

University Grove Homeowners Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 15 October 2013
Falcon Heights City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue

Meeting opened at 7:31pm

Agenda Approved

2012 Minutes Approved

President's Welcome: Steve Taff

City of Falcon Heights Report (Mayor Peter Lindstrom with City Manager Bart Fischer and Council member/Grove resident Beth Mercer-Taylor)

- Josh Jordan, Falcon Heights Tae Kwan Do instructor, says Falcon Heights kids are the best he's ever taught
- Thanks to all who have volunteered
- Consider applying to fill the opening on the Planning Commission
- Successful partnerships in the Grove include: the Traffic Triangle garden, Buckthorn Bust and Graffiti removal project
- Election Day November 5th-vote for school board members and city officials

Parking Study: Send concerns to the University Grove homeowners association (UGHA) officers and attend community meetings (TBD). Findings will be emailed to the UGHA and shared. Concerns noted and discussed: east end of Folwell and Hoyt, as well as Burton, can be impassable to plows, busses and emergency vehicles; cars parked on streets have blocked driveways; State Fair and Roy Griak events make parking situation worse. Options will be discussed, including permits. Coordination with city and UMN programs will be necessary.

Fire Department:

Fire Department Study results are on city website and there is a link to it on the Grove website. The report summary was that Falcon Heights is getting a very good value from its fire services and is being protected by a small but very efficient department.

A bond will be necessary in 2014 to fund new ladder truck (\$750,000).

FEMA Grant (\$200,000) enabled purchase of 30 new Self-contained Breathing Apparatus that hold more air and are compatible with those used by Roseville fire fighters.

Home Fire Audit Program – call City Fire Inspector Mike Arcand directly: 651-792-7629 or mike.arcand@falconheights.org to arrange an appointment for him to come to your home, walk-through, discuss hazards and make plans.

Hermes Site: The 3.4 acre property will be redeveloped with 47 affordable and market-rate units, plus an urban farm with a retail unit. The property will be managed by St. Paul-based CommonBond Communities and the urban farm by the Pohlrad Family Foundation of Minneapolis.

Sustainability: 220 MN-made solar panels provide two-thirds of power to City Hall. The Community Solar Garden Project is a solar array that provides electricity to subscribers. Anyone from Ramsey or Hennepin Counties may subscribe. The panels are built away from subscribers' homes, but they can power 5% to 100% of the household.

Major Sewer Project 2014-2015: The City will rebuild sewers and streets in the Grove in 2014. This work will (hopefully) remediate root incursion and street drainage throughout the neighborhood. Sidewalks are not a part of this project, but curbs will be. This work will be funded by the City. Contact Bart Fischer at 651-792-7611 or bart.fischer@falconheights.org with questions and concerns.

Parks and Recreation Commission: This is a “chance in a generation to make the park what we want...” said Council member and Grove resident Beth Mercer-Taylor. The Commission is conducting a Park Study to determine and to prioritize the needs of the city’s parks. The study will be completed by March 2014 and recommended projects will commence soon after. The Commission NEEDS to hear from everyone who uses Grove Park so they know what is needed and wanted. [The Commission and City Parks and Public Works have no sense of how, or even if, we use the park. The population shift of the past few years was surprising news. They will only know that we value it if we all tell them. They will only know how it could be made better if we tell them. Please, tell them.] The best contact is Michelle Tesser at 651-792-7617 or michelle.tesser@falconheights.org.

Grove Park: There will be a pleasure ice rink, weather permitting, winter 2013-2014. There is no plan to replace baseball back stop.

Snow and ice removal: If the sidewalk is not cleared 24 hours after snowfall, the City can be called to clear it. The household responsible for clearing that section will be billed for the service. Anyone can call. No sand is available through the City to improve traction on ice. Bags are available for purchase at hardware stores.

University of Minnesota Report (Peg Wolff)

St. Paul Campus Capital requests include: Bee Lab could move to 12,000 sq. ft. facility at Cleveland and Larpenteur (current location of bee hives); Invasive Species Lab would be improved; Microbial Sciences Research Building built. Funding has not yet been secured.

Golf Course: No major changes. Funds have not yet been raised.

Athletics Facility Assessment: If East Bank development happens, the track will be moved to the northeast corner of Larpenteur and Cleveland. It is still in discussion, \$190 million must be raised and feasibility determined. The UGHA is working to be a part of the decision-making.

Bell Museum: Representative Alice Hausman has not included a new museum of natural history in state capital requests. A State Museum of Natural History would be funded from other sources. The UGHA must be a part of that planning process.

When will campus be renamed “Falcon Heights”?

Treasurer’s Report (Don Lee) was approved

Communications Officer’s Report (Karen Kloser)

June 2 Grove Spring Park Clean-up & Potluck BBQ – Success!

Aug. 6 Grove Night to Unite Block Party – Success!

July 20 MN Historical Society Grove Home Tour – Success! Thank you volunteer coordinator: Terri Cermak. Thanks to homeowners of the six homes that participated in the tour. A new volunteer coordinator is needed for 2014 tour.

Homes sold: 1588 Fulham, 1570 Vincent, 2140 Folwell.

Welcome, new neighbors:

1588 Fulham: Michelle Mason & Hisham Bizri & 11-yr-old daughter, College of Liberal Arts; 1570 Vincent: Peter & Martha Kennedy with & a 2-yr & 4-yr old, College of Biological Sciences; 2140 Folwell: Kate Walthour & Matt & an 8-yr-old son, School of Social Work.

Website is due for redesign. Thank you, Evan Tang, website tech.

Grove neighborhood is frequently in the local architecture and home design news because of the popularity of mid-century modernism. October Park Bugle issue had a 4-page spread on the Grove written by Judy Woodward.

Goodbyes to Brenda Zimmerman, 2225 Folwell, and Kathleen Sellew, 1588 Vincent.

President’s Report (Steve Taff)

Thanks to everyone.

No major crises this year. Car break-ins and an attempted house break-in were reported.
REMOVE VALUABLES AND LOCK YOUR CAR. REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.

The Commons and Trolley path: remind lawn crews to remove and dispose of clippings and brush
elsewhere – no dumping.

The Lease and the Commons: The University of Minnesota is proposing an increase in lease payments (to \$500) for every new lease signed (name changes). In exchange for increased payment, the University will fix the trolley path, maintain and remove trees in Commons, repair stairs and railing north of Vincent, remove graffiti and repair retaining walls along trolley path. This does not fully clarify who is liable; who is responsible for enforcement; and who has long-term responsibility to maintain structures. This does not address maintenance of Ford Street (path between Hoyt and Folwell) or path and steps between Mason and Hallaway/Pardey (between Folwell and trolley path). Changing lease payment may be a “change” to lease and not simply “clarification.” This will be an issue for next Board.

Other Issues

Garbage contract will be renegotiated 2014. Could/should south side of Hoyt be included? Thank you, Kevin Silverstein.

Tennis recycling now accepts plastics 1-7 including newspaper film plastics, please put all plastic bags together into one bag, and put Styrofoam all together in a separate bag.

Kitchen compostables pilot coming in 2014-2015.

Grove resident Susan Harding will dispose of hazardous materials and old computer equipment upon request.

Election of Officers: Steve Taff

Candidate list was moved, seconded, voted on and passed. The 2014 UGHA Board:

- President: Mike Bougie
- Vice President: Ken Winters
- Treasurer: Damon Anderson
- Secretary: Carol Klee

Thanks to outgoing UGHA Board members for serving two consecutive terms.

Adjourned at 9:08pm

Homeowners' Reminders

Lease approval required:

- Tree trimming or landscaping
- U of M listed as “Lessor” on homeowners insurance - Any questions, contact the U of M Real Estate Office
- Grove Lease Insurance Requirements (verbatim):
 1. Maintain fire and extended coverage insurance on all improvements at 100% of the full insurable value of said improvements, which insurance shall name REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA as an additional loss payee as its interest may appear.
 2. Maintain general liability insurance in an amount not less than \$500,000, which insurance shall name REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA as an additional insured and as an additional loss payee as its interest may appear.
 3. Provide the University (c/o Real Estate Office, 424 Donhowe, 319 15th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455) a certificate of insurance evidencing the coverage described in 1 and 2 above, at commencement of the land lease and upon the renewal of each policy.
- Clean up after pets. Remove ragweed. Keep sidewalk and paths free of snow/ice. Trees must be trimmed back to 6ft above sidewalk.
- Maintain the commons, following current Lease provisions.