

**2012 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:36pm

**2012 Agenda:** moved, seconded, approved

**2011 Minutes:** moved, seconded, approved

**President's welcome**

The Board represents Grove residents in dealings with UMN, the City of Falcon Heights, and the world. It is a conduit for concerns. It assists with real estate marketing. It hosts parties and organizes neighborhood cleanup efforts.

Cooperation over past year was great.

**Communications Officer's report:**

Events: Spring Park Clean up and BBQ, University Grove Home Tour, Night to Unite.

Home Tour July 2013 needs more volunteer houses and a Grove resident pre-tour is in the works.

Homes sold: 1564 Vincent, 1603 Northrop, 2292 Folwell

Thanks to Block Captains for gathering information for directory update

In memorium: Condolences to the families of Gene Mason and Herb Pick, Jr.

**Treasurer's report:**

Beginning of fiscal year: \$2,700; current balance: \$4,700; income: \$3,800 (home tour donation, UMN account and savings account closed out and deposited, dues, real estate web postings); expenses: \$2,400.

Dues: Pay \$40 for two years or \$25 for one year.

Thanks to all of you that paid dues so far. I have received dues from 41 households.

(Additional message from Don, the Treasurer: I missed communicating one thing in the e-mail announcement for the annual meeting. That being this year, we have the option of paying \$25 for one year or \$40 for 2 years dues. If anyone had paid \$25 and would like to change to \$40 please send me the difference. This is in part because we are on solid financial footing due to the work of the board before the current board. Also, half the association expenditures in 2012 were covered by money we received from the website listings, grove home tour, and U of MN fund closure. I am also doing this to make the treasurer-collecting-dues job easier.

Our dues help pay for community events, like national night out event, spring park clean up and picnic, annual meeting costs, etc.

Having an association pays off. The deal the association negotiates for garbage collection is about \$7 dollars less than if we individually negotiated. That is enough to recoup dues in 3-4 months.

You can send or drop off checks at my house payable to UGHA treasurer. 2173 Folwell Avenue. Don Lee, UGHA treasurer)

## City of Falcon Heights

Mayor Peter Lindstrom

Introduction of Bart Fischer, City Manager

FYI: Larpenteur, east of St. Paul border with Minneapolis, was known as Bank Robbers Row 90 years ago.

Thanks to volunteers

Les Bolstad Golf Course: updated information will be posted on a website off the Falcon Heights City webpage (<http://www.ci.falcon-heights.mn.us>; click "Zoning, Planning and Community Development" then click "U of M Les Bolstad Golf Course- present and future.") City government assures transparency in planning process.

Fire Department Study: It was launched after Grove Fire (February 2011). Its aim was to look at ways to improve or make more efficient the city's paid on-call fire department. Topics addressed by the study include: response time, vehicles, and partnerships with other municipalities. Issues raised in the study to be resolved this fall.

Arts: Sidewalk Poetry Winner is Grove resident and amateur poet, Louella Hirsch. Her haiku will appear on the sidewalk on California Ave. Lion's Club is paying for stamp.

Sustainability: Falcon Heights is a Step 3 City (Minnesota Green Step Cities). Solar panels now provide 2/3 of power used at city hall. TenKsolar and 3M made the panels. There is an opportunity for solar bulk purchasing. If 10 households express an interest in buying panels before December 2012, they will be eligible for 22% discount.

Bus Rapid Transit: Snelling will be first road in region with BRT. Opticon Light Changer System will turn red lights to green as bus approaches. Riders will buy tickets at bus stop while awaiting its arrival. Route will link to Light Rail. Coming 2014.

Graffiti: City is working with the UGHA to remove graffiti along trolley path.

Bart Fischer, City Administrator, responded to residents' concerns.

Parking Signs: Signs have arrived and will be installed soon.

City hall parking lot lighting: flicker and inadequate illumination. It will be investigated.

Grove Park ice rink bench: Installing a bench is on Bart Fischer's to-do list.

Drainage: Problem areas will be addressed as infrastructure in areas of concern comes up for maintenance.

Grove Park playground: Two adult swings and baby swing on separate structure would be preferable to current configuration. Baby swing is too high and could be lowered with more links in the suspending chains. Bart will look into it.

## Landscape

Buckthorn: Rebecca Montgomery and her Forest Ecology Class have been busting buckthorn since 2010. About 2 tons of material have been removed and the work continues. In October, the students have identified buckthorn plants on the properties of interested Grove residents. Rebecca double-checked for accuracy in tagging, then the plants were removed, at residents' request. Plants were also removed from the trolley path.

Traffic triangle: Many thanks to all who made the garden possible. The Grove kids' stepping stones are in the garden. The tall plants will be pruned back to improve visibility. Donations of plants, bulbs, divisions, cash and labor all welcome.

Contact Rebecca for details or with concerns (rebeccam@umn.edu).

Steve: Reminder that the lease states that property adjacent to commons is responsible for their care and maintenance (including clearing paths and stairs). Also, a U of M forester must give approval for all work done to trees. Contact Susan Weinberg in the Real Estate Office at 612-625-4539 or weinberg@umn.edu.

This year, the UGHA Board will seek clarification of who controls, maintains and is liable for commons areas.

### **Garbage contract**

Kevin Silverstein, King of Trash, these past 8 years. The Grove has one trash hauler for 103 households. Every 2 years the contract comes up for renegotiation and renewal. This time, there will be no vote as Allied Waste, the current hauler, still has the best rates by a large margin. The cost will increase 4% in the first year and 4% in the second. The Grove enjoys a discount of about 50% by bulk contracting with one hauler.

Recycling: Suggestions for dealing with challenging materials included listing items on TwinCitiesFreeMarket.org and freecycle.org. Styrofoam packing peanuts are accepted at UPS stores.

### **University of Minnesota**

Representatives from the U of M were: Jan Morlock, Director of Community Relations; Peg Wolff, Coordinator; Michael Denny, Complex Project Manager; and Jon Steadland, Associate to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Initiatives and taskforce member.

Les Bolstad Golf Course: Recreational Sports has \$7.5 million budget which still needs to be funded. The report of the taskforce charged with setting priorities and establishing next steps is due in December 2012. The stated goals for the course are that it be a "quality course" that meets the needs the community while working within a self-sufficient business plan. No boundary changes. No land use changes. Challenges include how to rebuild/renovate the club house, rebuild other buildings, install new irrigation, solve drainage problems, and address distance from parking lot to club house.

Comments from residents: Cross-country skiing and running are important to the neighborhood. The trees are an important part of our history and the ecosystem. Is the chain link and barbed wire fence necessary? What happens if the money isn't raised to fund project?

Bell Museum at Cleveland and Larpenteur: No news. The new museum is designed and ready on paper. The plan has been line item vetoed twice. No other plans for the site made known.

Contact Peg Wolff with any questions or concerns at 612-624-6504 and wolff002@umn.edu.

**Other issues**: What can be done about Japanese Beetle? No one had any good answers.

**Election of officers**: Candidate list was moved, seconded, voted on and passed. Current officers will serve for another year.

### **Closing**

Adjourned at 9:05pm

\*Liberties have been taken with chronology.