



# Voter

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## April Calendar

### Upcoming Events

**April 3, 2014 7 pm**

\* LWV SLP Board Meeting Eilseen’s home

**April 10, 2014 11 to 1:30/4:30 to 6:30**

\* Empty Bowls STEP Fundraiser

**Location:** Westwood Lutheran Church

**April 12, 2014 – 9:30 am**

\* Annual Meeting

Topic: “Discover St. Louis Park” President and CEO John Basill

McCoy’s Public House Restaurant

**April 29, 2014**

\* Hennepin County 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner Primary Election

### May Upcoming Events

**May 1, 2014 7 pm**

\* LWV SLP Board Meeting Eilseen’s home

**May 3, 2014 LWVMN Council**

**May 13, 2014 County Commissioner Election**

**May 14, 2014 12:30 PM**

\* **Unit 2 Meeting**

Topic: “The Orchard” by Theresa Weir

Location: ParkShore Card Room

**May 15, 2014 – 7:00 pm**

\* **Unit 3 Meeting**

Topic: “The Orchard” by Theresa Weir

Location: City Hall Community Room

**May 17, 2014 CMAL Annual Meeting**



*April 12, 2014*

***LWV St. Louis Park 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting***

The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the LWV St. Louis Park will be Saturday April 12, 2014. The gathering will start at 9:30.

Following a business meeting, we’ll hear about the “Discover St. Louis Park” program from President and CEO John Basill followed by lunch.

The meeting will be at McCoy’s Public House Restaurant at 3801 Grand Way in SLP.

Registrations due to Barb Person by April 5.

[2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net)

We hope to see all LWVSLP members at the meeting!

## President's Message April 2014

The year has gone so fast. It's hard to believe the annual meeting is in a couple of weeks. Did you send your lunch choice to Barb? This is our 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, our diamond anniversary. What a great milestone. We'll have a chance to reflect on all the activities of the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park. This is an amazing group of women. We also sent invitations to old members. Aggie sent out the Committee reports for you to review in a special mailing. Thanks again to everyone who is helping pull this annual meeting together.

The West Metro meeting that covered the Agriculture study was very interesting. LWV Golden Valley did a good job getting the information together. Barb, Aggie, Debbie and I reviewed the consensus questions over a delicious lunch at McCoys. There is a ton of information available to review. I've suddenly become a fan of oats.

Aggie and I attended the Children First Breakfast last week. There were over 300 people in the Doubletree conference room. It is energizing to see community support for this initiative. There are more Asset Champion training sessions scheduled. The training is free and well worth the time. I encourage you to attend. Karen Atkinson revealed the recent survey results. The scorecard reflects community improvement. Overall, the assets were up. Do you think our League could help improve one of the assets?

Please remember to support the League as they advocate for many of the issues during this Un-session. Your support is important.

We will have Stacy Doepner-Hove and Susan Sheridan Tucker from the LWV Minnesota will be guests at our next Board Meeting. Board Meetings are open to all members, and we can always use a couple of extra hands. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

*Deb Brinkman, President*  
*LWV SLP*

### Highlights from the March 2014 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- Confirmed Dollars for Doers timeline and reviewed the paragraph
- Discussed the funding needs for the next two years
- Added additional details to the Annual Meeting plans
- Started the process to become a C3, there is a form to complete and an application fee
- Discussed the West Metro Study on Agriculture
- Reviewed Committee progress



## Worth Noting

### *Hennepin County Commissioner*

#### *Special Election*

*Primary April 29      General Election May 13*

#### *Candidates:*

Marion Greene [www.mariongreene.org](http://www.mariongreene.org)

Ken Kelash [www.kenkelash.com](http://www.kenkelash.com)

Anne Mavity [www.AnneMavity.org](http://www.AnneMavity.org)

Ben Schweigert [www.benforhennepin.org](http://www.benforhennepin.org)

### St. Louis Park Empty Bowls

Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup>

This annual fundraiser for the St. Louis Park Emergency Program will be held this year at a new location - the Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lake Rd S

Hours are 11 - 1:30 p.m. for lunch and 4:30 - 6:30 for dinner.

Join your neighbors for a bowl or two of great soup, some local entertainment, and a take-home hand-crafted bowl. Donations welcome.

Julie Jergens (925-4899 ext. 14) is the person to talk to about volunteering.



### Join the Children First Asset Champions Network

Join the network! It's easy, you start by participating in a 2.5 hour training. Then there are opportunities for you to connect with other Asset Champions.

The Asset Champions Network has 200 trained Asset Champions promoting the asset philosophy where they live, work, volunteer and go to school.

Wed., April 16, 8-10:30 a.m. (location to be announced)  
 Tues., May 6, 6:30 - 9 p.m. - City Hall, Community Room, 1st floor  
 Wed., May 21, 2-4:30 p.m. - City Hall Community Room, 1st floor

Contact: [atkinson.karen@slpschools.org](mailto:atkinson.karen@slpschools.org)

### Children First Asset #15

#### Positive Peer Influence

Did you know 72% of St. Louis Park young people report that their best friends model responsible behavior?

Get to know your children's friends and acknowledge their positive actions. Make your home a welcoming environment where kids can hang out and will have supervision.

## THE ST. LOUIS PARK LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING OUR **60TH** ANNUAL MEETING

*April 12, 2014*

*McCoy's Public House*

*Speaker: John Basill*

*"Discover St. Louis Park" President and CEO*

**Coffee 9:30**

**Business meeting 10:00 – 11:00**

**Speaker 11:15**

**Lunch 12:00**

### Plan to Attend



LWV Minnesota Annual Council  
Minnesota Arboretum 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska MN 55318  
May 3, 2014  
8:30 to 3:30

For more information, contact  
Barb Person at [2persons@comcast.net](mailto:2persons@comcast.net)

## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

March 2014 Meeting

On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) met at the Minnesota School of Business in Richfield to hear three people involved in public service talk about their experiences on the subject of taxes and local government. The title of the discussion was “Taxes 101: Making policy decisions in the context of the Minnesota tax system.” The three panelists were Sherry Tyrrell, Chair of the Robbinsdale School Board, Heidi Nelson, City Manager for the City of Wayzata, and Dan Roe, Mayor of Roseville. The panelists answered prepared questions from LWV moderator Mary Santi, and also questions from the audience. The focus of the discussion was on taxes and how officials navigate the complex system of how much to tax and what to tax and how to allocate funds from taxes.

Mayor Roe began by saying that municipalities have more stable funding than the state during hard economic times. The state relies heavily on income and sales taxes as their sources of funding—both of which decline when unemployment rates increase—whereas property taxes (the major funding for cities) stay relatively the same. Cities also receive some state aid in the form of Local Government Aid (LGA), but the state tends to dip into this fund if they need it to balance the budget. So, Roseville has learned not to use the LGA funds to pay for basic city services; instead, it goes towards more long-term projects such as replacing aging infrastructure.

Heidi Nelson also pointed out that in tough economic times, people will cut back on city services, so the revenue generated from user fees and service fees (such as building permits) goes down, and city governments and administrators need to plan around that.

School Board Chair Sherry Tyrrell spoke about the difficulty of planning a budget around the vagaries of state law-making. Eighty percent of their revenue comes from the state, Tyrrell said. Ms. Tyrrell also said that when the Minnesota Miracle was created (a wealth-sharing tax system in the metro area), some cities were allowed to spend more than the limit allowed by the state in their own school districts. Robbinsdale was one of the ones that was “grandfathered” in in this way. However, school districts still need to rely on tax levies to supply the remainder of what is not received from the state. Levies do not have to be voted on by the local citizens. Referendums, another tool for raising revenues, do require voter approval.

When asked what they would do if they had a magic wand and could change anything about the way local governments operate, all three agreed that they would like to have more decision-making power and authority at the local level. Local government is the one that is closest to the citizens and the one with which the citizens engage most often. Ms. Tyrrell expressed a wish for school boards to have a greater say in collecting taxes for schools.

As citizens, how aware are you of the work of your local government? If you would like to see changes in your community, it all starts with being involved with your local governments.



Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

LWV SLP submitted questions to the Hennepin County Commissioner 3rd District Candidates. Here are their unedited responses:

## **Marion Greene: [www.mariongreene.org](http://www.mariongreene.org)**

### **1. As a candidate for the office of County Commissioner how does a commissioner support more than one community they represent if there's a divisive issue such as light rail?**

Communication, communication, communication. As a State Representative, I had a record of making inclusive, deliberate, and even-keeled decisions. No decision pleases everyone, but an effective legislator uses a process that preserves relationships, engagement, and faith that constituents are heard. As Hennepin County Commissioner, I will lead in a way that is transparent and accountable, and reflects a regional vision.

Further, as a State Representative I understand the complexities of working across jurisdictions successfully. This will inform my success with projects in Hennepin County. Regarding SWLRT, I will work tirelessly to make sure that constituents feel a part of any process going forward, and that mitigation efforts are fair and effective in communities along the line. Securing a seat on the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) will be a priority.

In upcoming projects I promise to be open to outcome, as opposed to attached to outcome. I will approach process in a deliberate, transparent way, without preconceived notions of what should happen. To truly find balance in serving the needs and concerns of multiple communities, I will listen to communities and let data inform decisions, rather than finding data that supports opinions.

### **2. How can you engage constituents in county issues?**

As a former State Representative from SW Minneapolis, and professional grassroots organizer, I have a track record of connecting constituents to government and vice versa. I look forward to bringing that expertise and passion to the County Board. I plan to host regular "Meetups with Marion" all over the district, to send out a newsletter (email and postal mail), to stay in touch via neighborhood organizations, and most of all - to reach out to formally and informally organized constituencies in order to connect people to the work of the County. I was proud of my record of constituent services in the legislature, and I pledge that my office will respond to constituent requests within 48 hours.

### **3. What would be your priorities?**

With a 1.8 billion dollar budget, no elected body has more immediate impact on the opportunity gap and the social safety net than the County Board. That is why I am running for County Commissioner. I am running on an equity platform - in every decision we make, how can we provide more options to those with fewer options?

I plan to advance equity in our region in four ways:

(1) Why is it that in our politically mobilized district, many people don't know about the great and important work of the county? Let's change that. I will increase community engagement, activism and partnership at the County. This expanded engagement will help us advance a progressive vision, and help focus the County's work on addressing economic and health disparities.

(2) For complex problems, we need complex solutions - specifically, interdisciplinary solutions. Innovative work across departments and jurisdictions increases effectiveness in programs (and reduces costs).

(3) Every dollar spent on early childhood development for our children (ages 0-3) most at risk returns as much as \$16 down the line. I want to make sure that housing programs, community health care centers, our libraries and city school and park agencies are working in total coordination to ensure that every child starts life on the path to success. I successfully championed this issue at the legislature, and look forward to leading our region in the same way.

(3) Before I was a legislator (but after I was a grassroots organizer!), I had a career in healthcare finance. Mike Opat, President of the County Board, recently highlighted the financial solvency of Hennepin County's healthcare system as priority number one in front of the board - I am ready to work on this. Our healthcare system, with HCMC as the crown jewel, is enormously important as a safety net provider, and also as a training facility for caregivers across the state - not to mention the premier Level I trauma and burn centers. By getting the healthcare system on track financially, we can ensure our community a healthy future.

## Ken Kelash [www.kenkelash.com](http://www.kenkelash.com)

### **1. As a candidate for the office of County Commissioner how does a Commissioner support more than one community they represent if there's a divisive issue such as light rail?**

The County Commissioner represents one district within the County but must make decisions that benefit the entire County. The SW LRT is a great and beneficial project for the whole County and a solution **must** be found.

As a leader within the County, I would bring both the city council of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park together. The meeting would include project engineers and designers and would be focused on first understand in detail each other positions. Each side has to understand **how** the LRT options being considered by the Met Council will harm and benefit the other community.

Second, I would bring the two councils to the Kenilworth corridor and the freight rail reroute site for a full understanding of the scope of each other's problems with the options presented.

Finally, I would work with both groups to find common ground. I would work for a compromise on the problems and add benefits to the injured community so both communities can find agreement with the Met Council decision.

## 2. How can you engage constituents in county issues?

As County Commissioner, I would bring the County perspective to all community meetings and exchange information and ideas on the issues up for discussion. **Before** making decisions on the County Board about development, transportation or environmental concerns, my office would arrange community meetings in the neighborhoods that will be affected by the County's decision.

## 3. What would be your priorities?

My priority as County Commissioner is to prepare the County for its share of the 750,000 new residents that will be living in the Metropolitan area in the next 30 to 40 years.

Planning transportation and transit options that will move more people without congestion on our roads and bridges, planning new areas for higher density housing for all income levels that are close to these transit option and planning the green corridors and green space that allows the influx of people a place to recreate without stressing out our current parks and trails.

This also means keeping HCMC's rating as the top trauma hospital in the state and continues its vital role as a teaching hospital. Make sure that the Hennepin County Library system continues to be accessible during evenings and weekends with the latest technology needed for the efficient exchange of information.

## Anne Mavity: [www.AnneMavity.org](http://www.AnneMavity.org)

### 1. As a candidate for the office of County Commissioner how does a commissioner support more than one community they represent if there's a divisive issue such as light rail?

On nearly every issue that a public official must vote upon, there is more than one opinion about what should happen. For example, right now, the city is in the midst of approving the first year contracts of what will be a 10-year plan to improve our community's health and walkability by implementing the Complete Streets policy which I led adoption of several years ago. There are many families that are asking for more sidewalks and bike trails, to increase safety for their children as they go to the park and school. At the same time, there are also many residents that do not want sidewalks because of the impacts they will have on existing properties, loss of yards and trees, and/or they feel they are simply unnecessary and a cost burden. As an elected official, my job is to make sure there is a process and opportunity for all of these perspectives to be heard and evaluated, and then to weigh the costs on individual residents against the benefits for the larger community.

The same principal holds true for the SWLRT issue and the thorny problem of how to decide the best freight resolutions. Even within each of our respective city boundaries, there is a diversity of opinion on all sides on how this issue should be resolved. As your Hennepin County Commissioner, I will ensure that a fair, transparent and accountable process is in place to solicit and incorporate the concerns and questions of all impacted residents and

stakeholders. We need to be clear about which criteria are used to evaluate our options, and then apply those criteria uniformly across all the options. My approach is to fairly evaluate the options, paying more attention to the facts and analysis than to whoever is simply making the most noise.

## **2. How can you engage constituents in county issues?**

I am proud of the culture and systems St. Louis Park has in place to ensure resident engagement and input into a whole host of issues that impact residents lives. These are the values and habits that I will bring to the Hennepin County Board. I understand how extraordinarily important it is for everyone to have access to information and to participation.

Democracy is by its nature, a little bit messy - and that's ok by me. Our decisions are better when they are informed by many perspectives, rather than a chosen few. In my past jobs, as a neighborhood organizer, a democracy-advocate in Russia, and standing up for people and communities that have been sidelined from the centers of power and decision-making, I know that it is so valuable to have these perspectives factored into decisions. I will ensure accessible, fair, welcoming ways to participate on county issues.

## **3. What would be your priorities?**

Ending homelessness and creating more affordable housing opportunities: Housing stability is the foundation from which people can engage and succeed in this world, whether finding a job or going to school. I will continue the work I've done most of my career, to fight for smart, cost-effective housing solutions so that everybody has an opportunity to succeed.

Environmental stewardship: Environmental stewardship means identifying opportunities at all levels of the county to create healthy communities. As a City Councilmember in St. Louis Park I implemented a policy for city-wide, curbside organic recycling, reducing waste streams and significantly expanded opportunities for recycling and reuse. I led the efforts at the city to "re-meander" the Minnehaha Creek off Louisiana Avenue and create trails and boardwalks so that residents could access this natural asset.

Creating a regional transit system: A regional transit system is a critical platform for jobs, growth and the ability for the region to combat economic disparity for all our stakeholders. Our residents need to be better connected to jobs and our business community needs a modern regional transit system to compete globally. As a representative on Hennepin County's SW LRT Community Works Committee, I am helping guide the community's vision and plans for land use and development that is already beginning to appear around SW LRT station areas. I bring a experienced, collaborative leadership approach, and a passionate commitment, to creating a transit system that will create opportunities for all of our residents.

**Ben Schweigert: [ben@benforhennepin.org](mailto:ben@benforhennepin.org)****1. As a candidate for the office of County Commissioner how does a commissioner support more than one community they represent if there's a divisive issue such as light rail?**

I see our community as more united than divided, even on the issue of light rail. Throughout the Third District, we share a set of priorities. Together, we seek a more sustainable, fair, and prosperous future for us and our children. There will, of course, be issues where people disagree, but we can't let those disagreements define us as a community or our relationships with each other.

On the light rail issue, for example, we continue to have broad agreement on core principles. We want a more sustainable transportation future where it's easier for us to use our cars less. We value the chain of lakes and want to ensure that they are protected. And, regardless of the ultimate Metropolitan Council decision regarding location of the freight rail line, we want to minimize the impact on affected neighbors. I see opportunities for solutions to the current impasse by focusing on these core areas of agreement, for example through the investment of additional county resources, and I will seek to forge such an agreement as a member of the county board.

This is the sort of leadership that I want to provide. Throughout my life, I've worked to understand the lived experience of those I've worked with. In my community development work, I spent time in and learning about the neighborhoods in which we were investing. As a private lawyer representing a group of immigrant restaurant workers in a wage-and-hour suit against their employers I learned about their community, its politics, and its economy. And as a prosecutor today, I always study the backgrounds of persons involved in my cases, to ensure that I can do justice -- and have empathy -- for witnesses, victims, and perpetrators.

I will approach my role on the county board the same way. As light rail planning moves forward, I'll continue to talk with people throughout the district and walk through the affected neighborhoods. Likewise, as we make decisions about social services, I'll consult with people who access them, the staff of our county agencies, and other stakeholders in the community. As commissioner, I will ensure that people from various parts of the district and with diverse viewpoints will have a seat at the table, will be understood, and will feel part of the process.

**2. How can you engage constituents in county issues?**

I see tremendous opportunities for our county government to engage constituents in new ways. Doing so begins with communicating why people should care about their county government. I have built my campaign by articulating a vision for the future of our county, one that's more sustainable, more fair, and creates more prosperity for more people. Every time I talk about a policy issue, I link it to this vision, and discuss why county action in that area will help us build a future that we will be proud of. I want to get elected with a mandate to pursue that vision, and I want constituents empowered to hold me accountable to it.

There are also specific ways in which the county, as an organization, can do more to engage citizens. First, I want to develop a more engaged, holistic approach to our provision of county

services. When a person or family comes to the county seeking help, I want to empower the front-line county worker to have a conversation with them, not just about the specific program or benefit that prompted the interaction, but about the range of ways in which the county can help address the challenges they face. We can improve these interactions further by allowing them to happen in neighborhoods, not just in downtown -- the new county service hubs are a significant step in this direction. And we should make sure that people accessing county services are involved in the planning and development of this change, so we can benefit from their experiences.

Second, on significant policy issues, I want improved processes for soliciting and accommodating public input at earlier planning stages. For example, the county is in the process of developing a new bike plan. As part of this process, the county published an excellent online survey, with user-friendly graphics and easy to understand questions, so much so that I actually enjoyed filling it out and felt like I was providing substantive and helpful information. We want to avoid, as much as possible, processes in which the conclusion seems fore-ordained, as many people perceived certain decisions in the planning of Southwest LRT to be.

Third, Hennepin County should continue its efforts to open its processes and data to public analysis. Recently, the county has made great progress in making its mapping tools and other public information and statistics available online. We should continue to do so, and encourage active, informed citizens to use these tools to better inform our work.

I understand the importance of an engaged citizenry. I serve on the Redevelopment Committee for my neighborhood association. My wife and I are members of our community garden. I'm on the executive board of my union. As a result, I have seen the ways in which governments do a better or worse job engaging constituents. I'm committed to learning from those experiences and working every day to open Hennepin County policy making to the public and to ensure that both the county and the public benefit from those interactions.

### **3. What would be your priorities?**

I want a Hennepin County that is optimistic enough to take on its biggest challenges and strong enough to succeed. Many people think of the county government as a place that provides services. But I want us to think of Hennepin County as a place that solves problems – a place where we take on our biggest challenges and craft sophisticated solutions.

Now is the time for a new, progressive, forward-looking perspective on the county board that carries forward Commissioner Dorfman's work and addresses new challenges to help us build a future that is even better than today. I have focused my campaign on four policy areas:

#### **Livability and Transportation**

I want to make it easier for all of us to use our cars less. Our county can't grow and improve its quality of life without better transportation options. Getting around without a car needs to be an attractive option for everyone – and when it is, it will also help people who may not have the option of driving. I will pursue key changes in three specific areas.

\* Better transit: Expand the light rail network; improve base bus service along all high-demand routes, including better bus stops; fight for a dedicated sales tax for transit.

- \* Walkable neighborhoods: Prioritize sidewalks and streetscapes in county road projects; create walkable development near transit stops, especially on the Southwest LRT line; activate public spaces.
- \* Make bicycling safe and enjoyable for everyone ages 8 to 80: Create better bike facilities, especially protected bike lanes; expand the bike network so everyone in our district lives within 5 blocks of a bikeway; support a downtown bike center.

We live an exciting and important time. More and more, people want to get around without personal cars and are changing their lifestyles accordingly. These trends offer an opportunity that policymakers need to seize with both hands. By acting now we can create a transportation system that will lead to healthier neighborhoods, healthier citizens, and a healthier world.

### **Creating Opportunity**

Our community faces stark inequality in income and opportunity. We can't let this divide define our future. Whenever a member of our community lacks access to education, jobs, food, health care, and housing – those things that define middle-class prosperity – our whole community suffers. Our county has the resources and expertise to narrow the opportunity gap, and we need to deploy those resources explicitly in pursuit of that goal. Again, I will pursue significant change in three areas.

- \* Early childhood: Our county regularly interacts with families of young children. We should improve the quality of those interactions, so that we can better identify the needs of those families and how the county can help. Our goal should be to make sure that all kids get the food, health care, and stable housing they need to be ready to learn on their first day of school.
- \* Training and education: Our county needs to do more to support the kids in our school systems. That means giving their families the support they need to help them stay in school and do well. And it means helping young people get ready for work, for example by expanding the County's involvement with successful internship programs such as Step-Up.
- \* Living wages: Our county government must fight for living wages for all workers in the county. As your Hennepin County Commissioner, I will advocate at the legislature for a substantial increase in the minimum wage, and I will enact a county policy to ensure that all county workers and workers on county contracts receive a living wage.

### **Affordability and Housing**

In the 2008 real estate crash, many families in our community lost their homes. As they look for places to rent, they face a market that offers very few vacancies and rising prices. This situation leaves many families without permanent housing, disrupting their lives, weakening our community, and making it harder for children in those families to succeed. Commissioner Dorfman made fighting homelessness a centerpiece of her work on the County Board. I will continue that work, with a focus on developing stable, affordable housing options for families.

I will also use my experience prosecuting mortgage fraud and other financial crimes to stop slum lords and others who are preying on some of our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors, new Minnesotans, and families still reeling from foreclosure.

**Public Safety**

I am a prosecutor, and I understand the importance of keeping our communities safe. I want a County Board that is a strong partner with the criminal justice system, neighborhood associations, residents, nonprofits that provide services to at-risk groups, and offenders trying to re-enter society. This means working collaboratively across jurisdictions. We do this every day in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, interacting with city governments; nonprofits; the Minneapolis and Saint Louis Park police departments; the Sheriff's Office; city attorneys; public defenders; community corrections; and the 4th District Court.

I want to continue the Board's efforts to support alternative sentencing options for lower level crimes, holistic intervention programs, efforts to help offenders become productive members of society, and Gail Dorfman's work to fight sex trafficking. And I will continue to fight to restore the right to vote to all offenders on probation or parole. Most importantly, I will make sure that the county has the resources to advocate for victims, treat all suspects fairly, and bring the guilty to justice.

# Observer Reports

## City Council March 3, 2014 Aggie Leitheiser, Observer

All members present

- \* **Donation Appreciation:** Mayor Jacobs expressed the City Council's thanks to the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture, Discover St. Louis Park, Barbara Levie and Mark Kawell, and the Minnesota Cycling Team.
- \* **Minutes approved for:** Special Study Session and City Council Meeting of February 18
- \* **Approval of Agenda and Items on Consent Calendar**
- \* **Appointment of Ryan Griffin** as the Business Representative to the Environment and Sustainability Commission
- \* **Approved Bin & Keg, LLC, Conditional Use Permit (CUP)/Variance – 8128 Minnetonka Blvd. Variance would allow a 76 foot variance to the required 100 foot setback between a restaurant with intoxicating liquor license and property that is residentially zoned and used.**

Bin & Keg, LLC, has requested a Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant in the Texa-Tonka shopping center. There is 24' between the restaurant and adjacent residential property requiring a 76' variance and the restaurant is located in an existing mall with access facing Minnetonka Boulevard and the mall itself acts as a barrier protecting the residential properties from vehicle traffic. Staff stated the variance request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. A neighborhood meeting was held on December 5th where residents spoke in favor of the proposed use. Discussion of wording to meet the City's criteria in

the application. Staff were requested to modify the findings to make it clear that the city's zoning ordinance is not the problem, but the building's location and length of time it has been there.

**\* Approved Municipal State Aid Project – Pennsylvania Avenue –**

In order to receive MSA funding the project needs to meet the standard of only allowing parking on one side of the street from Franklin Avenue to 14th Street. There are 33 residential service line connections and residents have the option of replacing their water service line from the main to the shut off valve at an estimated cost of \$1,000-1,200 per line which can be prepaid or assessed for three years. Residents asked for more parking and staff changed the parking restrictions to secure seven to ten additional parking stalls. The road will be open to local traffic during construction and the project will begin in late May and is anticipated to last approximately four months. Cost is estimated to be: \$871,965 with funding from MSA funds and the water utility budget. While this is not a part of Connect the Park initiative, there is a sidewalk on the east side and crossing at 14th Street and staff has been talking to residents about upgrading the sidewalk in this area.

**\* Communications** Thanks to those who attended the Health in the Park meeting on March 2. Compliments to the City's Public Works staff for doing a great job of plowing, sanding, and salting during recent storms.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

## **School Board March 24, 2014 Deb Brinkman, Observer**

Nancy Gores called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and the agenda was approved unanimously.

At Open Forum, Susan Erickson spoke as an advocate for sidewalks. Some neighbors don't want sidewalks. But Susan suggested that sidewalks create community and make it easier to get more active. She asked for the school board support for sidewalks.

In the Superintendent's Report, Rob Metz commented that over 300 people attended the Children's First Breakfast for Champions and thanked Karen Atkinson. He also went to Kindergarten Round Up and displayed a 'Class of 2027 T-shirt that each child received.

Discussion items included an update from College and Career grant that was received three years ago. Of the 50% of the students that went to a state school, 37% had to take a remedial course. These courses are expensive and we would like our kids to be better prepared for college. A College and Career plan needs to include parents, businesses, teachers and students. They will be asking for a K-12 model and encouraging a Pre K – 20 relationship. We need to align an individual development plan with the state statute. It is part of our strategic plan.

Karen Atkinson presented the Children First Survey results. This report card shows our progress as a community. Our assets have never been higher. Several assets went up by a lot. A couple assets went down a little. She also showed a 2 minute feature channel 9 put together on Children First.

FY2015 Budget Discussion including reviewing the progress of the i3 Grant that was received 3 years ago. The goal is to close math achievement and reading achievement gap and integration with WMEP. There are 4 activities to support each goal.

School Board compensation was discussed. It was suggested the stipend remain the same as last year. It is at the low end compared to neighboring cities.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

On the Action Agenda: The School Board approved the FY15 Integration Budget unanimously and approved the School Board Compensation unanimously.

Communications included Julie talking about serving school lunch last Friday was impressed with the many choices the kids had. She was happy to see Recycling in the center of the lunch room and impressed with the personal connection the lunch room staff has with the kids. Karen Waters noted that the Youth as resources asset was engaged for the Children First Breakfast as the kids were Greeters. Bruce Richardson suggested contacting your Senator to support a per pupil increase. Ken said there is a Career Fair Wednesday at Aquila. Nancy noted the April calendar has changed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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**Volunteer to Register New Citizens to Vote**

Be part of the important work of naturalizing new US citizens. Volunteers make it possible for new citizens to experience the right to vote in the US for the very first time!

If you are able to help, contact Judy Stuthman at [jastuthman@aol.com](mailto:jastuthman@aol.com).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reporting Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wed., April 2	9:00 AM and 1:00 PM	Washington Magnet School in St. Paul
Wed., April 9	9:00 AM	Mankato
Wed., April 16	2:30 PM	John Rose Ice Arena in Roseville
Fri., May 2	5:00 PM	Festival of Nations in St. Paul
Thurs., May 15	9:30 AM	St. Paul River Centre
Sat., June 14	9:00 AM and 10:00 AM	Mall of America
Wed., June 18	9:00 AM and 1:00 PM	U of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis
Fri., June 27	9:30 AM	Rochester



**LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14**

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**Membership Dues** (Dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible.)

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- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
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- Add me to The Voter eMail Distribution List (free)

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