

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Edina Heritage Preservation Board
ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR
Savory Gardens Neighborhood - 5300 Whiting Avenue
Tuesday, July 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call was Vice Chair Weber and Members Moore, Mellom, O'Brien, Christiaansen, and McLellan. Absent were Members Birdman, Sussman, McDermott, student members Brandt and Johnson. Staff present was Senior Planner, Joyce Repya.

III. 2014 SUMMER TOUR - Savory Gardens, 5300 Whiting Avenue & the "Lundgren" Midcentury Modern Style homes in the surrounding neighborhood.

Savory Gardens, a long standing nursery business nestled into a residential neighborhood harkens back to the days when Edina was dotted with vegetable and hobby farms. In 1946, the Savory family purchased 12 acres of land in the area, and even though much of their property was sold off for residential development, the family continued to maintain their homestead and the nursery business.

Savory Gardens is a treasure in Edina that few people are aware of. Specializing in hybrid hostas, they have made a name nationally for growing the number of species from just 20 to over 2,000 varieties. Mrs. Arlene Savory shared her reminiscence of the family business and the growth she has seen in the neighborhood over the years. Board members agreed that a visit to Savory Gardens should be on all Edinan's "to do" lists.

After visiting with Mrs. Savory, the tour continued through the surrounding neighborhood on Whiting Avenue and West 64th Street where there are a large concentration of homes (many Mid-Century style) built during the 1960's by Lundgren Contemporary, Inc.. Lundgren built many homes throughout Edina, which typify the post war construction that was prevalent during the period when Edina experienced unprecedented residential growth. Barry Lundgren, the builder's son resides in one of his father's homes at 5330 Whiting Avenue, and the board had the good fortune to have Barry and his wife Karen lead the Lundgren house tour when he shared reflections on his dad's business and the impact it had on Edina's residential landscape.

Barry and Karen also generously opened their home to the tour group where they pointed out architectural features that were unique to the style of homes his father built. Some of those features included stone floors in the entry way, open stairs, redwood ceilings, and sliding patio doors (which in the 1960's had to be shipped from California.)

The tour ended at the home of Member Christiaansen, which is one of the "Lundgren" homes featured on the tour. Many of the Midcentury Modern features identified in Barry and Karen Lundgren's home were evident in the Christiaansen's home as well.

As the tour ended, the board agreed that walking a neighborhood provided a valuable perspective one doesn't experience when reading reports and viewing photos and maps. A special thanks was offered to Member Christiaansen who coordinated the tour. And finally, the board agreed that they looked forward to the 2015 summer tour, wherever in Edina it may be.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS - None

V. CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS - None

VI. XI. NEXT MEETING DATE August 11th (MONDAY)

VII. XII. ADJOURNMENT 8:20 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
*Joyce Repya***