

PPERRIA news



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Cover photo:
Disappearing Act
photo by Terry Straub
Prospect Park 365 Photography Club

agenda

PPERRIA Neighborhood Meeting

6:30 PM Monday, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
Doors open for refreshments at 6 PM

- 1 **Welcome & sign in**
- 2 **Announcements**
 - A Advertisement for PPERRIA BoD candidates
 - B Advertisement for PPERRIA Committees members
 - C Advertisement for PP Forward Task Force members
 - D Advertisement for PPERRIA Meeting refreshments volunteers
- 3 **Presentations/Discussion**
 - A Glendale update — *Dean Carlson, MPH*
 - B Hennepin County brownfield assessment grant application
— *John Evans, Environmental Services*
 - C Community Oven update — *Steve Cross, PPERRIA*
 - D Winter Parking Q&A — *Cam Gordon, MPLS Council Member*
 - E Pratt Council news — tentative

PPERRIA Board Meeting

7:30 PM Monday, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

- 1 **Welcome & sign in**
- 2 **Consent agenda** — review for approval
- 3 **Regular agenda** — review for approval
- 4 **Reports/Discussion**
 - A Calling Task Force update / Letter to Directors
 - B Alcohol Policy Task Force report
- 5 **Other business**

Prospect Park United Methodist Church 22 Malcolm Ave SE

about

PPERRIA is the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association — the oldest neighborhood association in Minneapolis. Organized in 1901, PPER-RIA was born out of the opposition to the city proposal to level Prospect Park hill, and ever since our neighborhood, through PPERRIA, has embraced controversial issues be it the I-94 freeway construction in the 1960's, school closings in the 1970's, the repaving project in the early 1980's, safety and security lighting of the late 1990's, or Central Corridor Light Rail in the current day. All Prospect Park and East River Road neighbors and businesses are eligible to join.

Your current PPERRIA officers:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | <i>Christina Larson</i> pperriapresident@gmail.com |
| Vice President | <i>John Orrison</i> johnworrison@gmail.com |
| Secretary | <i>Eric Amel</i> eric@msrdesign.com |
| Treasurer | <i>Dick Poppele</i> dick@umn.edu |

PPERRIA business is ably assisted by:

Administrative Assistant *Jessica Buchberger*
pperristaff@gmail.com
612.767.6531

PPERRIA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by PPERRIA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at 612-767-6531 or pperristaff@gmail.com at least five days before our event. You may contact us through Minnesota Relay Services at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 7-1-1.

PPERRIA news is the official monthly newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association with a mission to brief membership in advance of the monthly Board of Directors/Membership meeting.

Editor-In-Chief, *Clarence I. Seymour*; Assistant Editor, *Malcolm Arthur Melborne*; Photo Editor, *Franklin Thornton*; Copy Editors, *Sharon Warwick and Orlin Bedford*.

Email submissions to eric@msrdesign.com. Deadline for the February issue is 13 March 2014.

For a substantial collection of archived PPERRIA minutes, committee reports, past newsletter and event calendars, check out the Official PPERRIA website:
<http://www.pperr.org/pperria/pperria.html>

notes

from the President's Desk

Now, snow, and more snow! My family farm has more snow right now than any winter since 1980. My folks have had to get the neighbors to plow them out six times this year. It narrows our picturesque neighborhood streets too... some areas of Minneapolis have winter parking restrictions in effect.

Our Second Ward Council Member *Cam Gordon* will be at our next neighborhood meeting to hear about our snowy situation and do a Q&A on what remedies are available to us.

Our Nominations Committee has convened a Calling Task Force to contact our members — we will be holding elections for Board of Directors in April and we seek candidates. There will be twenty terms ending, plus a few more Directors plan to step down mid-term. We also have a number of fantastic groups of people who accomplish interesting things in committees such as Master Planning, Membership & Communications, and more.

If you have ever considered running for the Board of Directors, or serving on one of our committees, please contact our staff person *Jessica Buchberger* at PPERRIAstaff@gmail.com or 612-643-1443. We would love to have you.

On a lighter note, it is the end of February. Here's to hoping spring is coming soon!

— your cheerful PPERRIA President, *Christina Larson*

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What does the Zoning and Project Review Committee do?

The committee may have a dull sounding name, but right now we're reviewing a number of exciting projects on many sides of our Prospect Park and East River Road neighborhood. They include the transformation of the Good Samaritan nursing home (on 27th Ave near Franklin); the redevelopment of the block that housed the Bemis packaging plant (on 27th Ave. between Essex and Delaware); a new hotel at Huron Blvd and Essex; and several projects, proposed or already underway, along University Ave. The part our neighborhood north of University Ave, ('Prospect Park North'), is anticipating potentially dramatic change, including what could be a whole new community of housing along 4th St, and commercial ventures, such as the Surly Brewing Company's new 'destination brewery', now under construction on Malcolm Ave.

In addition to reviewing individual development projects, the committee looks at City issues that require neighborhood input, such as liquor licenses, rezoning requests, and revisions to the City's codes and ordinances. Currently, we're looking into neighborhood parking issues, as well as a proposed 'Conservation District' ordinance.

Our charges for 2013/14 include:

1. Review zoning code issues and work to improve proposed development projects
2. Represent PPERRIA interests on City zoning issues and the City's Community Planning and Economic Development department.
3. Maintain liaison with appropriate PPERRIA committees, its Board and other community organizations city wide (such as the University Alliance).
4. Provide an annual update to the Board.
5. Provide for, and/or support, periodic training and continuing education to committee members and PPERRIA membership.

The committee is a diverse mix of residents and business owners who have experience in design, codes, construction, financing, neighborhood history, City politics, and law. We meet, as a rule, on the first Tuesday of each month. In addition, sub-committees, formed to review each project, meet on separate schedules with developers, architects, and the City.

We welcome new members! For more information about the committee, and our schedule of meetings, please contact me, Dick Brownlee, the current committee chair, at dickbrownl@mac.com, or 612-991-9104.

Background photo:
Surly Destination Brewery construction cam
<http://oxblue.com/open/surlybrewing/destination>

Inset photo:
Mr. Dick Brownlee, Chair, Zoning & Project Review Committee



minutes: november

PPERRIA Monthly Community Meeting
November 25, 2013 6:30 PM
PPUMC

Approved January 27, 2014

Welcome and Sign-In

Members & Community-at-Large Present:

1. Julie Wallace, member
2. Huy Nguyen, Luxton Park
3. Jeff Unsyburne, City of Lakes CLT
4. Anne Campbell, member
5. Roxann Goertz, new member
6. Serafina Scheel, member
7. Betts Zerby, member
8. Cam Gordon, Councilmember
9. Dave Barnhart, Business member
10. Doug Carlson, MHNA VP
11. Michael I Johnson, guest
12. Jessica Buchberger, PPERRIA Staff

Board of Directors Absent:

1. David & Sigrid Coats
2. John Cushing & Martha Joy
3. Dick Kain
4. Roger Kiemele
5. Susan Larson-Fleming
6. Florence Littman
7. Will Oberly
8. Karen Murdock
9. Dick & Meredith Poppele
10. Evan Roberts

1. **Call to Order.** Christina Larson, PPERRIA President and meeting chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Agenda.** The agenda was submitted for approval.
3. **Presentation: City of Lakes Community Land Trust [CLCLT] “Homebuyer Initiated Program”.** Katie Fournier, Chair, Livability Committee, Southeast Como Improvement Association introduced the CLCLT mission to provide and foster stewardship of perpetually affordable homeownership opportunities for low- and

Board of Directors Present:

1. Richard Adams
2. Eric Amel
3. Phil Anderson
4. Greg Bernstein (Robin Schow absent)
5. Dick Brownlee
6. Steve Cross
7. John DeWitt
8. Kate Donahue
9. Tony Garmers (Greta absent)
10. Dick Gilyard
11. Susan Gottlieb (Jeff absent)
12. Ken Hampton
13. John Holmquist
14. Tamara Johnson
15. Sally & Charles Jorgenson
16. Tom Kilton
17. Christina Larson
18. Dean Lund (Janet absent)
19. Dorothy Marden
20. Andy Mickel
21. Ann Munt
22. John Orrison
23. Dan Peters
24. Peggy Rejto (Peter absent)
25. Joe Ring (Susan Thrash absent)
26. Rebecca Shockley
27. Jerry Stein (Margy absent)
28. John Wicks (Wendy absent)
29. Lois Willand
30. Paul Zerby

moderate-income families throughout Minneapolis, and indicated that current funding provided an underwriting contribution for two or possibly three homes in the PPERRIA neighborhood.

Jeff Washburne, Executive Director, CLCLT, explained how CLCLT assists household to be able to purchase a home, and policies for maintaining value in the neighborhood while allowing properties to exchange hands affordably in the future. More information and contacts are available on the CLCLT website.

minutes: november

The floor was opened for discussion:

Julie Wallace commented that neighbors should publicize the CLCLT programs to Glendale neighbors to allow them other opportunities to stay in center city neighborhoods if desired as an alternative to affordable suburban housing.

4. Presentation: Community Oven: site update.

Steve Cross presented the update that the Cabrini site is currently not available. Luxton Park Board property is now a possible option should Viking's Good Neighbor Funds be allocated to the community oven project in order to afford union wage labor as is required by construction projects in the City's parks. Work needs to be done to gain approval of the Park Board to do this.

If a deal cannot be constructed with Good Neighbor money and Park Board approval, other sites in the neighborhood could be considered. *Steve Cross* proposes a ranked choice vote if needed at the January board meeting with "no build anywhere" being one of the options.

The floor was opened for discussion. *Steve Cross* fielded several questions from the floor.

5. **PPERRIA Nominating Committee.** *Christina Larson* indicated that Board is looking forward to the annual meeting in March and board elections. Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee and/or running for the board of directors is invited to talk to *Christina Larson* or PPERRIA staffer *Jessica Buchburger*.

6. **Other Business.** None.

7. **Next Board Meeting.** 27 January 2014.

8. **Adjourn.** The meeting was concluded at 7:15 pm.

PPERRIA Board of Directors Meeting November 25, 2013 7:30 pm PPUMC

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by chair *Christina Larson*.

2. **Quorum.** A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

3. **Consent Agenda.** *Tony Garmers* moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded. Unanimously approved on a voice vote.

4. **Regular agenda.** *Andy Mickel* moved to approve the regular agenda as presented. Seconded. Unanimously approved on a voice vote.

5. **Action Item: Sound Wall Agreement.** The Sound Wall Task Force has submitted the following motion, and seconded:

October 25, 2013 Agreement between MnDOT and PPERRIA:

1. *MnDOT will address acoustic concerns by covering most of the wall's surface with acoustically absorbent panels. (See Drawing A, attached).*

2. *PPERRIA withdraws its proposal to address the wall's aesthetic concerns by making physical changes to the surface of the wall, such as adding accent panels.*

3. *MnDOT will address aesthetic concerns by requiring the acoustic panel manufacturer to powder coat finish the panels using the twelve-color design proposed by PPERRIA (See Drawing B, attached).*

4. *MnDOT agrees that, when maintaining the wall and painting over graffiti, it will preserve and maintain the design and colors set forth in Drawing B.*

The floor was open for discussion. Hearing no one, *Christina Larson* called the vote. Unanimously approved on a voice vote.

6. **Nominating Committee.** *Christina Larson* asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. *Andy Mickel* volunteered to co-chair the committee.

7. **New Business - PPERRIA records.** *Christina Larson* announced that at the suggestion of *Julie Wallace*, contact has been made with the Hennepin County Library to inquire if they would store the archive of PPERRIA records. The Library will pick up and store materials as part of the Minneapolis History Collection. Neighbors holding PPERRIA back records are encouraged to bring them to the PPERRIA office for inclusion in the record. Records may include NRP files. Members may opt to neaten files but they need not. The submittal may be as is. Historic photographs are of the first order of importance according to the archive project and will likely be digitized.

8. **Adjourn.** *Tony Garmers* made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Unanimously approved on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Eric Amel
PPERRIA Secretary

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Executive Committee Report

January 13, 2014, 6:30 pm, PPERRIA Office.

Christina Larson, Chair

Attendees: *Christina Larson (President), Dick Poppele (Immediate Past President, Treasurer), John Orrison (Vice President, Admin Chair), Eric Amel (Secretary, Newsletter Editor), Joe Ring (Historic District), Tamara Johnson (Master Planning), John Cushing (Mem-Comm), Dick Brownlee (Zoning & Project Review), Steve Cross (Community Oven Task Force)*

Christina began the meeting by calling for approval on the consent agenda. This was seconded and approved unanimously. She then reviewed the meeting agenda moved some action items around, added a request for a support letter from Hennepin County, added the review of a draft email to be sent to the Directors in good standing to ask if they will run again, proposed to review the Community Garden plan but *Jessica* updated the committee that she has not gotten any new information on the lease/personal guarantee from *Del Hampton* since the last Exec Meeting so that was not passed. *Christina* proposed to pass the amended agenda, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Steve Cross presented an update on the Community Oven project. While there is funding available through the Good Neighbor Fund for the oven, there is not an available location to put the oven in the neighborhood. To have the oven in a park the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board would take more than a year to get approval, which would not be guaranteed. *Cam Gordon* continues to be supportive and seeks a change in the use of City Right-of-ways in Prospect Park. *Steve* will continue to work towards finding a location over the next 6-9 months. If a location is found the task force working on this project will apply to the Good Neighbor Fund for the 2015 season. He will keep the Executive Committee informed if anything changes. Members of the committee offered the suggestion of working with developers working on building in Prospect North to build a community oven and other possible locations in the neighborhood that may not have been explored by the task force yet. The Shriner's Hospital seems to be very receptive to more community projects and may be the best option for getting

the oven built within the year. One committee member suggested applying for a small amount of the Good Neighbor Fund this year to get PPERRIA's foot in the door.

Winning pun: "The idea sounds like it's catching fire!"

Dick Poppele presented the Treasurer's report. *Eric Amel* asked about the availability of the sound wall funds, which would be categorized under the Community Priorities Fund, which had to be resubmitted to the City and we have not had an update on yet. *Jessica* will follow up again. *Dick* walked through the changes in the report, and informed the committee that 1099s will be distributed to independent contractors that were hired in 2013, including the Choir Director. The committee briefly discussed selling the office parking spots for events, which *Jessica* will look into further. *Dick* also recapped the amount of the donations received in November and December 2013.

John Cushing summarized the November MemComm meeting. The committee finalized the LRT Prospect Park Station poster; gave a brief update on the Community Outreach Task Force and the plans for the Glendale Neighborhood by the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority; and various other topics discussed by MemComm. The MPHA would like to present at a Community Meeting and can be either at the January or February meeting.

After much discussion it was decided *Jessica* could immediately buy PPERRIA a computer for around \$1,000. It will come out of the office supply budget.

Dick Brownlee gave an update on the Zoning & Project Review January meeting. This included: The Barnhart's update on their parking lot and empty lot that they plan on developing themselves; a new hotel on Huron & Essex being planned to serve the hospitals in the area; the warehouse at 26th & Essex that was recently sold and is possibly being developed into apartments and a parking garage; 22 on the River (Good Samaritan site) has not met with PPERRIA yet, but will be meeting with a subcommittee group on January 14th; and reviewed the neighborly support (or lack of) for the 58 Orlin garage project then followed through on that.

Joe Ring updated the committee on The Tower 100th

Celebration. The Tower will be open the 12th-13th of July for the event for the cost of \$35/hour for 16 hours in the total sum of \$560. With this the planning committee was able to begin planning the grand celebration that will involve as much of the neighborhood, its businesses, residents, and groups as possible. *Joe* would like the committee and Board to approve the plan for the event so the City knows it's official; and for PPERRIA to approve the budget for the event. *Christina* proposed to approve the event, which was seconded and passed unanimously. *Christina* then asked for those in favor of approving a budget of \$1231, and also approve of up to an additional \$1000 as needed, which was also seconded and approved unanimously. *Joe* continues to find more support from the Parks Board to get the park looking nicer. *Joe* is also asking for support, both financial and non-financial, from local businesses to make this a neighborhood-wide event. This will be announced at the Community Meeting on January 27.

Last year Hennepin County applied for an EPA assessment grant that included the Prospect Park Central LRT Station Area as a targeted brownfields assessment area. *John Evans*, a supervisor on the project, sent a copy of a letter that PPERRIA had previously sent in support of the project with some suggested revisions. The committee reviewed the letter with the changes. *Christina* proposed to approve the amended and updated letter, which was seconded and approved unanimously. *Jessica* will re-type the letter and it will be sent from the PPERRIA Executive Committee.

The committee discussed the NCEC elections and who will volunteer to be the elector from PPERRIA. *John Orrison* volunteered to go.

Update from the Alcohol Task Force by *Tamara*: after meeting and discussing several times before the holidays there are plans to draft a policy for the task force by February's Executive Committee meeting.

Jessica presented the quote from Holos Creative on a rebranding package. The committee chose to look for more quotes from other companies for branding packages and website design.

Committees will need to create budget requests for the upcoming CPP grant and 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Dick Poppele reached out to *Roger Meyer* for a needs-assessment for the neighborhood to create a better budget and work plan. The committees should create a work plan and what they would like to accomplish for the 2014-2015 year. The Admin committee will send out the application to the committee chairs for a better idea of what they should be writing for. *Jessica* will reach out to *MaryBeth Luing* for her hired assistance in the writing of this grant. Admin committee will refer to the hiring policy for further [sic].

The committee discussed the upcoming board elections and potential Nominating Committee Chair. *Christina* will discuss with Board members who may be interested before announcing the chair at the January BOD meeting. The committee reviewed a letter created by *Christina* to send to board members whose terms are ending asking them to either run again or recommend a PPERRIA member to run. The committee offered up several responses.

The committee reviewed the agenda for the BOD and Community meetings, brought up newsletter submission ideas for January and February, and adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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mp

Master Plan Committee Report

January 16, 2014

Tamara Johnson, Chair

The January 16 Master Plan Committee meeting addressed the following topics:

- The upcoming community meeting at the Textile Center on January 18.
- Set up and clean up.
- Gathering feedback from the Cuningham booth
- Sign-up sheets, name tags, etc.

- The 2014 work plan
- We compiled a list of 2014 projects (see separate work plan document for details)
- We decided to put a call-out to the neighborhood for people willing to join a Solar Garden Task Force.

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memcomm

Membership & Communication Committee Report

January 23, 2014, 7 pm, PERRIA Office

John Cushing, Chair

Attendees: *John Cushing, Andy Mickel, Meredith Poppele, Paul Zerby, Diana Dukush, Anne Campbell, Jessica Buchberger (PERRIA staff)*

The committee welcomed and introduced *Diana*, who is interested in joining the committee.

The committee reviewed the LRT station poster and found overall it was well written, though there are a few typos that *Jessica* will e-mail *Drew Kerr* about.

John Cushing reviewed the meeting that the Community Outreach Task Force had with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority in November 2013, and updated the committee on plans that MPHA has for the Glendale Neighborhood. The Task Force will continue to go forward with a neighborhood needs assessment.

The committee discussed any software or other accessories that would need to go with the purchase of a PERRIA computer approved by Exec Committee.

Lunch in the Park should be rebooted. *Anne Campbell* will take charge of February's lunch and check with the Chef Shack about hosting on February 6th. If they are unable to host *Anne* will check with other restaurants in the neighborhood.

The committee discussed the budget and community priority plan for 2014-2015.

Communication:

- Welcome of new residents
- Make it easier to welcome new people
- Check with Como about welcome practices
- Continue communication formats that work best
- Complete assessment of Glendale
- Continue relationship building
- Data Management

Membership:

- Continue Lunch in the Park
- Expand to a Happy Hour?
- Representation at Neighborhood events
- Track events and volunteers
- T-shirts?
- Sustain current members
- Block Club Activation
- GASPA and student connection

The next meeting will be Monday, February 17, 7pm.

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admin

Administration Committee Report

February 7, 2014, 7 pm, PERRIA Office

John Orrison, Chair

Attendees: *Dick Poppele (Treasurer), Tony Garmers, Elliot Klimowski, Ken Hampton, Dorothy Marden, Jessica Buchberger (PERRIA staff)*

Jessica welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves. *Jessica* led the meeting due to *John Orrison's* absence.

Dick Poppele presented the Treasurer's Report from the month of January. The committee discussed what the Prospect Park Forward Fund could be best used for — a project, or to be built to an endowment. They collectively decided to forward this topic to the Executive Committee for further discussion by the Board of Directors.

Dick also explained that the insurance PERRIA currently buys will be upgraded to further protect the Board of Directors and the organization in cases of financial liability, and that PERRIA is working with the City of Minneapolis on a package recommendation.

Jessica will be pulling the CPP grant application together over the next month as other committee's submit their work plans. The application and the 2013 Review is due March 14th. She will be sending the draft of the grant application to the committee to review before the next Admin meeting (March 6), so that at the meeting it can be polished and a budget drafted in time for the March Executive Committee meeting.

This led to a discussion on office space and the potential budget for the upcoming fiscal year. While no official recommendation was made in regards to signing a lease, it was generally agreed that if a 2-year lease can be signed while there is still money from NCR for office space, PERRIA should take that route to stabilize the office and ensure that the landlord develops the back space and make much needed improvements.

Dick wrote all applicable 1099's to independent contractors from 2013. The committee discussed the possibility of changing *Jessica's* status from independent contractor to part time employee. The Treasurer was against this idea because of how much it would add to the work load of the treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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soundwall

Sound Wall Task Force Update

January 29, 2014

Bob Sykora, Chair

Hi Christina —

Eric Amel's design is being realized by some crew of metal-bending-and-painting whizzes in Ohio. *Eric* has provided inch-by-inch instructions and fabrication to his specs is occurring as I write this. Installation will begin as soon as seasonally feasible, according to *Peter Wasko* at MnDOT.

The tricky bit is for us to work out a written and signed agreement between the Commissioner of MnDOT and the President of PPERRIA. The purpose will be to create a contract that PPERRIA can use as a basis for a lawsuit if MnDOT should ever fail to re-

paint the wall in a manner consistent with its original design. I gave *Betts Zerby* a heads-up on this months ago, but then it appeared as if it was going to be an agreement between some MnDOT engineer and the City engineer. Then MnDOT changed its tune, so it's now a Commissioner/PPERRIA contract. From our perspective, I think that's preferable: if MnDOT covers graffiti with an acre of flat brown paint, it is PPERRIA that can bring a lawsuit. We won't have to rely upon motivating some city bureaucrat.

Copying *Betts* to give her a second heads-up about the need for us to arrive at contract language that protects the neighborhood. *Betts*, I'll resend the language I sent earlier.

Make sense, all?

Bob

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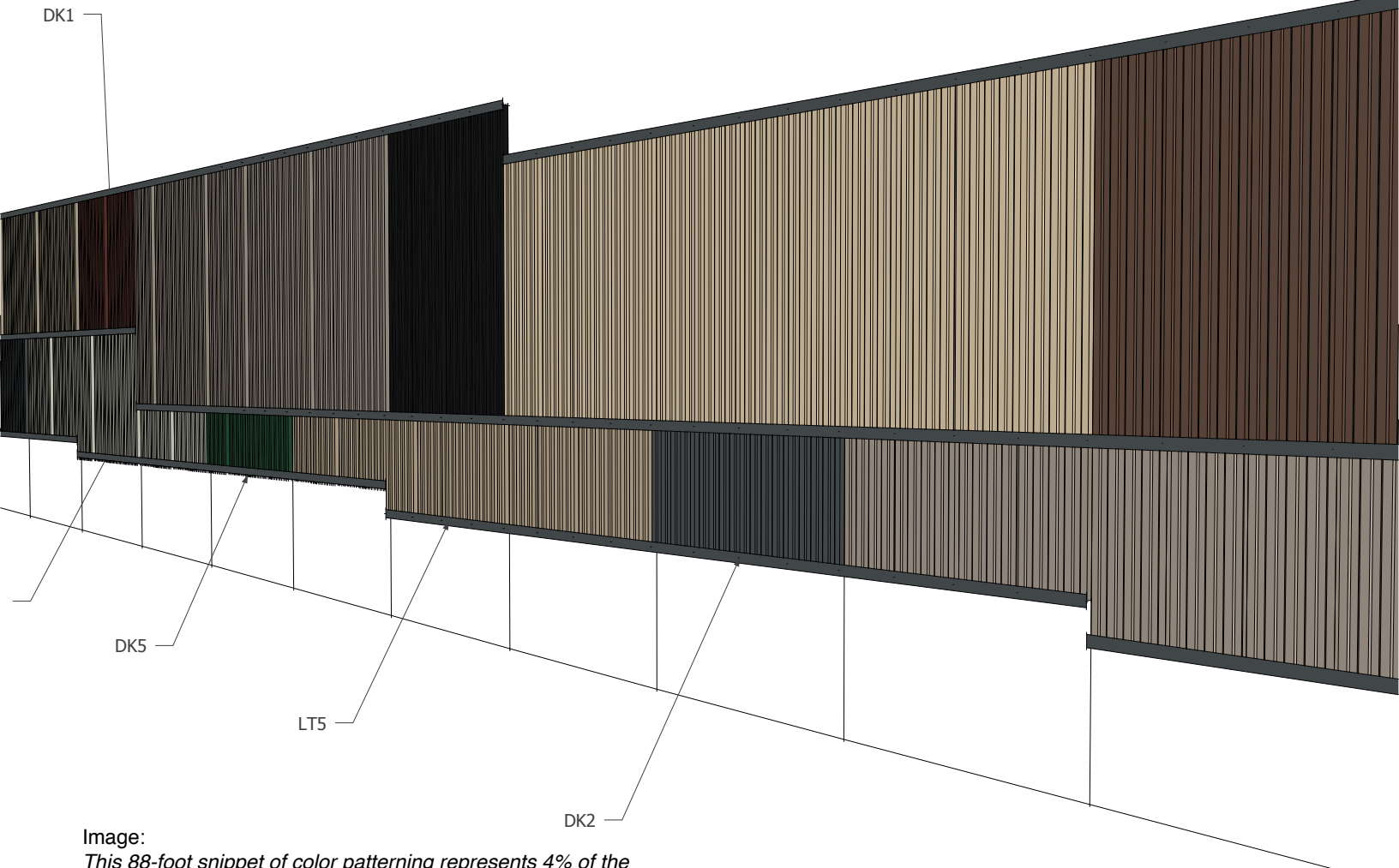


Image:
This 88-foot snippet of color patterning represents 4% of the 2200 foot PPERRI/I-94 sound wall project.

Groundhog



TOWER HILL TILLIE FOR GROUNDHOG WEATHER PROGNOSTICATOR

I am involved with the project of promoting a groundhog weather prognosticator for the Twin Cities. Being inexperienced with this type of endeavor, I need to contemplate various procedures as I progress. I'm still trying to make decisions about news media coverage.

My interest in the possibilities that I am presenting stem in part because of the enthusiasm that I have developed for our neighborhood, beginning in 1943 when my parents and I moved to Prospect Park.

There are many groundhog weather prognosticators in the United States. While the news media covers *Punxsutawney Phil* on every Groundhog's Day (February 2), there are other groundhog weather prognosticators that are not as well known. Some of them are *Woodstock Willie*, *Dunkirk Dave*, *Sir Walter Wally*, *French Creek Freddy*, *Staten Island Chuck*, aka *Charles G. Hogg*, and *General Beauregard Lee, PhD*, who has received honorary doctorates from two Georgia Universities.

I believe that it is certainly time for the Twin Cities to have its own groundhog weather prognosticator. And, I think that our metropolitan area should have the distinction of having the first female groundhog weather prognosticator. Tower Hill is an ideal location for forecasting the weather because it affords a clear view of approaching weather from the west which over time would provide for the development of the intuitive basis that is necessary for a groundhog to predict future weather changes. Also, Tower Hill provides a natural setting for a groundhog's home.

For the above reasons, I wish to promote Prospect Park's *Tower Hill Tillie* as the official Twin Cities' groundhog weather prognosticator.

And, *Tillie's* neighborhood is more picturesque than *Phil's* and is certainly easier to pronounce.

Neal Simons

Editor's note: This letter is reprinted from the PPERR listserv. For those that enjoy tophats, and all interested in the cause, Neal invites your responses to his idea at Towertalker@aol.com.

Expect trains anytime as operator training begins Feb. 24

So staying off tracks is more important than ever

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Feb. 19, 2014 –Anytime becomes train time on the METRO Green Line (Central Corridor LRT) beginning Monday when more than 100 light rail operators start preparing for the line's June 14 opening.

"Staying off tracks and practicing other safe habits around trains takes on a heightened importance. Safety is a shared responsibility, so please visit <http://www.metrotransit.org/green-line-safety> and review the safety messages," said Mike Conlon, Metro Transit's director of rail and bus safety.

In addition, Metro Transit police would like to remind the public that violations of basic transit laws are misdemeanors with \$180 fines.

Weekday roundtrips for light rail trains will occur as often as 10 minutes apart between Lowertown St. Paul and the connection with the Blue Line. The training runs are for 61 newly hired and certified Green Line operators and 58 Blue Line operators and their instructors. The operators already know how to run the trains. The purpose of the trips is to familiarize them with the Green Line route, stations, standard operating procedures and other features.

In addition to these operator training runs, trains movements will continue for test purposes. Test trains may operate anytime, any day of the week. In April, Metro Transit will switch to operating trains on the regular-service schedule from about 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. seven days a week to prepare for the June 14 opening.

What the public can expect

Traffic should not be affected. Trains will operate with traffic, following traffic signals. If signals are unavailable or not functioning, trains will operate under guidance from Metro Transit controllers. Trains normally will not exceed 35 mph during training and after revenue service begins. Speeds will be lower in downtown St. Paul and through the University of Minnesota. Operators will not open train doors at stations or give rides to the public.

Stay safe. Stay off tracks

The Central Corridor LRT Project emphasizes four main safety points:

- Always stay off the tracks;
- Stay off station platforms until service begins in June 2014. After service begins, a paid fare will be required to be on platforms;
- Look both ways for oncoming trains during training and testing and after service begins;
- Cross only at intersections and legal mid-block crosswalks.

How to learn more

With the advent of train testing last summer, Metro Transit, Central Corridor LRT Project staff and the city of St. Paul collaborated on production of a safety video and public service announcements. Project staff began safety presentations to businesses, neighborhood groups school groups and others, and Metro Transit created safety posters for station kiosks, brochures and wrapped train exteriors in safety messages. See Metro Transit's safety webpage for tips for staying safe and how to request a presentation at <http://www.metrotransit.org/green-line-safety>



\$180 FINE

calendar

PPERRIA NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

24 feb

PPERRIA Membership & Board of Directors meetings Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 PM
Prospect Park United Methodist Church Contact *Christina Larson* pperriapresident@gmail.com

4 mar

Zoning & Project Review Committee meeting First Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 PM
PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *Dick Brownlee* dickbrownl@mac.com

6 mar

Lunch in the Park First Thursday of the month, noon
Tea House Chinese Restaurant, 2450 University Ave SE Contact *Anne Campbell* camp0641@umn.edu

6 mar

Administration Committee meeting First Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM
PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *John Orrison* johnworrison@gmail.com

10 mar

PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting Second Monday on the month, 6:30 PM
PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *Christina Larson* pperriapresident@gmail.com

19 mar

Membership/Communications Committee meeting typically fourth Thursday of the month, 7 PM
PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *John Cushing* jccushingjr@comcast.net

20 mar

PPERRIA Master Plan Committee meeting Third Thursday on the month, 6:30 PM
PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *Tamara Johnson* tamara_minneapolis@yahoo.com

24 mar

PPERRIA Membership & Board of Directors meetings Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 PM
Prospect Park United Methodist Church Contact *Christina Larson* pperriapresident@gmail.com

1 apr

Zoning & Project Review Committee meeting First Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 PM
PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *Dick Brownlee* dickbrownl@mac.com

3 apr

Administration Committee meeting First Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM
PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE Contact *John Orrison* johnworrison@gmail.com

26 apr

Earth Day Clean-up 20th annual, 9:30 AM-noon
East River Parkway & Franklin Ave SE Contact *Tom Kilton* tom.kilton.b1cw@statefarm.com

To include items in the next PPERRIA calendar Contact *Jessica Buchberger* pperriastaff@gmail.com
or 612.767.6531

the neighbors

PPERRIA STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Administration | <i>John Orrison</i> | johnworrison@gmail.com |
| Executive | <i>Christina Larson</i> | pperriapresident@gmail.com |
| Historic District | <i>Joe Ring</i> | jring@jringglass.com |
| Master Plan | <i>Tamara Johnson</i> | tamara_minneapolis@yahoo.com |
| Membership & Communication | <i>John Cushing</i> | jccushingjr@comcast.net |
| Organizational Development | <i>no chair</i> | |
| Zoning & Project Review | <i>Dick Brownlee</i> | dickbrownl@mac.com |
| Nominating Committee | <i>no chair</i> | |
| Transport & Transit Liaison | <i>Evan Roberts</i> | evanrobertsnz@gmail.com |

PPERRIA TASK GROUPS

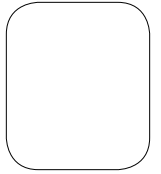
| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sound Wall | <i>Bob Sykora</i> | bob@sykora.org |
| By-laws | <i>Dick Poppele</i> | dick@umn.edu |
| 4th Street | <i>Julie Wallace</i> | jwallace3@comcast.net |
| Luxton Book Exchange | <i>Becky Shockley</i> | shock001@umn.edu |
| Motley Crew | <i>Rebekah Lorence</i> | rlorance@mm.com |
| Community Events | <i>Marybeth Luing</i> | mb.luing@gmail.com |
| Community and River Gorge Cleanup | <i>Tom Kilton</i> | tom.kilton.b1cw@statefarm.com |

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

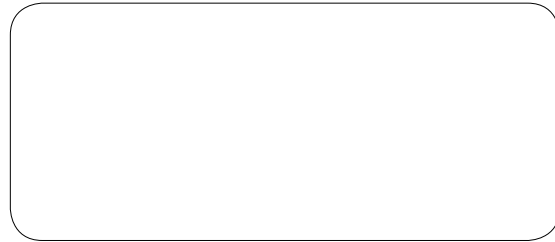
| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Garden Club | <i>Mary Alice Kopf</i> | mollisk@usewireless.com |
| Tree Health Project | <i>Paula Denman</i> | pjdenman@comcast.net |
| Prospect Park Community Gardens | <i>Del Hampton</i> | ppcg coordinators@gmail.com |
| | <i>Sam Johnson</i> | |

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS: PPERRIA REPRESENTATIVES

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| District Councils Collaborative (DCC) | | <i>Phil Anderson</i> |
| Education & Human Services | | <i>Contact: Jerry Stein or Chuck Holtman</i> |
| Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL) | | <i>Susan Gottlieb, Jakki Kydd-Fidelman, Susan Larson-Fleming</i> |
| Prospect Park 2020 | <i>Dick Gilyard</i> | rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net |
| | <i>John DeWitt</i> | jdewitt@comcast.net |
| | <i>Dick Poppele</i> | dick@umn.edu |
| GAPSA, Graduate and Professional Student Association | | <i>Nick Bussa (bussa019@umn.edu)</i> |
| University District Partnership Alliance | | <i>Dick Gilyard, John Kari</i> <i>Alternates: Dick Poppele, Eric Amel</i> |



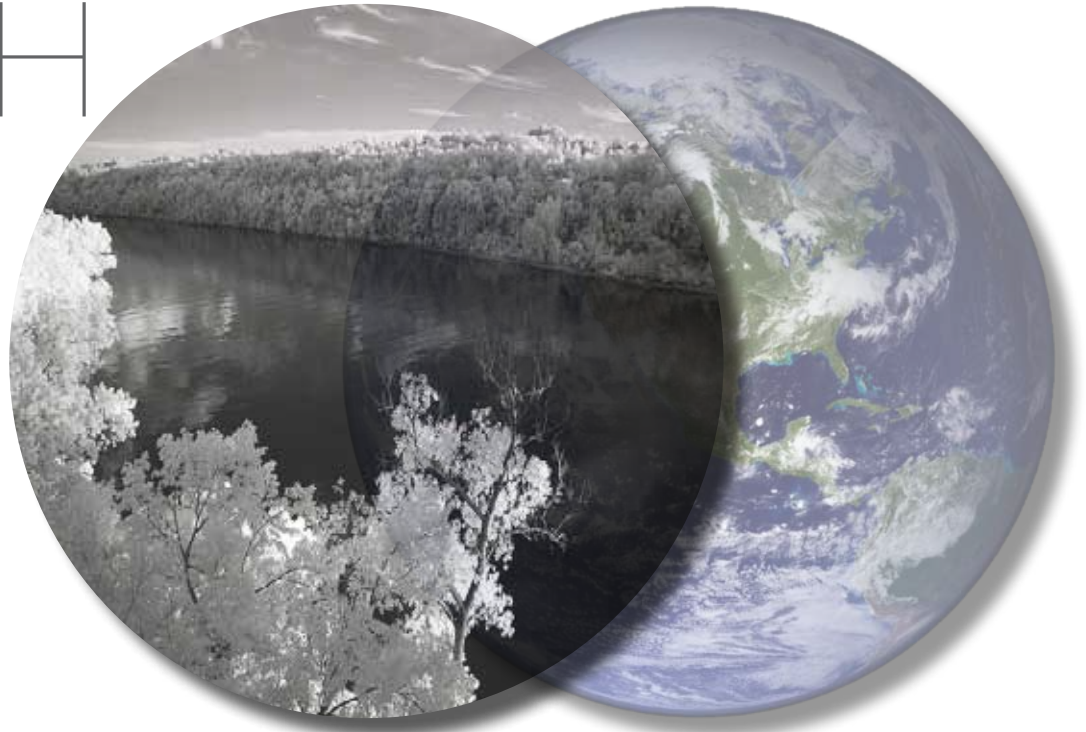
**Prospect Park East River Road
Improvement Association, Inc.**
66 SE Malcolm Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55414



EARTH

DAY

2014



The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board have announced that the 2014 Minneapolis Earth Day Clean Up will take place **Saturday, April 26th from 9:30 am to noon** at more than 40 parks throughout Minneapolis. The PPERRIA site for this 20th annual cleanup is East River Parkway and Franklin Avenue. Residents are encouraged to join their friends and family for a day of service in the community. No pre-registration is required. The annual event involves picking up trash (gloves and bags are provided) in Minneapolis Parks and watersheds. In 2013 more than 2500 volunteers removed 10,000 pounds of trash during that one day event. The day begins with coffee & juice and donuts & bagels, and ends about 11:30 am with pizza and pop. For more information check [pperr.org/annual events](http://pperr.org/annual%20events) or call *Tom Kilton* at 612-339-3064.