

STRAUS PARK NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2008

Master Association Minutes

At the request of the SPMA, the minutes of its meetings will now be published only on the SP website, www.strauspark.org. The minutes may be accessed using the same procedure as that used to access the SP Directory. User name & password are also the same as for the Directory. If you have not previously registered for the Directory, or if you have questions on the publishing of the minutes, you may email me at m81babe@gmail.com or call me at 884-4337.

Calendar of February Activities

- Women's Bridge – Thursday, February 7th & 21st - 1:00 PM
- ECC Meeting – Thursday, February 14th – 10:00 AM
- Pot Luck Group – Sunday, February 17th – 6:00 PM
- Women's Book Club – Monday, February 18th – 1:30 PM
- Master Association Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 27th - 4:00 PM
- Couples Bridge – Friday, February 29th - 7:00 PM

This information is available on the Straus Park website www.strauspark.org, on the "Calendar" link.

MEETING DAY CHANGES

Please note the change in the meeting days for the ECC & MA Board Meeting. The ECC has been moved to the 2nd Thursday morning of every month to facilitate discussion of ECC affairs with the MA at an earlier date each month when necessary. The MA Board meetings have been moved to the 4th Wednesday of the month to avoid conflict with Ladies Bridge.

Women's Book Club

February's book for discussion by the Women's Book Club is "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri. Discussion will be led by Janet Taylor when the club meets at the Lake House on Monday, February 18th. Please note the new meeting time of 1:30 PM. Members may obtain this book and all others read by their group at a 10% discount at Highland Books. For more information about joining the club, you may contact the Chairman, Reed Parker, at 883-3258.

Pot Luck Group

Mary Kathryn Fisher & Reed Parker will host the February Pot Luck Group dinner on Sunday, February 17th, at 6:00 PM at the Lake House. Since this will be a true pot luck dinner, the hosts will not provide the main dish. RSVP to Reed or Jack Parker at 883-3258 NLT Thursday, February 14th to coordinate your choice of main dish/entree, casserole, salad, vegetable, or dessert. Please make sure you bring enough to serve 8 to 10 people. Hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, & iced tea will be

provided by the hosts, but you may BYOB if you would like an adult beverage before or during dinner.

Lake House Scheduling

IPM has taken over the scheduling of events at the Lake House. Please call 650-6875 & speak to Cheri Cowlin to request a date for your event or to get other info re the Lake House. The forms for this as well as all other necessary forms for SP business may be printed off the website, www.strauspark.org. I know you will all join me in thanking Dave Calhoun for his masterful job of handling that onerous task. Thanks to Shirley, too, for all the hours she has spent helping Dave to set up & take down chairs & tables for events, take down decorations, clean the bathrooms, mop the floors, & the many, many other thankless tasks they've performed for our residents during their time on the Lake House Committee.

Notes from the President

I want to thank all of you for your patience over the last month or so as I & the other MA Board members have made the difficult decisions necessary to get our Association back on track. As you probably know, the Board voted (5 to 1) to terminate the employment of Jim Heffel as SP Community Manager on Monday, Jan. 21st, & his employment here ended that same day. At the same meeting, we voted (5 to 1) to bring back IPM as our management company. We felt that, since IPM was familiar with the needs of SP, it would be as quick & seamless a transition as possible. They have come back to us at the same cost that was quoted to the 2007 Board when discussion of their contract renewal began. We will have quarterly meetings with IPM to discuss their performance & any problem areas that either we or IPM feel may have arisen & remain in daily contact, either by phone or by email. Karen Lewis, the Division Manager of IPM, will be our acting manager until they have hired someone who will be a "good fit" for SP. Karen & I are in the process of trying to find & sort all of our records, so that our affairs can once again begin to run smoothly.

We have also brought IPM back to manage the ECC, at least on a temporary basis. The ECC members will have discussions during the coming weeks about the needs of the ECC & how IPM might fill those needs. I have asked Dale Urban, the previous Vice Chairman, to take over as Chairman of the ECC, while I stepped back again to Vice Chair. The chair of that committee needs to devote all energies & attention to the business of the ECC due to the numerous important issues we are required to handle. I feel that my duties as Pres. of the MA require all my attention at this time. Dale is an "attention-to-details kind of guy" & has had previous experience with the architectural review boards of other larger homeowner associations, so he will do a great job for us.

I requested of the MA Board that we appoint a Financial Oversight Committee to aid the Treasurer of the MA, & they agreed. This committee will provide continuity in this important duty from year to year & will also solve the problem of not having any Director that is qualified to do this job on future Boards. They will also handle the duties of long range planning & investments. Our new committee consists of

Chairman Gordon Tapley, Dave Calhoun, & Harry Fiedler. All have had extensive experience in financial management & have already proven invaluable in this difficult transition period.

I am exploring the possibility of some interesting new ideas for our management with Karen Lewis, so watch for announcements here each month. I hope that you will all continue to take an interest in the progress of our Association & our community. Although some of our last meetings of 2007 were contentious & difficult, they were a necessary means to move through a difficult time in our community's history. We have moved on, & we now have a more cohesive & involved community because of those difficult times. Your interest & involvement ensures our forward progression. I will always take your phone calls (884-4337) & answer your emails (m81babe@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions. Thanks for your continued support.

If you would like to be included in the Straus Park Directory or have any changes, additional information, or corrections for the newsletter, please contact the author, Adrienne Fiedler, at 884-4337 or at m81babe@gmail.com. Thanks for your help.