



Residents Across the State Rally at the Capitol

by Krystal Klein

On February 28th, park residents from across the state came to the Capitol to be heard. They came out to protect their homes, families and community. The rally was being hosted by APAC to gain support from residents for the Mobile Justice Legislative Agenda.

The bills will protect homeowners from park closings and provide more opportunities for residents to take control of the land.

"It's time to demand that your government act in your best interest," said Paul Wissmiller, a park resident from Saint Anthony Village, "The most important reason to make the proposed bills into law is (because) it's the right thing to do."

The audience cheered waving



signs: "It's not a trailer; it's my home" and "No more park closings." Ten year old Sean Matson wrapped himself in a Mobile Justice flag.

The rally called on legislators to act now to protect their constituents. Chief author for the park closing compensation bill, Representative Scott Kranz of Blaine addressed the crowd and said:

"There is a myth out there about mobile homeowners, and the fact

that I'm standing here (at the Capitol) as your Representative proves that it's not true: you do vote."

Senator John Marty, chief author of the park purchase opportunity bill also spoke.

Following the rally most park residents present had an opportunity to sit down with both their representative and senator to talk about both bills being proposed this year.

For many, this was their first visit to the Capitol and their first interaction with their elected officials, but it certainly won't be their last.

"This is just the beginning, it's the tip of the iceberg," said Beverly Adrian, President of the APAC Board of Directors.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APAC's Board of Directors meetings are generally the 3rd Saturday of each month.

SUPPORT OUR BILLS

Call your legislator today.

Two Bills, One Problem

by Steven Renderos

For this year's APAC legislative agenda it was clear that more needed to be done to protect homeowners. The two bills proposed, if passed, will provide vital protections for park residents.

The first bill (**House File 1205/ Senate File 1196**) will have the biggest impact on every manufactured home park resident in the state of Minnesota. This bill would require park owners to pay reasonable relocation expenses for people that are being displaced as a result of a park closing. The chief authors for this bill are Representative Scott Kranz (DFL-Blaine) and Senator Michael Jungbauer (R-East Bethel).

The language in current state law addresses this issue vaguely, and it

passes the responsibility off to cities to decide whether any compensation will be provided at all.

Some cities have taken a proactive approach to this issue by passing "Park Closing Ordinances." This guarantees compensation for residents living within those cities. The unfortunate fact is that, although 21 cities have passed Park Closing Ordinances, this only guarantees compensation to less than 10% of Minnesotans that live in parks.

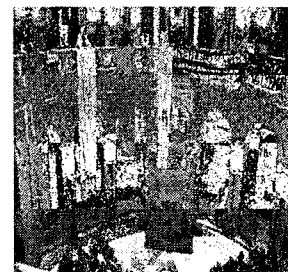
The second bill (**House File 1301/ Senate File 1253**) is an improvement to a law that currently exists. The Right of First Refusal law was established as a means to keep parks open. It applies when parks are closing for redevelopment and it gives residents 45 days to gather

the resources to purchase the property themselves to keep the park open. The chief authors for this bill are Representative Frank Moe (DFL-Bemidji) and Senator John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

The changes the bill proposes are to extend the right of refusal period from 45 days to 90 days. It also allows for a Right of First Refusal if a park closes within three years of a sale. The extended time period and flexibility will encourage residents to work together to preserve their community and keep it open. It will also provide opportunities for nonprofit developers and other organizations to step in and purchase the park on behalf of the residents.



Lynda Thurstin at the state capitol



Bev Adrian speaks to a crowd of residents during Mobile Justice Lobby Day.

NEWS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

CAPITOL UPDATE: Both Bills Making Progress

By Margaret Kaplan



Will relocation compensation be guaranteed for every resident who loses a home to a park closure? All indications are, that the answer will be yes. Although the legislation has evolved from a mega park closing ordinance to a centralized statewide relocation compensation system, the bottom line is that homeowners, regardless of where they live in the state, will be compensated for the cost of moving the home or the loss of their home if they are displaced by a park closure.

We have passed the bill through two committees in the House and one committee so far in the Senate. With one committee left in the Senate, we are trying to put the finishing touches on language that will create a

system that is both fair to residents and sustainable in the long term.

The push to improve the right of first refusal is also reaching the home stretch. It has also gone through some changes from what we first proposed, but it expands the time frame for residents to meet the sale price from 45 days to 90 days. It also requires that a park owner negotiate in good faith with the residents any time the park changes hands. Similar legislation in New Hampshire has assisted residents become park owners in over 70 manufactured home parks form cooperatives.

After three hearings in the House and two in the Senate, it looks like we have only one more Senate committee to go.

Please Support APAC! Call Your Legislators Today!

by Ned Moore

Park residents from across the state are working to pass two laws that will protect homeowners! In order for these bills to pass, your state legislators need to hear from YOU! One call can make a huge difference.

Since early January, residents across the state have been getting in contact with their legislators at the State Capitol to ensure that both bills proposed by APAC pass this year.

The bills address the growing concern over park closings. We need everyone to get involved by calling your elected officials today.

If you are calling your House Representative the bill numbers are **House File 1205 & 1301**. If you are calling your Senator the bill numbers are **Senate File 1196 & 1253**.

To find the names and contact information of your elected officials, either go to the Minnesota Legislature's website <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/> or call APAC and we'll give you the information over the phone.

For info on our bills please refer to the article on the front page "Two Bills, One Problem".

URGENT: Please Call These Legislators!

Our bills are close to making it to the House and Senate floor where all elected officials will vote on our bills. These legislators need to hear from you. Tell them to support our bills

In the Senate, ask them support bill numbers:
SF 1196 & 1253



Senate Majority Leader
Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL) District 59
(651) 296-7809



Senate Minority Leader
David Senjem (R) District 29
(651) 296-3903

In the House, ask them support bill numbers:
HF 1205 & 1301



Speaker of the House
Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL) 05B
(651) 296-0171



House Minority Leader
Marty Seifert (R) District 21A
(651) 296-5374

There Oughta' Be a Law, And Here's How to Get'em Passed

by Dave Anderson

Have you ever felt like the system let you down or treated you unfairly? Have you ever had a good idea for how to make the rules fairer and didn't know what to do? Consider this your very brief guide to how to pass a law in Minnesota.

Every year there are thousands of good ideas introduced as bills (or proposals) to change state law. Of these ideas, only a couple hundred ever become law. The crucial difference for the successful bills: The pressure the Minnesota Legislature felt to act on a particular idea.

This year, the APAC board of directors held a Resident Legislative Summit to identify

residents' concerns. APAC staff put these ideas into legal language and recruited legislators to sponsor (or author) the proposals.

To become law, bills pass through the two parts of the Minnesota Legislature: the Senate and the House of Representatives. One or more committees hear the bills in each and then the full membership of each vote. This year, residents have called, written and visited with legislators to apply pressure and gain support.

If the House and Senate produce identical bills, they go to the Governor to sign or veto. If not, they form a House-Senate "conference committee," develop a new version, and

send it back to both bodies for a new vote before going to the Governor.



Senator John Marty at Mobile Justice Lobby Day

APAC NEWS

Park Residents Come Together for a Legislative Summit

by Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria

The remains of Shady Lane Mobile Home Park are a daily reminder of the effects of park closings. That is why residents from many manufactured home parks across the state met in the Bloomington library which is located next to where Shady Lane once stood. They met to address what state laws they want change and how that can be APAC's legislative agenda for this year.



Residents from Bloomington, Chisago City, Inver Grove Heights, Red Wing, Rosemount, Shakopee, St. Anthony and other communities discussed the importance of having statewide relocation compensation so residents who would be affected by park closings in the state of Minnesota would be protected.

Residents also talked about the importance of extending the timeline from 45 to 90 days that currently is in place for residents to exercise the right of first refusal, which gives residents the option to purchase their park in case it is being

sold for redevelopment.

Residents strongly agreed that these were the two things that they wanted to change and they would like to see APAC pursue these changes in this legislative session. Residents also expressed concerns regarding the increase of lot rent over the last few years which creates a financial hardship on many park residents that are on a fixed income. They felt that rent increases do not justify the lack of maintenance done in their communities and that this should be something that residents and APAC should

work to change in the future.

At this legislative summit, residents determined that the relocation compensation bill would be the priority bill for this year's legislative session.

At the Mobile Justice Leadership Conference, held a couple of weeks later in the city of St. Anthony Village, park leaders gained the tools and strategies to make this happen. Leaders learned about building power within their communities, how to talk to legislators and elected officials, and how to get people from their parks involved in their resident associations. Residents engaged the presenters as well as fellow park residents and challenged others to build power within their communities. Many residents left the conference with the feeling of empowerment and excitement because they were learning how they can achieve Mobile Justice.

Meet Scott Kranz. A New Politician in Town

by Deanna StandingCloud-Green

Scott Kranz recalls attending school with friends from Centennial Square manufactured home community in Blaine. "I would visit friends [in Centennial] as a young man, and now I have students from Centennial as a teacher," says Kranz. Scott Kranz teaches Social Studies at Spring Lake Park High School.



After speaking with park residents, he was inspired to become Vice Chair of the Housing Committee, so he can be active in promoting justice for these communities," explains Anderson.

Lavon Peek, a resident of Centennial Square in Blaine describes Kranz's involvement in APAC's legislation.

During his campaign for State Representative, Kranz aimed his focus on speaking with people living in manufactured home parks. "Residents were friendly and hospitable. The communities are diverse, hard working, and make viable contributions to society." Largely due the votes of park residents, Kranz was voted into office.

When All Parks Alliance for Change introduced proposed bills to Kranz regarding improving the standard of living in manufactured home parks, he did not hesitate to support them.

Executive Director of APAC, Dave Anderson scheduled a meeting with Kranz in early 2007. "Representative Kranz was eager to sign on.

"I'm grateful for Scott for being on our side and presenting this issue to legislators. We need someone like him supporting us."

Blaine is home to some of the largest parks in the state of Minnesota. The city of Blaine does not currently have a park closing ordinance, and with intense development in that area, residents are in a vulnerable situation. Having support from Representative Scott Kranz, in his first year in office, stands as a significant support for Mobile Justice. Kranz explained why he is pushing APAC's bills this legislative session, "Park residents are real people that deserve peace of mind."

"Park Residents are real people that deserve peace of mind."

-Representative Scott Kranz, District 51A (Blaine).



Bev Adrian arranges a public display at the State Capitol. The model homes represented the 491 homes lost to park closings since 2000.



Residents from communities across the state rallied on February 28th to save their homes.

All Parks Alliance for Change

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The Alliance is the quarterly newsletter of
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(APAC).

Editor:

Steven Renderos

APAC would like to thank the following
legislators for authoring our bills this year.

Park Closure Compensation

House File 1205

Scott Kranz (Chief Author), Frank Moe,
Paul Gardner, Frank Hornstein, Dennis
Ozment, Marsha Swails, Ken Tschumper

Senate File 1196

Michael Jungbauer (Chief Author), John
Marty, Tony Lourey, Sandy Pappas

Right of First Refusal

House File 1301

Frank Moe (Chief Author), Scott Kranz,
Jim Davnie, Frank Hornstein, Jeremy
Kalin, Lyle Koenen, Morrie Lanning, Will
Morgan, Dennis Ozment, Marsha Swails,
Tom Tillberry, Ken Tschumper

Senate File 1253

John Marty (Chief Author), Michael Jung-
bauer, Tony Lourey, Tarryl Clark



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All Parks Alliance for Change (APAC) is a non profit organization that works to provide an effective voice for manufactured home homeowners and other park residents in the state of Minnesota. Through action and communication APAC serves as a vehicle to promote meaningful social change and to improve the quality of life in manufactured home parks.

APAC Staff

Executive Director Dave Anderson	National Project Coordinator Debbi Howden
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Community Organizer Steven Renderos	Consultant Bev Adrian

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Bev Adrian- President	Paul Wissmiller- Treasurer
Pat Thierren- 1st Vice President	Sandy Boone- Secretary
Betty Bailey- 2nd Vice President	

At Large Members- Judy Bartels, John Freeman, Pat Freeman, and Mary Hamilton.

APAC would like to thank the following organizations for their support in 2007

- F. R Bigelow Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- CFED
- Community Solutions Fund
- Family Housing Fund
- Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
- Headwaters Foundation for Justice
- Initiative Foundation
- McKnight Foundation
- Minneapolis Foundation/ Emma B. Howe
- Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Minnesota Justice Foundation
- Minnesota State Bar Foundation
- Northwest Area Foundation
- Organizing Apprenticeship Project
- Pax Christi Catholic Community
- Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
- St. Paul Foundation
- St. Paul Travelers Foundation