

# January 2007 PPERRIA Newsletter



## **PPERRIA Board/Membership Meeting Notice** **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church,  
corner of Orlin and Malcolm Avenues Southeast

**If you have special needs that require accommodations please contact Joyce Barta at 612 378-9268 and we will make every attempt to meet that need.**

### **Motions to be heard on Jan. 22:**

**Release \$35,000 in NRP Funds for SWIM (Somali Women in Minnesota) program to help Somalis prepare for home ownership.**

### **Letter from President Joe Ring re Tower Grocery Site**

For the last 9 to 12 months the PPERRIA organization has been trying to work with the new owner of the Tower Grocery building at Bedford and University to bring it into compliance with the building code and zoning requirements of the City of Minneapolis. This has been

### **Letter from Joe Ring**

Continued from page 1

This inconsistency lends itself to hardship and financial loss to some members of our community and a free pass to others. The events that I have witnessed that bring me to this conclusion are when our store was located on University Ave. and the Sidewalk Inspector wanted to site us with a fine and cleanup order for blocking the sidewalk on St. Mary's Ave, but when it was pointed out to him that the trash he was inspecting came from the Skip Humphrey campaign office it was no longer an issue for him and the walk stayed that way for over three months. The other incident that I am aware of is when my neighbor at 107 Melbourne Ave. SE remodeled her basement without any permits on her new electrical and plumbing service and when the City Inspections Department found out they fined her and required her to pay for permits and inspection which led to her needing some of the work to be done over to code. This is the same situation that we have with the new owner of Tower Grocery building but the Inspections Department is not interested in pursuing her violation.

My questions to my fellow community members are:

- Do you know of any other similar events involving the Minneapolis Inspections?
- Do you feel this should be an action item for the PPERRIA organization?

If you can say yes to either of the above please come to the PPERRIA Board / Membership meeting on January 22 or E-mail me at ( [jring@visi.com](mailto:jring@visi.com) ).

Joe Ring

PPERRIA Membership and Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, November 27, 2006, 7:10 p.m. PPUMC

1. President Susan Joe Ring called the meeting of the Association to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. A motion to approve the agenda, as corrected by Joe Ring, was made by John DeWitt. Passed without noes.
3. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 23 Meeting was made by Mary Alice Kopf. Passed without noes.
4. **Energy Survey:** Eric Gustafson of the Corcoran Neighborhood spoke to the group about the activities of the Center for Energy & Environment, and demonstrated a website at [mnenergychallenge.org](http://mnenergychallenge.org), which provides a carbon calculator which measures home and vehicles energy use and calculates the environmental and financial savings that can be had for different actions you can take in your own everyday activities. It also measures neighborhood against neighborhood's progress in helping to eliminate environmental contamination.
5. **Riverside Market:** Joel Ahlstrom spoke about the plans he has to open a new 10,800 sq. ft. Riverside Market at the corner of Emerald and University Avenues. Construction on the property will begin in March 2007, according to Wellington Development, with completion in approximately a year. The store will have both structured and open parking, with access from Emerald, and will be accessible for the disabled. A wine shop will also be on the premises of the new building.
6. **Volunteers for Central Corridor Advisory Committee:** Joe requested volunteers to serve on a new Central Corridor Advisory Committee, which will report to a Management Committee, which will report to the Metropolitan Council on plans for the Central Corridor light rail line. John Wicks, Dan Peters and John DeWitt volunteered.
7. **Volunteer for River Gorge Task Force:** Tom Kilton spoke to the need for the neighborhoods of Prospect Park, Longfellow, Seward and West Bank to provide a volunteer to sit on a River Gorge Task Force. Irene Jones of Longfellow has expressed an interest in serving, and given the indecipherable charge to the group, no one from Prospect Park indicated an interest.
8. **SAAG Report:** Dick Poppele reported on the activities of the Stadium Area Advisory Group in gathering information through research by CURA and through 25 different groups meeting and providing feedback about the University's impact on the surrounding communities. A report to the legislature, as required by

the enabling legislation for the University TCF Stadium, is due in February 2007. Dick reported that much information had been gathered, but thus far no recommendations had been agreed upon by the SAAF taskforce. It has been pointed out that each of the neighborhoods has different needs. Dick expressed his hope that the group would adopt specific proposals this week. Concern was expressed that with the timetable of meetings, there would be no opportunity for the neighborhoods to react to the proposals. Dick's suggested proposals, which he will present to the SAAG group are for the creation of a Community Development Corporation supported by a legislative fund of 5 to 10 million dollars, and a University Area Advisory Group directed to develop a comprehensive plan for a University District. Other suggestions offered by Florence Littman included having the University declare its boundaries, supporting a University code of conduct for students both on and off campus, a fund to help faculty and staff purchase housing in surrounding neighborhoods, creating partnerships between the University and local neighborhood schools, integrating University programs with the communities.

#### 9. **Livability Report:**

**Crime:** Joe Ring reported that burglary and thefts were down in 5-10% in Prospect Park in the fourth quarter of 2006 compared with the fourth quarter in 2005, but there were 2 rapes in 2006. Marcy-Holmes has had a large increase in burglary and thefts in the recent quarter.

**SoundWalls:** Joe reported that the East River Terrace community had met with the East River Mews group seeking a sound wall along the west side of Highway 94, and will present a new resolution to PPERRIA at the January meeting. Phyllis Kahn pointed Joe to legislation that requires the City of Minneapolis to create a mitigation plan and require the Minnesota Department of Transportation to provide protection for new construction. This was not done prior to approval of the Brighton Development plans.

**Hubbard St. Paul Conditions:** The St. Anthony Park District Council has developed a set of conditions to attach to the development of the student housing project proposed by JPI, which will serve as a precedent for addition housing projects in our area. JPI is doing a survey which leads to a conclusion that Minneapolis should approve development of housing on the Minneapolis Hubbard property.

9. **Zoning Report:** Florence Littman reported that **Mflats** project was turned down unanimously by the Minneapolis Planning Commission, in spite of support from PPERRIA. The Commission wanted more commercial space, and lower density. Subsequent research has revealed that the Mflats developers are marketing their project as student housing rather than as a mixed-use development. The developer is now attempting to create a 54 unit development on just the car wash property at Arthur and University Avenues. The **Stadium Village Plaza** (site of former Blockbuster) has requested an additional parking variance. Dorothy Davey moved that Florence be authorized to write a letter saying that the developer should be required to make the area more pedestrian friendly before any additional parking variance should be allowed. Motion passed.

The **Tower Grocery** owners have failed to put a fence between its property and that of its residential neighbors as required by the city. The owner has also not obtained a permit to conduct a contracting office on the premises. Cam Gordon reported that the inspections department had noted that the property had been cleaned up, that a contracting business was not being conducted on the premises, and that the property was for sale, and therefore no action need be taken. Florence reported that the Zoning Committee had passed a resolution and moved its adoption: PPERRIA President will arrange a meeting with the Inspections Department and other involved city departments, if necessary, to determine why the city is not enforcing its regulations. If that fails PPERRIA will explore legal action on behalf of the neighbors. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn by Peter La Sha Adams was passed without noes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Zerby

## **Report to Legislature on Impact of University of Minnesota on Surrounding Neighborhoods**

As part of the legislation funding a football stadium on the University of Minnesota campus, the legislature required a report from the Stadium Area Advisory Group on the impact of the University of Minnesota on its surrounding neighborhoods. This report is available in full in draft form at the [pperr.org](http://pperr.org) website. The report, titled *Moving Forward Together: U of M Twin Cities Campus Area Neighborhood Impact Report* was prepared primarily by Dan Cornejo of Cornejo Consulting, after meetings, surveys, and e-mail communications with stakeholder groups in five neighborhoods, SE Como, Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park, Cedar-Riverside/West Bank, and the University neighborhood, the City of Minneapolis elected officials and staff, and officials of the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College, as well as with student associations, and the business associations in the area. Research on existing data, mapping, trends analysis, best practices and strategies for building partnerships among the stakeholders, and to provide an urban policy perspective were conducted by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. This 20+ page report with recommendations to the legislature is well worth your review.

Here is a brief summary of the basic provisions (prepared by Dick Poppele, a member of the SAAG Committee):

1. Request the legislature to declare a University Community Partnership District (U plus neighborhoods).
2. Create an alliance to be governed by representatives from the U, the City, the neighborhoods (and others) to plan, manage and initiate programs.

Recommendations and requests:

- a. Continue initiatives already underway. (mostly re housing, includes U outreach and City plans for a SE inspections sweet)
- b. Provide start-up funding for the alliance to begin work (mostly staff time and planning; intention here is to provide for neighborhood staffs)- \$500,000.
- c. Take immediate action on several high priority issues to begin work in 2007 (includes initiatives to improve rental housing, educating tenants, rehab and safety)-\$5,000,000.
- d. Capitalize an endowment to provide continuing funding for alliance activities (again including staff) to implement a long term plan - \$20,000,000.
- e. Provide additional endowment funds from matched alliance fund raising to implement Phase II projects.

**Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee**  
 Volunteers are needed to serve on the PPERRIA nominating committee to propose new board members to be elected in April. Call Joe Ring at 612 379-4587 or e-mail jring@visi.com.

**Contractor Activities 12/08/2006 – 01/04/2007 -**

There were a total of 16 billable contractor hours this month. 2.25 hours were billed to PPERRIA as per the 2006 budget, an expense of \$45. Total budgeted: \$1000. Amount remaining: \$0. The remaining 13.75 hours were billed to PPERRIA NRP as shown below.

**January NRP/PPERRIA Contractor Activities 12/08/2006 – 01/04/2007**

Supported PPERRIA activities, NRP I, and NRP II			
Contractors' services:	Hours billed	Total expense	% of total Budget
12/08/06 to 01/04/07	<b>13.75</b>	<b>\$ 275.00</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
10/18/95 to 12/08/06	<b>10,647.91</b>	<b>\$183,530.15</b>	<b>95.1%</b>
10/18/95 to 10/06/06	<b>10,661.16</b>	<b>\$183,805.15</b>	<b>95.2%</b>

Total revised PPERRIA NRP Phase 1 budget for independent contractor services = \$206,426.89\*;  
 \$9,114.22 remains.

**PPERRIA Committees and Chairs**

Community Events	Lois Willand	loiswilland@mn.rr.com	378-9697
East River Gorge Park	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
Education & Human Services	Susan Larson-Fleming	flemings@usfamily.net	331-8819
Environment			
Executive	Joe Ring	jring@visi.com	379-4587
History Project	Betts Zerby	ejzerby@yahoo.com	379-8095
Housing Redevelopment	Florence Littman Dean Lund	littm005@umn.edu djlund@usfamily.net	331-2970 378-2486
Housing Improvement	Andy Mickel	andym@pperr.net	331-8396
Landscape	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@earthlink.net	379-7436
Landscape subcommittee: Tree Health Project	Paula Denman	pjdenman@mn.rr.com	338-1871
Livability	Joe Ring	jring@visi.com	379-4587
Membership	Tom Kilton	tom@tomkilton.com	339-3064
Tower Hill Park	Susan Thrash	jring@visi.com	379-4587
Transportation and Land Use	John Dewitt Phil Anderson	jdewitt@mn.rr.com philanne@ties2.net	338-1871 627-9471
Zoning & Plan Review	Florence Littman Phil Anderson	littm005@umn.edu philanne@ties2.net	331-2970 627-9471

## Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood Calendar

To include items in PPERRIA calendar, contact Joyce Barta at 378-9268 by **Thursday, February 8, 2007.**

Date and Time	Event and Location	Whom to contact
Tuesday, January 16	<b>JOY Outing</b> Call for information.	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Tuesday, January 16	7:00 pm <b>(Tentative) Zoning &amp; Planning Committee meeting</b> at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Thursday, January 18	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm <b>Pratt Council meeting</b> at Pratt	Greg Bernstein 378-3489
Monday, January 22	7:00 pm <b>PPERRIA Board of Directors &amp; Membership meeting</b> at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Wednesday, January 24	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm <b>Garden Club</b> Abbey & Kent Petterson, 908 E. River Terrace	Kent Petterson 332-1821
Friday, February 2	11:00 am- 1:00 pm <b>JOY Book Club</b> at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Wednesday, February 7	7:30 pm <b>Luxton Park Council meeting</b> at Luxton Park	Jim Widder 331-6129
Monday, February 12	11:30 am- 1:30 pm <b>JOY Pot Luck</b> at Luxton Park	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Monday, February 12	7:00 pm <b>PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting</b> at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Wednesday, February 14	5:00 pm <b>Glendale Resident Organization meeting</b> at 92 St. Mary's Ave.	Latrisha Collins 342-1952
Thursday, February 15	6:00-8:00 pm <b>Pratt Council meeting</b> at Pratt	Greg Bernstein 378-3489
Tuesday, February 20	<b>JOY Outing</b> Call for information.	Eric Cherland 370-4925
Tuesday, February 20	7:00 pm <b>(Tentative) Zoning &amp; Planning Committee meeting</b> at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Florence Littman 331-2970
Monday, February 26	7:00 pm <b>PPERRIA Board of Directors &amp; Membership meeting</b> at Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Joe Ring 379-4587
Wednesday, February 28	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm <b>Garden Club</b> location TBA	Mary Alice Kopf 378-7436

**PERRIA Web Site: <http://www.pperr.org>**

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Prospect Park East River  
Road  
Improvement Association, Inc.  
66 SE Malcolm Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
612/331-2970 (voice mail)

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U.S. Postage  
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