



HISTORICAL COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, April 19, 2012

7:30 p.m.

City Hall

Conference Room #4

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of the March 15, 2012 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

New Business

1. Speaker/DVD Long Time Coon Rapids Resident Roy Downs
2. QR Bar Codes - You/Tube Twitter
3. Mississippi River Field Guide
4. Historic Bikeway/Walkway Trails in Coon Rapids
5. Antique Road Show Update
6. Display Cabinet Update

Other Business

Announcements

Fridley Historical Newsletter

Adjourn



Historical Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

SUBJECT: Approval of the March 15, 2012 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments

HistoricalMarchMinutes

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2012

The March meeting of the Coon Rapids Historical Commission was brought to order by Chairperson Lyle Goff at 7:35 P.M. The March meeting was held in the Coon Rapids City Hall Conference Room #4.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Powell, Boo Mills, Jim Marsolais, Lyle Goff, Tracy Ekberg, Ron Wendel, Jackie Dingley

ALSO ATTENDING: Former Anoka County Sheriff Buster Talbot

1. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2012 HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.
A MOTION BY JIM MARSOLAIS, SECONDED BY RON WENDEL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRINTED. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

2. OLD BUSINESS

a. The Commission Made a DVD of Buster Talbot

The former Anoka County Sheriff, Buster Talbot, gave the Commission an overview of his 26 year history of the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. The Commission found it very informative and was very appreciative of Mr. Talbot's time and effort on this matter. One copy of the DVD will be kept in the permanent collection of the Commission, one copy will go to the ACHS; one copy will be delivered to Mr. Talbot.

b. QR Bar Codes

Commission Member Wendel explained to the Commission how bar codes work and how we can use them to help make Coon Rapids history more interesting to the "tech savvy" citizens of Coon Rapids.

c. Historic Guide to the Mississippi River

Staff Liaison gave Commission Members various historical guides on the Coon Rapids stretch of the Mississippi River.

d. Historic Bikeway/Walkway Trails in Coon Rapids

The Commission discussed how Historical Markers on our bikeways and walkways systems could have "QR Bar Codes" explaining various historical sites.

e. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff Liaison explained the intention to go paperless for our agenda and minutes.

Commission Member Marsolais explained how he and staff liaison went to the western side of the Coon Rapids Dam to review the dam history that was kept in the Brooklyn Park visitor building.

Commission Member Marsolais explained how staff liaison gave a presentation of the history of the Orrin Thompson Coon Rapids Rambler to the Kiwanis Club of Coon Rapids.

Staff liaison explained the overview for the “Coon Rapids Antique Road Show” this fall.

Commission Member Powell explained how a teacher in a Coon Rapids school has a History Club and how he is planning on attending a club meeting.

Staff liaison explained how the Historical Display Cabinet will change in the next couple of weeks displaying quilts. The center piece will be a historic signature quilt with the names of the “founding mothers” of Coon Rapids on panels of the quilt.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM MARSOLAIS SECONDED BY JACKIE DINGLEY THAT THE COON RAPIDS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Storla, Staff Liaison
NS/dm



Historical Commission - Regular

1.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Speaker/DVD Long Time Coon Rapids Resident Roy Downs

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Speaker/DVD Long Time Coon Rapids Resident Roy Downs



Historical Commission - Regular

2.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: QR Bar Codes - You/Tube Twitter

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

QR Bar Codes - You Tube/Twitter



Historical Commission - Regular

3.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Mississippi River Field Guide

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Historic Mississippi River Field Guide



Historical Commission - Regular

4.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Historic Bikeway/Walkway Trails in Coon Rapids

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Historic Bikeway/Walkway Trails in Coon Rapids



Historical Commission - Regular

5.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Antique Road Show Update

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Antique Road Show Update



Historical Commission - Regular

6.

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Display Cabinet Update

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Display Cabinet Update



Historical Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Announcements

From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Announcements



Historical Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 04/19/2012

Subject: Fridley Historical Newsletter

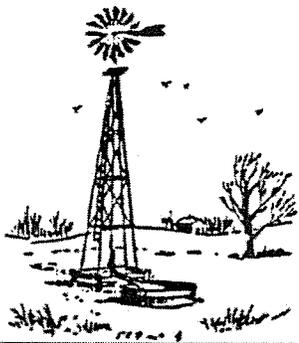
From: Debbie Miller, Assessment Clerk I

INFORMATION:

Fridley Historical Newsletter

Attachments

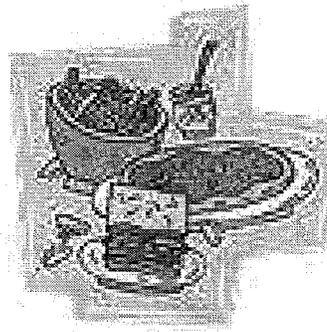
FridleyHistoricalNews



The Record

Volume 25, Issue 2

22nd Annual Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes and Live Auction



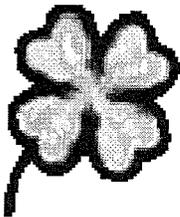
Plan to attend the 2012 Lasagna Dinner, our major fund raiser of the year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28, 5 p.m. We are grateful for the hospitality of the American Legion Hall Post 303 who will again host the event. The Hall is located at 7365 Old Central Ave. Marino's will cater a delicious dinner of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, coffee and punch. Cake will be served for dessert. A cash bar will be available.

There is parking in the rear of the building off of Onondaga St. Everyone is required to register as they come in. Seating will begin at 4:15 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5 p.m. The sweepstakes drawing and auction will begin at 5:45 p.m.

If you would like to make a donation of a sweepstakes prize or auction item, please call the History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you. Your donation would be welcome. The prizes should be \$10 or more in value and in good condition.

The tickets and reservation forms with instructions were mailed March. 2. Dinner tickets are \$12 each and sweepstakes tickets are \$1 each. Be sure to send them in right away, before the dinner is sold out. If you did not get yours in the mail, or you need more tickets, call the History Center. Someone will return your call.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, March 10
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

History Center Open House
Free admission

Saturday, March 24
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

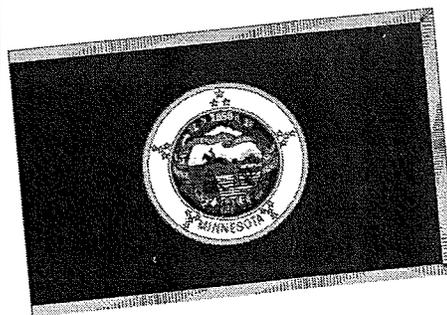
History Center Open House
Free admission

Saturday, April 14
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

History Center Open House
Free Admission

Saturday April 28
5 p.m.

22nd Annual Lasagna Dinner
At American Legion Hall
Post 303
7365 Old Central Ave.
Fridley



Minnesota State Flag Contribution

The Minnesota state flag is proudly flying beneath the United States flag at the Fridley History Center. Our thanks go to Bill Beery who donated the flag and had it hung on our flag pole.

Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

Officers

Vice President	Dorothy Gargaro
Secretary	Grace Norton
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Mary Ann Hoffman
Mary Sue Meyers
Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor — 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor — 763-422-3878

Maintenance

Open Position

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Fridley Historical Society

Board Meeting

Summary of Thursday, February 2, 2011 Meeting

Members Present: Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Ann Hoffman, Mary Sue Meyers, and Allen Taylor. Absent: Judy Anderson and Grace Norton

Vice President Gargaro called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A change needed to be made in the January, 2012 minutes. Dues came to \$1,034 rather than \$1,004. Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes. Taylor seconded the motion and it was passed by the board.

Discussion Items:

The Legacy Grant: A contract was signed with Jodi Larson who will begin interviews for the Development of Fridley as a Post World War II Suburb project, Friday, February 3 at the History Center.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Taylor reported he is looking for a site for the Hall of Fame dinner to be held Saturday, September 15.

Programs and Events: Meyers reported the Lasagna Dinner will be Saturday, April 28 at the Fridley American Legion Hall.

City and Family History: Gargaro reported that our book "Fridley—Its History and People" went into the library display she and the Bonesteels did for February. One book has been sold at the Fridley senior center.

Archives: Bonesteel and Hoffman reported that we had a successful Archive Day, January 14, 11:00-3:00 p.m. There will be another Archive Day February 25 to organize materials and prepare them for filing.

We would like to have a complete collection of Fridley High School and Totino Grace High School yearbooks. We are seeking donations of these yearbooks.

Membership: Hoffman reported that renewals are steadily coming in. Between January 5 and February 2 \$417 in dues and \$522 in donations have come in.

Maintenance: Gargaro reported that Sign Crafters, who installed the outdoor sign, has repaired it and the lights are working.

Minutes taken by Mary Ann Hoffman for Secretary, Grace Norton

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Summary of Thursday, March 1, 2012 Meeting

Members Present: Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Ann Hoffman, Mary Sue Meyers and Grace Norton. Absent: Allen Taylor.

Chad Amborn, his wife Melody and father Robert Amborn were present as guests.

Vice President, Dorothy Gargaro called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Anderson passed out the December 31, 2011 Treasurer's report for the end of the year, the audit report and the January and February 2012 reports. The income for 2011 was \$13,563.03. Expenses were \$12,371.83. The net profit was \$1,191.20. Norton made a motion that the board approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Meyers and approved by the board.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events: The Lasagna Dinner mailing was prepared at the meeting. Meyers said the returned envelopes and collected prizes should be put on a table in the kitchen. Board members should start collecting prizes as soon as possible and prizes donated by members would be welcome.

The Hall of Fame Dinner will be Saturday, September 15. A location has not been chosen yet.

Archives: Bonesteel said that he had applied for the Historical Society to do the February 2013 display at the Mississippi Branch Library.

Hoffman reported that the two archive events in January and February had accomplished a lot. There will be no more archive events until after the Lasagna Dinner.

Hoffman also reported that about half of the interviews for the Legacy Grant had been completed.

Membership: Hoffman reported that \$66 in dues and \$126.50 in donations have come in since the February board meeting. It was decided that the membership form should be run one more time in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Grace Norton
Secretary



Thank You for Renewing Your Membership

The following membership renewals were received between Jan. 5 & Feb. 26:

John Banholzer
 Bob and Jane Barnette
 Don Betzold
 Don and Susan Blakeslee
 Mark, Laura, and Nick Bonesteel
 Elaine Butorac
 Robert Christenson
 Drew and Peggy Flathmann
 Fridley Lions' Club
 Ed and Arlene Hamernik
 Earl Hatten
 Carol Hoiby
 Margaret and Bill Hunt
 Eric and Pat Jaakkola
 Corine Kirkham
 Jim Kordiak
 Martin Lueders
 Scott and Cindy Lund
 Sue and Al Madison
 Tom and Gloria Myhra
 Roger and Gwen Nawrocki
 Gene Ness

Ruth Ollila
 Donna Olson
 Warren Olson
 Andrea Oman and Pat Billig
 Sig and Marti Reckdahl
 Deb Roberge
 Midge Rotter
 Roy Scherer
 Virginia Steinmetz
 Cindy Torfin
 Mary Van Dan

Welcome back after a membership hiatus:

Julie Jones



Thank you to the following for their donations:

\$100 or more
 Mark, Laura, and Nick Bonesteel

\$50 to \$99

Drew and Peggy Flathmann
 Robert Christenson
 Roger and Gwen Nawrocki
 Warren Olson
 Deb Roberge

\$25 to \$49

Elaine Butorac
 Fridley Lions' Club
 Ed and Arlene Hamernik
 Sue and Al Madison
 Tom and Gloria Myhra
 Mary Van Dan

\$5 to \$24

Bob and Jane Barnette
 Margaret and Bill Hunt
 Corine Kirkham
 Martin Lueders
 Donna Olson
 Andrea Oman and Pat Billig
 Sig and Marti Reckdahl
 Roy Scherer
 Cindy Torfin

~ We Offer Our Condolences ~

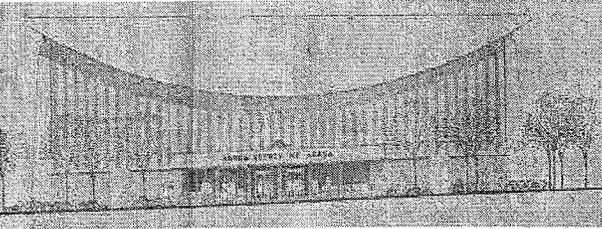
Geneva Duffy: We offer our condolences to the family of Geneva Duffy, a long time member of the Fridley Historical Society. Geneva passed away in January and services were held January 11 at the church of St. Timothy in Blaine.

Because there was no kindergarten in Fridley Schools, Geneva held a kindergarten class in her basement for a few years. Some years she had as many as 20 students. When Riverwood Elementary School opened in 1962 she closed her kindergarten

She and her husband, Jim, owned the A & W Drive Inn on the corner of Osborne and East River Road for a few years and also owned the Family Pizza Kitchen and the Steak Express which were also on East River Road.

Donald Vant: We offer our condolences to Pat Vant and her family. Pat's husband of 63 years, Donald, passed away in February. Services were held at St. Phillip's Lutheran Church.

Karen Sheldon, who grew up in Fridley and was a member of the Fridley Historical Society passed away in October. We offer our condolences to her family and loved ones.



Do you recognize this building? The sketch shows the original suggested design of the Anoka County Ice Arena by Pattee Architects in 1967.

A Dive into the Archive: Columbia Arena, Part Two

by Mary Ann Hoffman

In the last issue of The Record, the decision by Anoka County to build an ice arena was explained. At a 1967 County Board meeting, Al Kordiak and Mike O'Bannon initiated a discussion about building an ice arena in Fridley. Though there seemed to be much public support for an arena, and the board had directed the county attorney to draft legislation that would enable the issuing of bonds to pay for it, the location of the future arena was a point of contention. The story, based on FHS archival material, continues.

A series of clippings from February, 1967 shows that, despite divided opinion about the future arena, the project was moving forward. One article states that the Fridley City Council agreed that Fridley was a logical location for the county ice arena. Another piece from the *Anoka County Union* states that an anonymous group of hockey boosters in Anoka was opposed to an ice arena in Fridley because Anokans had pioneered the project, laid the ground work, and had been working on it for six years. To that, Commissioner Kordiak pointed out that Fridley and Columbia Heights had supported the development of Bunker Prairie Park and the junior college, neither of which were in southern Anoka County. An article in the *Record* reports that Anoka County and Fridley officials met with the Minnesota Transfer Railroad Company to negotiate the purchase of 25 acres of land in Locke Park to be used for an ice arena.. At the February 14 county board meeting, three locations in Fridley were considered, but Locke Park was seen as the most favorable. By then, the estimated cost of construction had increased to \$750,000.

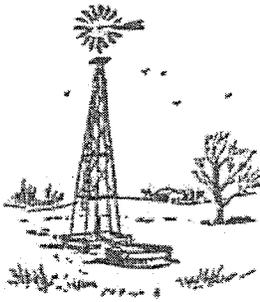
A news report dated June 21, 1967 describes how county negotiations with the Minnesota Transfer Railroad Company had led to an impasse over land cost, forcing the county to begin condemnation proceedings. The railroad company was asking \$8,500 an acre, though the appraised cost was a mere \$3,000 to \$5,000 per acre. County Commissioners defended the choice of Locke Park for the arena due to its "proximity to major highways, aesthetic beauty, completed improvements, population densities and promise of paying for itself."

Even though condemnation plans were proceeding, a July 19, 1967 article states that the County Board hired Frank Pattee Architects, Inc., Minneapolis, to draw up architectural plans for an ice arena to be located in Fridley. Pattee was chosen because of its experience in building ice arenas, including the new Metropolitan Stadium Ice Arena for the Minnesota North Stars. Construction of the Fridley arena was to begin by January 1, 1968, and be completed by August 1, 1968. That this project was being planned during the Cold War is evident in that the board planned to investigate the use of the arena as a civil defense fallout shelter.

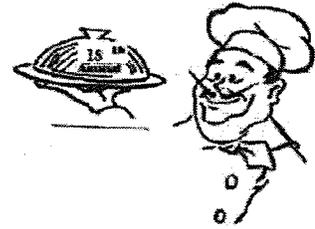
A headline dated September 6, 1967 states "Board Okays Plans for County Ice Arena." Pattee Architects had submitted preliminary plans which called for a 216' x 180' arena to be built on two levels and seat 3,582. An architectural drawing accompanying the article shows an exterior view of the arena. Though handsome, it looks nothing like the one that was eventually built.

An October 18, 1967 article reports that a District Court Condemnation Commission awarded \$85,206 to Anoka County in its condemnation proceedings against the Minnesota Transfer Railroad Company. The county expressed satisfaction with the award, as it had offered \$3,000 an acre, and the settlement amounted to approximately \$2,500 per acre. Fridley had already agreed to split the cost of the land with the county, each paying \$42,603. Although land procurement was finally settled, a new challenge was reported in a December 29, 1967 news article: upon opening 12 general contract bids for the arena, the board was dismayed to see that they ranged from \$1,033,000 to \$1,188,075, which were, "considerably above prior unofficial estimates which varied from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000". Commissioner Kordiak expressed disappointment at the high figures and said he didn't know what the board would decide from there.

In the next issue, the story concludes with a solution for the high bidding costs, the completion of the arena, and a lavish dedication ceremony.



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



22nd Annual Lasagna Dinner Sweepstakes & Live Auction

PRIZES!

Date Saturday, April 28, 2012

Time Doors open at 4:15 p.m.
Dinner served at 5 p.m.
Catered by Marinos

Tasty Food!

Place American Legion Post 303
7365 Central Ave. N.E.
Fridley

**You do not
need to be
present to
win!**

Sweepstakes
Many great prizes

Fridley Friends!

Live Auction
Many unique items starting at
\$50, including \$100 Eye Care
Center certificate

Dinner tickets: \$12 each

Sweepstakes tickets: \$1 each

For information on how to order dinner or sweepstakes tickets, call 763-571-0120 leave a message and someone will return your call.

*Order early:
Limited
seating!*



Valentine's Potluck Dinner and Bingo

Thursday, February 9 was our Valentine's celebration with a potluck dinner and bingo at the History Center. There was plenty of delicious food and a lot of great donated prizes to win.



A table decoration



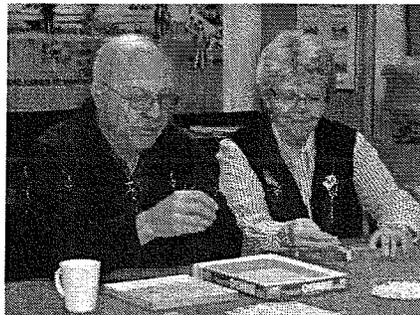
Left to right: Gene Ness and Pat Naegle



Concentrating on the game: Gwen and Roger Nawrocki with their backs to the camera, Allen Taylor, Kathy Taylor and Mary Ann Hoffman facing the camera.



Jack and Lillian Meyer

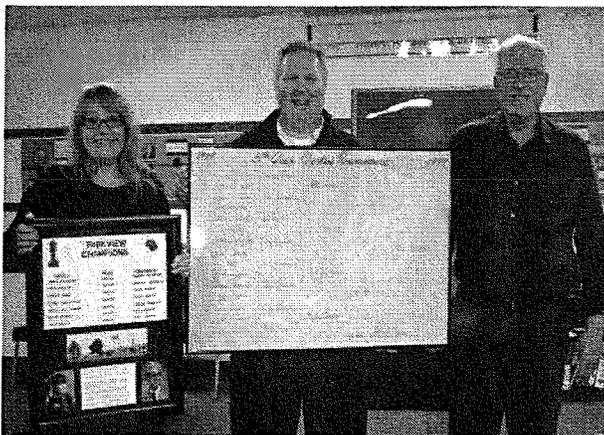


Maynard Nielsen and Dorothy Gargaro called the numbers



A few of the prizes.

Parkview Plaque Presented to Fridley Historical Society



Chad's wife Melody with the plaque, Chad holding the schedule chart and Chad's father Robert Amborn

Chad Amborn, his wife Melody and father, Robert Amborn came to the March board meeting to make a presentation to the Historical Society. They presented a plaque of Parkview Elementary School's chess and checker tournament champions from 1977. These tournaments were an important part of school life at Parkview. Dr. Lee Switzer the principal of Parkview gave it to the Amborn family in memory of Chad's bother ,Curt, when Parkview School closed in 1978 . Although he was very sick with cancer at the time of the tournament, Curt decided he wanted to enter it. He won the checker tournament and passed away just a month after winning it.

They also presented a schedule of the tournament which is a beautiful example of penmanship, which is almost a lost art.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
Grace Norton, Editor
Robert Christenson, Photographer

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO 31193

Coon Rapids Historical Commission
Ned Storla
11155 Robinson Dr.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433



*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

0047



Reminder: It's Membership Renewal Time if You Haven't Done It Yet.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please fill in the renewal form below and mail it to the address provided. We are an all-volunteer organization that relies on membership dues for our day-to-day operations, as well as to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving and disseminating the history of the City of Fridley. Thank you to all who sent in their forms from the last issue.



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Dues for 2012: One Senior is \$10.00, One Individual is \$12.50, Family (2 Adults or 2 Seniors, same household) is \$18.50. Please consider making an additional donation to help us reach our goals. Make checks payable to Fridley Historical Society.

Dues \$ _____ Additional tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432.

Thank you!