and solidifying the ability of organizations such as ours to continue doing so successfully in the future.

These grants provided opportunities for the Club to invest in the event and take stock of both our successes and our weak areas; we hope the extra effort and resources will pay off in future years. The reality is that the PPAF faces more and more competition for a) people to attend the varied events held in Duluth each weekend of summer, including other art fairs, and b) artists, who can find many other opportunities to show their work the weekend of the PPAF — from the biggest event in Des Moines, IA, to Highland Park, IL and even smaller venues such as Munising, MI.

The good news: through our team's many years of experience and the recent investments by the MSAB, we know what we need to do to keep the Park Point Art Fair viable in this increasingly competitive environment, and we now have substantial data to support our decisions.

To really make our investment last in 2016 and on into 2017, we plan to continue interacting with our audiences online using our website, email, blogs and social media, especially before and after the Art Fair. We also plan to continue fostering partnerships with other organizations, the way we do with both KUMD and The Reader. We will continue to work to get the word out in different demographics with new initiatives, such as the Emerging Artists Tent. We want to attract the 18 to 30 age group, broadening our base in the future, because the data indicate that, on average, people return to the PPAF eight times. We also want to continue to attract those in the 35 to 50+ age group, because it's they who purchase the most art.

Music and Entertainment

Surveys suggest that only 6% of people attended the Fair primarily for the music, which is not surprising. Given both the survey results and the desire to generate more PPCC funds, after two years of heavy investment from the grant funds, which disallow profit-taking, music is not included in the 2016 budget. It is our recommendation that we separate the music from the budget and look for sponsorships or partnerships to provide what clearly remains a popular element of the Fair. We recognize that many people enjoy the music, and that making it an attraction may be one way to help increase attendance in the future. We will continue to explore ways to offer programming with a budget that will allow us to do it right. To follow the models of 2014 and '15, an estimated minimum of \$2,000 for booking acts and staging music programming will be needed. The Committee welcomes your suggestions in this area.

It is estimated that the 2016 Art Fair will capture a \$6,500 profit for the PPCC, which is almost identical to profits made in 2003, 2007 and 2011. A nine-year review indicates average profits of approximately \$7,500. We estimated profits conservatively, not quite making the average, as the budget reflects cost increases for such things as the artists' and volunteer dinner, portable toilets, garbage and water, and a raise for the Coordinator— after

PPAF continued....

seven years (pre-grant) of the Coordinator fee remaining static. This does, however, reflect a decrease in Coordinator pay from the 2014/2015 grant budgets, when the job included higher management of funds and responsibilities and funding for the position came from both the MSAB and the PPCC.

If the PPAF Committee seeks to amend the 2016 budget following PPCC approval in November, it will do so in writing and present it to the membership again if overall amounts in any category deviate by either 10% or \$1,000.

For more information, including grant information from 2014 and 2015, or detailed survey results from 2015, please contact me or join us for an upcoming Art Fair Committee gathering.

Carla Tamburro, PPAF Coordinator
carlatamburro@charter.net

Pontlana Woods: We're almost there!

Several important milestones necessary for the formal establishment of the Thomas and Ella Pontlana Lake Superior Wetlands Preserve as a Duluth city park have been reached within the past two months. As we had predicted, the five-acre wetland drew no bids when it was placed up for auction by the St. Louis County Commission in October. Mother Nature herself may have taken a hand in the process; rising water levels in the bay together with heavy September rains helped the wetland show its true identity to curious developers. Good timing, Mom!

The strong, solid base of support we have now (including September's 8-1 Duluth City Council vote and subsequent mayor's approval) continues to open doors for us. Funding sources are lining up for an outright purchase of the wetland from St. Louis County. This transfer must take place, as the land is plainly not secure in county hands. The goal is to use public money to buy public land, from the public, for the public.

One option the City is pursuing is a direct land exchange with St. Louis County. This would achieve our goal in one fell swoop, but to hedge our bets, we met with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. They have a program called the Conservation Partners Metro Legacy Fund, which seems tailor-made for this project. Sure enough, they're excited about Pontlana Woods and want to be a part of making permanent its long-standing status as a parcel held in conservation. This would also ensure that the DNR will be on board to keep a watchful eye over this environmentally-sensitive wetland well into the future.

Hedging our bets further, we've also been sharing our progress with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Established by the Minnesota State Legislature, this deep-pockets group controls and disperses the money known throughout Minnesota as the "the gambling fund."

Helping make our case as well are a stunning new series of photos that show off Pontlana Woods and the surprising, spectacular view from its beach. Two very talented photographers contributed their work, which we'll soon post on the parkpointcommunityclub.org website. Our sincere thanks to Jim Davis (Harbor Mystique Photography) and Park Pointer Vivette Botner for their exceptional shots. These outstanding photos will quickly draw you in and excite you at the prospect of walking the trails.

To date, the Pontlana Woods project has surmounted a number of tough hurdles, but we aren't done yet. We're on a roll, though, and have both momentum and many supporters from Duluth and around the State of Minnesota. Keep it up, everyone; we're closer than ever. We're gonna do this!

Dave Johnson

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for information contact Natalija at Dock5print@gmail.com



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Hate Destroys

An elderly woman would shop frequently for food, buying only a few items each time. She noticed the puzzled look of the cashier and read his thoughts. Then she said: "I bet you're wondering why I come here so often, rather than buying a lot at one time. I'll tell you why. I live with my nephew and I can't stand him. When I die, I refuse to leave a refrigerator full of food."

Who's hurting whom? When we carry resentment, anger and hostility in our heart, we are not hurting the one we dislike as much as we are hurting ourselves. It may give us immediate satisfaction, but in the long run it wounds us. Hate destroys the one hating.

Forgiving Father, you have wonderfully made us. You made us for love and forgiveness. At times, it is so difficult. Help me by the example of your son Jesus, who forgives us. Amen

Mass 8:00 AM every Sunday with confessions at 7:40



Spiritual Hospitality!

What's that, you say? Check our upcoming schedule of events and join your friends and neighbors for a warm welcome in your community church.

- Sunday worship, 9:45, Holy Eucharist most Sundays, but on November 29th, this month's 5th Sunday, we'll have the service of Morning Prayer.
- November 15th. 11:00 a.m. - Rachel Babbitt, the Missioner for Community Engagement, will conduct a Community Assessment forum in our Mission Hall.
- November 21st, 9:30-2:00, - Creative Hands meeting. Check our separate article below or contact Sandy Carlson at carlzimmer@msn.com, or 723-1181.
- November 29th - Opening of Advent Art Exhibit, featuring varied depictions of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and a display of nativity crèche table centerpieces.
- November 30th, 5:45 p.m. - St. Andrew's Celebration, including service of Evening Prayer, Kirking of the Tartans, Bagpipes and Dance, Potluck supper and Open McMike talent extravaganza.

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Contact: Missy LePage at
218-208-9545 or by e-mail at
ppccdlh@gmail.com

Creative Hands Invitation

The Creative Hands group of St. Andrew's is inviting you, our Park Point neighbors, to join us at our monthly meetings.

If you work with your hands to knit, crochet, quilt, scrapbook, draw, make jewelry, zentangle, paint, etc. you are welcome to attend.

The meetings are held in the Mission Hall of St. Andrew's from 9:30 to 2 p.m., generally on the fourth Saturday of the month. Each member takes a turn as the host and provides the main dish for our noon luncheon. Everyone else brings a side dish to share.

We are a diverse group of women and men who are friendly and welcoming. Please come as our guest and check us out.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our November meeting will take place on Saturday, November 21st.

For more information contact Sandy Carlson at 723-1181 or carlzimmer@msn.com.

Lafayette Community Edible Garden News

Have you heard singing coming from the community garden at Lafayette Square? The tune goes something like, "Clean-up, clean-up, everybody everywhere. Clean-up, clean-up, everybody do your share." It's the time of year when we clean out our planting beds and put the garden to sleep for the winter. We could always use a little help by way of leaves to replenish our compost piles. Just bring bags of yours to the garden and place them inside the fence.

At our October potluck dinner, LeAne Rutherford led an exercise about what community gardening and meal-sharing has meant to us. You will find the results of her survey in a separate article titled, "I Love to Go Shopping in the Garden."

At our November 15th dinner meeting, we will celebrate our garden's fifth year in production, with Lyn Clark Pegg presenting a history of our garden. Bring your photos and anecdotes to share with the group.

Our monthly potluck dinners and programs are open to all Park Pointers. If you have any questions about our dinners or the community garden, call Coral at 727-6455.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, November 15th, 5 to 7 p.m. - Monthly potluck dinner birthday celebration for our garden's fifth year of production
- Sunday, December 20th, 5 to 7 p.m. - Holiday potluck dinner, party and gift exchange

Susan Peters

Park Point Garden Club: Indoor Flowering Plants



November is here and all our beautiful flowers outside are gone. Any day goes better when we have cheerful indoor plants blooming their hearts out to keep us humming a happy tune. "Plants calm us, reduce stress, increase pain tolerance and speed recovery from illnesses," says Virginia Lohr, Professor of Horticulture at Washington State University. Studies show that indoor plants help clean and humidify air, raise oxygen levels and increase work productivity. Blooming houseplants also bring color to indoor spaces, making any room feel more vibrantly alive. Try your hand at growing cyclamen (pictured) as a start.

Visitors and new members welcomed to all meetings. Please call President Harriet Meagher, 722-6762, for information.

Kristelle Miller

Our Neighbors Need a Volunteer



**Did you know that the Breeze is hand delivered
by neighbors who volunteer?**

We are urgently looking for **two** new volunteers to deliver
for the 1600-1800 blocks.

If you can help, please contact Natalija at ppbreezeeditor@gmail.com.

**We appreciate all of the Breeze delivery volunteers
for making this newsletter easily available to all!**

If you are leaving for the winter season and would like to change
from paper to email delivery, contact:
Dave Haavik at parkpointbreeze@aol.com

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Park Point.....Naturally



For a period of about ten days in mid to late October, the Point (and likely some other parts of the city) was invaded by hundreds of migrating sparrows - Harris' Sparrows, to be precise. They followed the shoreline to forage on the ground beneath lengths of dying tansy, a foul-smelling non-native plant that has taken over vast acreage all along our waterfront. Chances are they spent the summer way north in Canada, nesting in a wide swath from Great Slave Lake to the edge of the tundra.

It must have been a highly successful season for raising their young, an assumption I reached based on the unusually large numbers we have hosted. In breeding plumage, the male is a handsome bird of seven and a half inches. However, it typically turns into a drab brown as it heads south in the fall. It's among the largest of the varieties of the sparrow family.

Most of its kind spend the winter in the brush lands and hedgerows from South Dakota into eastern Texas. On the spring trip back north, a small number may stay in scattered locations in our area. I found no reports of harm from them to crops or gardens. Therefore, they are welcome to live among us - and to gorge on all the tansy seeds they can hold.

As if we haven't enough problems trying to control invasive species in the Great Lakes region, another problem at least as serious is becoming more obvious every year for our wildlife: climate change. Until getting a copy of the small publication, the Loon, I hadn't given much thought to its impact on our birds, mammals, and other creatures native to our inland seas.

Says the Loon, "in recent years tens of thousands of birds have perished from botulism that is erupting in the lakes, and which some scientists believe is partly the result of climate change. Species impacted include the common loon, mergansers, which summer and winter on portions of the lakes - and even the piping plover, an endangered shorebird that summers on parts of the lakes."

A decline in cold-water fish species has been noted. The coaster brook trout population around the Apostle Islands is dwindling, according to the National Park Service. This is attributed to the rise in temperatures. Significantly, the warmer water is just what the goby fish, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and other invasive species dropped here in ballast water from salt water ships thrive on.



Copy by Glenn Maxham with technical assistance from Anita Neinstadt

Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World, published by the National Parks Association, page 24
<http://www.npca.org/assets/pdf/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf>

Let it snow!



THE KICK TURN—1ST POSITION.



THE KICK TURN—2ND POSITION.



THE KICK TURN—3RD POSITION.



ON THE FLAT.

PPCC Meeting Notes for October 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by PPCC President Dawn Buck at 7:01 p.m.

Dawn opened with remarks and appreciation for all who participated in the City Council Candidates' Forum, held two nights earlier at Lafayette. A special thanks went out to those who worked to organize the event and help distill the questions submitted down to a manageable quantity, as well as to the participants themselves. More than two dozen Park Pointers submitted a total of 31 questions, all of which were forwarded on to the candidates for their review. Their thoughtful responses to the questions that were posed demonstrated that they had taken their "home-work" quite seriously. [See cover article reporting on this event.]

A special thanks, as well, to members of the Lafayette Community Edible Garden group, who were "snared" by Coral McDonnell to provide refreshments for the event. [Apparently, they did so willingly, as the cookies and bars were delicious!]

Communications - none over the past month

PPCC Minutes - Minutes from 9/17/15 were approved without adjustment or dissent.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Al Robins was unable to attend, but informed Dawn there had been little change since the Aug. report.

Rummage Sale - Dave Lavamaki - No report.

Art Fair - Carla Tamburo

Jake Tamburo reported in Carla's absence. The PPAF Committee met to discuss both the 2016 budget and to review survey results from last June's art fair. The latter, done by Univ. of MN students in compliance with the MN Arts Board grant, was quite extensive; results and discussion can be found on page 4 of this issue, as well as further discussion of the 2016 budget. There were some "surprise" figures regarding demographics, spending habits according to both medium and amount, and the proportion of attendees spending money at the Fair (47%). Both Coordinator and Committee learned a great deal from this summary, and are excited to apply new understanding to future PPCC Art Fairs.

Budget figures, which appear in detail on the PPCC website, were presented on Oct. 11th to the Executive Board, which approved them for submission to the Club at large. Vote to approve or deny budget and Coordinator contract to occur at Nov. meeting.

Watch Committee - All of us

Discussion of the continuing problem(s) of road disruption during construction; in particular, the narrow lanes in the 800 block of Lake Ave., where the pumping station is now being re-constructed. People remain concerned about vehicle damage as wheels drop into catch basins, which were not raised in advance of this work.

Concern expressed as well over people camping overnight in the dunes, on the beach and in the Pine Forest. One resident reported having a man knock on her door requesting permission to camp in the dunes behind her home. He appeared surprised to learn this was illegal; she found the encounter unnerving.

Youth Committee - No report. Youth committee chairperson open.

Sunshine Committee - Pam Griggs. Pam was unable to attend this evening.

Program Committee - Dave Poulin

Dennis Hoelscher proposed doing an extensive presentation - up to 1/2 hour in length, including questions - on the broad issue of public safety, focusing on the current insufficiencies in fire/paramedic response time and capacity. Discussion regarding how and when this might occur. Great concern expressed from several people present that there had been little follow-through on recommendations made in the 2010 report on this subject, paid for at great cost to the City of Duluth. [Full report is posted on the PPCC website.] Voice vote taken to approve having Dennis make his presentation at the November meeting. As always, new ideas for programs are always welcome.

Environmental Committee - Dick Gould

Dick reported great success with this season's planting of young trees. He believes the work we've accomplished over the past two decades has contributed substantially to the enhancement of Park Point as an integral part of the Hawk Ridge-to-Mississippi River flyway, as birds skirt the Big Lake on their way south to the Gulf of

Mexico and beyond. Both Dick and others in attendance reported sightings of beaver (Hearding Island), otter, fox, deer, pine martens, owls and numerous other bird species, both resident and passerine. Vote taken to spend \$500 to purchase trees to be planted in the spring, 2016 season; passed without dissent.

Pontliana Woods - Ellen Dunlap passed along information given to her by neighbor Dave Johnson, who is heading up the team. Parcel 9, subject of the current effort to preserve the wetland, garnered no bids at the Oct. 9th County auction. [Neither did parcel 8 - also a part of the original area named "Pontliana Woods" in the early 1990's; unlike parcel 9, #8 (between Bayshore Nursing Home and the apartment complex) was also on the block last April, though received no bids then, either.] Dave also met with two naturalists/planners at the state (main) office of the DNR in St. Paul a few weeks back; they are excited about the project and are on board. They offered advice and assistance regarding potential funding sources, and are anxious to continue to work both with our team and other agencies/groups to secure preservation status once and for all. [See full story on page 5 of this issue.]

Breeze - Editor Natalija Walbridge was not present, but encourages others to communicate with her regarding topics of interest.

Old Business

By-law Change Proposal

As discussed at both August and September meetings, a proposal has been made to change the Club meeting date from the third Thursday to the third Tuesday of each month, after many years of tradition. It is hoped this will encourage greater participation on the part of both our District 3 City Councilor and Councilors-at-large, who presently have a scheduling conflict with Thursday meetings. As per existing by-laws, this proposal was posted in the October issue of the Breeze. After explanation of the proposed amendment and any final discussion, the membership is scheduled to vote at the next regular meeting; a 2/3 "yes" vote of those present is required to adopt any amendment(s).

Smoke alarms - LeAne Rutherford asked about a program that was offered through the City Fire Dept. some 8-10 years ago that allowed for the provision of free, permanent smoke alarms installed by local firefighters. She took that opportunity, yet is now concerned that the lithium batteries they contain are nearing their life expectancy, or may even be hazardous in and of themselves. She wondered if others knew about the program, and who might be responsible for any continued maintenance and/or battery replacement. Several present suggested contacting the Fire Dept. directly.

Street-ends - Chelly Townsend reported on the latest efforts of both the PPCC Working Group and the City of Duluth Study Group - the latter having been assembled by Councilor Gardner. Many issues remain up in the air, according to Chelly; they are awaiting the final draft resolution promised from Keith Hamre, the City's Chief Planner. It is the intent of the Planning Dept. to present this resolution to the Council for its approval. The study group did - however reluctantly on the part of its PPCC representatives - complete its survey of all street ends on the Point, analyzing them according to such issues as safety, feasibility of access, environmental concerns, parking issues, etc. It remains the City's goal to develop a plan for "future development," despite their acknowledgement that funds for any such improvement are unavailable at present. Members of the Working Group, despite their consistent urging at the behest of the Club to "show us you can take care of the Tier 1 sites, THEN talk to us about Tier 2," feel they are caught in the middle. Going along with this process suggests a level of compliance with which the group is not comfortable, whereas not coordinating with the City leaves us both without a voice and subject to assertions that we have been less than cooperative. Chelly also reported the Working Group's frustration that the many legal issues and inconsistencies they identified several months ago, with the welcomed help and sleuthing talents of David Bacchus, remain unaddressed by the City Attorney's office...despite repeated requests for comment. The Working Group previously presented these concerns in writing. It seems imprudent, they feel, to proceed with any form of permanent plan until these issues have been addressed from a legal perspective.

New Business

Skating rink volunteers needed. The City will provide support of sweeping and occasional flooding, provided an ice base is there. Many thanks to Dave Lavamaki for his years of dedication to skating at Lafayette.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by Ellen Dunlap, who's STILL just the notetaker, not the Secretary!

Notes from an Appreciative Gardener

At the October potluck of the Lafayette Community Edible Garden (LCEG) group, the 25 members and friends present were asked for feedback on why working our land - our converted hockey rink - has been worthwhile. The following piece attempts to harvest, collate and interpret their responses with the hope of aiding Breeze readers in understanding why our garden group is still viable and growing after five years.

“I Love to Go Shopping in the Garden”

In *One Man's Meat*, E.B. White, author of *Charlotte's Web*, *Elements of Style* and more, asks what makes it worth any man's while to work the land. We ask ourselves the same question: Why do we participate in planting, growing, and harvesting crops in our community garden and in participating in events connected with the garden?

The breadth of reaction to this question at a recent potluck was richly diverse. Feedback ranged from “I love to go shopping in the garden,” to “I feel good about sharing with others [for example, CHUM] through my own efforts.” Responses included the expected as well as the unexpected. And, as might be anticipated, all participants included education and learning in their list of reasons for why we work the land. We have delved into the topics of bee keeping, composting, hugelkulture, butterflies, cheese making, storing or preserving our yield, sustainability and more. We were introduced to new foods and recipes. (What do we do with okra and edamame?) Our garden-ing reinforced our sense of interconnectedness of people, earth and plants, as well as extending our knowledge base by learning about, and with, other community programs.

However, to our dismay, economics was not mentioned. We discovered that if everything were factored in, ours are undoubtedly the most expensive vegetables around! E.B. White itemized and estimated that the one lone turkey he raised cost \$450—in 1937 dollars, yet! Satisfying, yes; cost effective, maybe. E.B. indulges in a bit of hyperbole, but depending on the accounting method, in reality we may argue that because we compost, can, cold store and freeze, we are able to enjoy the garden throughout the year and reduce the grocery bill in summer.

“Making all those good friends, meeting wonderful people who are good company, and appreciating neighbors' talents and kindnesses” ranked numerically second in the responses. The group characterizes itself as “welcoming, laughing, easy-going, cooperative, and friendly.” Leadership is shared. Furthermore, the mutual interest in our garden creates a deep camaraderie leading to community-building. Beyond the educational, social, and practical, aesthetics arose: the tactile aspects of holding and touching earth and seeds; smelling soil and sun; taking joy from the outdoors and being nurtured by nature while we ourselves are nurturers...

We are among those on the forefront of a national surge to be sustainable—to be able to fend for ourselves on the food front. We want to be locavores in the broad sense. In our climate, we have always joked about subsisting solely on cabbage, potatoes, wild rice and maple syrup if we are to depend on what we can grow here. But the LCEG is showing us how to overcome the challenges of growing a variety of produce to enhance meals, no matter the obstacles. Not only do we want to know, we need to know. We need to know because life is uncertain, and because we desire security. In 1937, E.B. White wrote, “The world being in an unusually disturbed condition, the desire for security, whether we respect it or despise it, has grown quietly in all of us, even the young....”

White wrote from our grandparents' perspective. For most of them, gardening was not a luxury but an expectation or necessity. In the next generation, for some of our parents gardening became optional, not a survival skill. It was far easier to go to the grocery store. Life for them was moving in the direction of mass production and distribution. Now, in our little garden, we can recreate “appreciation for fresh food—not food from a can.”

Some of our members choose to work the soil or water the crops. Others choose to connect the children's summer program with the garden undertakings. Still others choose potluck and program. But everyone agrees that the LCEG offers the “best meal in Duluth” once a month.

Join us on November 15th at 5:00 p.m. for the best meal around with a very welcoming group.

LeAne Rutherford, appreciative LCEG participant

White, E. B. (1997). *One Man's Meat* (2nd ed.). Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House.

Small Area Plan Update from the Park Point Study Group

A Study Group consisting of City of Duluth Planning Department officials and Park Point residents (two PPCC representatives, plus two PPCC alternate members, and two Park residents appointed by the Planning department) has been meeting for over six months to complete the charge from the City Council to deliver to them a final draft resolution regarding bay and beach access. As of this writing, City Planners anticipate making their recommendation at the December 7, 2015 meeting of the Council. (The afore-mentioned Study Group was established by current Third District City Councilor Sharla Gardner and Keith Hamre of City Planning, and should be distinguished from the similarly-named "Working Group," which was formed over a year ago in the hope of reaching a consensus among differing parties and subsequently advising decision-makers. The latter consists entirely of Park Point residents.)

The final draft of the Planning Department resolution, "Adopting the Park Point Small Area Plan Recommendations Regarding Use of Unimproved Rights-of-Way for Public Access" is not yet available as The Breeze goes to print; however, its authors have agreed to submit it to the Study Group prior to the next PPCC meeting (November 19th) in order to allow for its review by residents.

Before the resolution is finalized and ready for a vote by the City Council, those Park Point residents who have participated in the Study Group meetings want to share with our readers their perspectives about the process for finalizing the resolution:

- No consensus was reached on the draft resolution presented at the October 29th meeting of the Study Group; there were no votes taken by participants, and no discussion with the group as a whole on amendments made at the end of the meeting.
- Several legal issues within the proposed draft resolution remain unresolved. The City Attorney failed to attend the May 27th Study Group meeting in order to answer questions and provide documentation, as had been promised by the Planning Department.
- Fifteen sites for Neighborhood Access Points to beach and bay were selected, based upon spacing and suitability of access to water for potential users. (There is no timeline for implementation and no clarity on what the impact of this resolution will be on public access prior to the resolution's implementation.)

For your consideration we offer these remaining questions:

- This resolution appears to be a dramatic shift away from what has been historically a mostly open-access policy to a policy of restricted access to the waterways for neighbors, residents and visitors. How did the Frank Jewell resolution from 1990 fit into this process and who decided which parts to retain or ignore?

- What are the purposes and intended outcomes of this resolution – for the City? For the neighborhood? For the citizens of Duluth?

- What legal issues remain unresolved? How can they be resolved, other than by legal action? How does the Planning Department justify its failure to pursue via the City Attorney the numerous legal questions that were earlier presented by the PPCC Working Group?

- How would this resolution be explained to the neighborhood, and under what authority does the Planning Department presume acceptance by the public?

If you are interested in learning how this resolution will affect your beach, lake, and bay access, as well as the access rights and restrictions of visitors, we recommend that you attend the upcoming PPCC meeting on November 19th, and/or contact City Councilors with your thoughts/opinions.

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The Breeze

Park Point Community Club
P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326



Park Point Resident

Numbers you can use

Got (non-emergency) issues you'd like to discuss, but don't know whom to call?

Here are some helpful contacts:

Lift Bridge Supervisor 728-3387

Community Police Officer: Craig Lindberg 730-5727 clindberg@duluthmn.gov

Parks Maintenance Division: 730-4491 (after hours 730-4150)

Dog issues: clane@duluthmn.gov

City Councilor Sharla Gardner: 724-4701 sharla.gardner@gmail.com



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