



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Rainville, Payne, Wonsley, Vetaw, Ellison, Osman,
Cashman, Jenkins, Chavez, Chughtai, Koski, Chowdhury, and Palmisano

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF DANDELION DAYS AND HONORING THE WOMAN’S CLUB, ARD GODFREY COMMITTEE FOR PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING THE ARD GODFREY HOUSE

- Whereas: The Ard Godfrey House is the oldest surviving wood frame house in Minneapolis, built in 1849; and
- Whereas: Dandelion Days celebrates Harriet Godfrey’s introduction of dandelion seeds to the St. Anthony Falls area; and
- Whereas: Since its incorporation in 1907, the Woman’s Club has operated for charitable and educational purposes, civic and social service, and to build relationships that change lives and improve our community; and
- Whereas: Members are actively involved in the community by volunteering, raising funds, and collecting donations for critical nonprofits such as Tubman, People Serving People and currently make their commercial kitchen available to Involve MN, a nonprofit that prepares and provides meals for the unsheltered and vulnerable people across Minneapolis; and
- Whereas: In 1911, the Woman’s Club petitioned for Eloise Butler to become the full-time Curator of the Glenwood Park Wildflower Garden and when faced with resistance from the Park Board they provided her salary for the first year to establish the position; and
- Whereas: In 1914, the Woman’s Club advocated for Minneapolis to hire its first policewoman, Georgiana Sharrott; when faced with resistance from City Hall, they paid her first year’s salary; and
- Whereas: In 1975, while driving by Chute Square, Woman’s Club President, Katy Lenmark, saw the run-down state of the Ard Godfrey House and decided that the Minneapolis Woman’s Club should adopt it, restore it, and give it to the City as a bicentennial gift; and
- Whereas: The restoration project caught the attention of Kay McReavy and it inspired her to join the Woman’s Club and dedicate herself to its ongoing stewardship; and
- Whereas: The restoration was accomplished through the volunteer efforts of Woman’s Club members, Eastside neighbors, Dunwoody students, the Minneapolis Building Trades Council and twenty-one separate unions; and
- Whereas: The restoration was supported by: Reverend Alan Moss, Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board President, Dale Gilbert; AFL-CIO Secretary - Treasurer, Dan Gustafson; Mayor Albert Hofstede; Hennepin County Historical Society President, Roy Thorshov; and State Legislators Phyllis Kahn and Allan Spear; and
- Whereas: The house has been impeccably restored by The Woman’s Club and is filled with furnishings and household artifacts authentic to the 1850s, including some original furniture of the Godfrey family; and
- Whereas: Volunteers and college interns give tours dressed in period costume from the 1850s; and
- Whereas: The little yellow Ard Godfrey House is cherished throughout the Eastside and provides hours of peaceful enjoyment to neighbors of all ages; and
- Whereas: The Ard Godfrey Committee cherishes the memory of long-time Chair, Muriel Bochnak; and it honors long-standing traditions while making new ones and approaches the future in a spirit of optimism;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby join in celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Dandelion Days in Chute Square and honoring Kay McReavy and the women of the Ard Godfrey Committee.

Passed this the Ninth Day of May 2024

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk