

# **Prospect Park Association Collection**

## **M/A 2015.03.01-21**

**Finding aid prepared by Carissa Hansen and Cindy Coy**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

February 2016

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
<b>Creator</b>	Prospect Park and East River Road Improvement Association (Minneapolis, Minn.).
<b>Title</b>	Prospect Park Association (PPA) Collection
<b>Date</b>	1929-2012
<b>Extent</b>	19.13 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## History

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The Prospect Park Association (PPA), known as the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association (PPERRIA) until 2015, was the first neighborhood association in Minneapolis. Started in 1901 as the Prospect Park Improvement Association (PPIA) as a response to poor streets, sidewalks, signage, lights, gas, and police protection, the association has grown over the decades into the organization it is today with a 40-person volunteer board of directors and strong neighborhood participation. PPA is concerned with the health, safety and general welfare of the neighborhood and promotes the maintenance and improvement of the aesthetic, residential, and physical qualities of the area. PPA discusses concerns regarding block club organizing, zoning, land use changes, schools, taxes, traffic changes, parks, arts, recreation, housing rehabilitation, historic preservation, and the environment.

PPA resides over the Prospect Park neighborhood, located in southeast Minneapolis. The neighborhood is bound by railroad tracks and industrial land to the north, the city boundary between Minneapolis and St. Paul to the east, the Mississippi River to the south, and the University of Minnesota to the west. Some of the earliest residents began settling in the neighborhood in the last half of the 19th century.

At the heart of the neighborhood is Tower Hill Park, the highest land area in Minneapolis, home to the iconic Witch's Hat tower. In 1901, Tower Hill was in danger of being leveled, rallying the neighborhood together to save it, perhaps being the first major project PPIA took on, headed by Wilbur J. Hartzell. The group also prevented the gravel mining of Tower Hill in 1906, at which point it was designated a park.

Water pressure was poor in Prospect Park and PPIA advocated for a water tower to benefit the residents. In 1913, a 150,000 gallon water tower designed by Frederick William Cappelen was built and used for 40 years, until it was decommissioned in 1952. The caretaker of the tower was dubbed "The Wizard" by local residents and children. In 1955, the tower was struck by lightning and saved from demolition by PPA. In 1986, the Witch's Hat was renovated to preserve it for another 100 years. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

From the 1960s to the early 2000s, PPA lobbied government officials to address issues affecting Prospect Park neighborhood. Positioned between an industrial area, the University of Minnesota, highways and railroads, the neighborhood dealt frequently with pollution and encroachment. Additionally, concerns surrounding Light Rail Transit began being raised in the 1980s and continued for decades. In 1992, PPA successfully opposed a proposal from Carl Bolander and Sons Company to build a cement crusher, citing potential noise, air and water pollution. The longest, most arduous fight against pollution involved Barber, Union, and Gopher Oil from 1906-2001. In 1910, the first protests were raised against Barber Oil due to pollution. The business dealt with kerosene, gasoline, and paint products, and there was fear that the materials created a fire hazard and put residents' health in jeopardy. In 1927, PPA claimed Barber depreciated surrounding property and had been building additions without permits. By 1971, Union Oil of California (UNOCAL) was the owner of Barber Oil. Gopher Oil purchased the site in 1980, but abandoned it by 1981. During this time, PPA continued to fight, citing a 1958 2-4D vapor leak that killed hundreds of trees and an incident in 1977 when 10,000 gallons of turpentine spilled into the environment. In 1984, there was an attempt to have microbes "eat" the pollution, which was unsuccessful. In 1992, UNOCAL repurchased the land from Gopher Oil for soil remediation, which was also unsuccessful.

Finally, in 2001, UNOCAL sold the land to Brighton Development Corporation for \$10, under the condition that Brighton would be responsible for residual environmental liability. In 2002, 96 years after Barber Oil first began polluting the site, 53,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were trucked out to be replaced with residential housing.

In 1993, the PPA became involved with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), a citywide investment program designed to improve Minneapolis neighborhoods. PPA laid out an action plan including initiatives for housing, the environment, transportation, education, safety, livability, business, and recreation. In an effort to increase safety and security in the neighborhood, PPA decided to petition property owners to financially support the implementation of ornamental street lights, with the NRP funding part of the project as well. Some residents vehemently opposed the street light initiative, citing a mishandling of the matter on the part of the NRP, PPA and the City of Minneapolis, as well as a lack of evidence that lighting has an effect on crime rates. Nevertheless, the street lighting was installed in 2000, but only after years of disagreement between PPA and the opposing residents. As a result of the street lighting issue, more than 100 Prospect Park property owners sued the City of Minneapolis, and some of the disgruntled residents formed another neighborhood group called the Prospect Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA).

PPA has addressed many other neighborhood concerns including the I-94 freeway project in 1964; State Highway 280 in 1972; the closing and saving of Pratt, Motley, and Marshall-University schools in 1982; and saving Minneapolis Public Library's Southeast Library in 1983. See the Projects series in the collection for additional issues addressed.

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## Description of Collection

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The collection consists of 21 boxes of material from the various iterations of the Prospect Park Association. Due to a house fire in the 1970s, many of the early records were lost. Though the date range of the collection is 1929-2012, the bulk of the material dates from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Box 1 contains general organizational information. Boxes 2-9 consist of newsletters, agendas, and minutes for both member and executive officer meetings. Boxes 10-15 contain material related to various projects undertaken by PPA including the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Gopher Oil pollution. Boxes 15-18 contain the papers of former PPA officers Sue Rohde, Susan Gottlieb, Paula Denman, and Steve Cross. Box 18 also contains a small selection of financial material. Boxes 19 and 20 contain photographs dating from the 1960s to 2000s. Box 21 contains cassette tapes, computer disks, and realia.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is grouped into 9 series:

- Organizational Documents
- Agendas, Minutes, Etc.
- Projects (Subseries include Bolander and Sons Company, Gopher Oil, Light Rail Transit (LRT), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), and Pratt Community School)
- Sue Rohde
- Susan Gottlieb
- Paula Denman
- Steve Cross
- Financial
- Media

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library February 2016

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Carl Bolander and Sons Company (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- Gopher Oil (Minneapolis, Minn.).
- Neighborhood Revitalization Program. (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Prospect Park and East River Road Improvement Association (Minneapolis, Minn.).

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Prospect Park Neighborhood (Minneapolis, Minn.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Cross, Steve
- Denman, Paula
- Gottlieb, Susan
- Rohde, Sue

**Subject(s)**

- Citizens' associations -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- City planning -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Community development -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Community organization -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Neighborhood government
- Pollution -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- Railroads, Local and light -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis
- Street lighting
- Zoning -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis

## Organizational Documents

## Collection Inventory

### Organizational Documents 1970-2009

#### Scope and Contents note

Bylaws, procedures, membership information, and historical information.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Articles of Incorporation 1980, 1997, 2000	1	1
Bylaws 1979-1993	1	2
Bylaws 1994-2000	1	3
Committees and Friends undated, 1995-1997	1	4
Constitution 1970	1	5
Directories 1998	1	6
Membership Information undated, 1996, 1999, 2009	1	7
Grievance Process 1999	1	8
Letterhead and Stationary undated	1	9



## Organizational Documents

Local Vendors 2004	1	10
Long-term Goals 1997	1	11
Meeting Guidelines 1996-1999	1	12
Member Responsibilities 1996-1999	1	13
Pamphlets undated, 1999-1992	1	14
Procedures 1997-1998	1	15
Property Surveys 2000	1	16
Staff and Member Lists 1970s-2000s	1	17
Website 2006-2009	1	18
Annual Reports 1996-1997	1	19
Prospect Park History and Notable Individuals undated, 1980s-2000s	1	20
Artwork undated	1	21
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Originals and copies		

**Agendas, Minutes, Etc.****Agendas, Minutes, Etc. 1956-2010****Scope and Contents note**

Meeting announcements, agendas, minutes, notes, flyers, and copies of the PPA newsletter. Arranged in chronological order.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. 1956-1969	2	1
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. 1970	2	2
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. 1970-1971	2	3
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. 1971-1972	2	4
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-March 1973	2	5
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April-May 1973	2	6
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. June-July 1973	2	7
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. August-November 1973	2	8
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-May 1974	2	9
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. July-December 1974	2	10

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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-February 1975	2	11
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April 1975	2	12
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. May-June 1975	2	13
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. July-December 1975	2	14
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-February 1976	2	15
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. March-April 1976	2	16
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. July 1976	2	18
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. August-December 1976	2	19
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January 1977	2	20
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April 1977	2	22
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-March 1980	2	34
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April 1980	2	35
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. May-September 1980	2	36
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. February-April 1981	2	38

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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. June-July 1983	3	2
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. September-November 1983	3	3
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-March 1983	3	4
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April-July 1984	3	5
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. August-November 1984	3	6
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-April 1985	3	7
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. May-September 1985	3	8

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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. October 1985-February 1986	3	9
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-June 1987	3	12
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. August 1987-February 1988	3	13
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. July-November 1988	3	15
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. January-February 1989	3	16
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. December 1994-January 1995	4	2
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. February-March 1995	4	3
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. March 1995	4	4
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. February-March 1997	4	31
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. March 2001	6	25
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. April 2001	6	26
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. October 2001	7	6
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## Projects

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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. March 2008-February 2009	9	30
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. March-June 2009	9	31
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Agendas, Minutes, Etc. November 2009-April 2010	9	33
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. May-August 2010	9	34
Agendas, Minutes, Etc. September-October 2010	9	35

### Projects 1929-2012

#### Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, clippings, reports, meeting minutes and notes, and other documentation of PPA projects, primarily dating from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Significant projects are grouped into subseries, including Bolander and Sons Company, Gopher Oil, Light Rail Transit (LRT), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), and Pratt Community School. The bulk of the series is arranged in loose alphabetical order and contains a significant amount of material related to zoning, housing, parks, and highways.

#### Alphabetical

## Alphabetical

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
40 Acre Study 1980-1981	10	1
85th Birthday Party 1987	10	2
Bambie's Pizza March 1981-November 1982	10	3
Bicycles 1981-1984	10	6
Billboards 1988-1993	10	7
Block Nurse Program 1987	10	8
Boards and Commissions December 1983	10	9
Burlington Northern Railroad 1991	10	18
Bye Duplex 1987	10	19
Caruso's Campus Bar and Pizza 1984	10	20
Chergosky Park 1985-1986	10	21
Citizen Participation 1982	10	22
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Annual Meeting 1984	10	27
Annual Meeting 1985	10	28
Annual Meeting 1986	10	29
Annual Meeting 1987	10	30
Annual Meeting 1988	10	31
Meeting Attendance 1983-1988	10	32
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Clean-up 1984-1989	10	35
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Crime and Juvenile Justice 1981-1985	10	40
Crime 1984-1988	10	41
Crime 1994, 1996	10	42
Implementation Coordinator Position 1997	10	43
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Committee on Urban Environment (CUE), Blooming Boulevards 1984-1989	10	46
Daycare 1987	10	47
Days Inn and Cricket Inn 1981-1986	10	48
Desnoyer Park Correspondence 1988	10	49
Dinnaken Properties 1988	10	50



## Alphabetical

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Earth Day 1995-2001	11	2
Earth Day 2002-2010	11	3
East River Gorge Access Project, NRP award nomination 2000s	11	4
East River Gorge 1992-1993, 1996	11	5
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Materials related to NRP transition funding; See also NRP series in box 15 and NRP Collection (2012.05.27) folder 54		
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Thornton St./W.H. Barber Site, On-site Building Demolition October-November 1992	19	12
Thornton St./W.H. Barber Site, On-site Building Demolition October-November 1992	19	13
Thornton St./W.H. Barber Site, On-site Building Demolition October-November 1992	19	14
Thornton St./W.H. Barber Site, On-site Building Demolition October-November 1992	19	15
Annual Meeting 1987	20	1

## Photographs

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 10 Folder 30

Annual Meeting 1987

20

2

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 10 Folder 30

B & L Upholstery undated

20

3

**Scope and Contents note**

Located at 3334 University Ave. SE

Barber Oil Company February 29, 1976

20

4

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 10 Folder 4-5 and Box 11 Folders 22-34

Caruso's Campus Bar and Pizza March 28, 1984

20

5

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 10 Folder 20. Includes transparencies.

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

6

**Scope and Contents note**

## Photographs

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

7

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

8

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

9

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

10

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001

20

11

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

## Photographs

Centennial Celebration 2001	20	12
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001	20	13
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001	20	14
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6

Centennial Celebration 2001	20	15
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 17 Folder 6. Includes negatives.

Clark Oil Company 1960s	20	16
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 14 Folder 72

Clean Sweep 2000s	20	17
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## Photographs

**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 10 Folder 34

East River Gorge undated	20	18
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 11 Folders 6-7

East River Parkway undated	20	19
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East River Parkway undated	20	20
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East River Parkway undated	20	21
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East River Parkway undated	20	22
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East River Parkway undated	20	23
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East River Parkway undated	19	24
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East River Parkway undated	20	25
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East River Parkway undated	20	26
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East River Parkway undated	19	27
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East River Parkway undated	20	28
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## Photographs

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East River Parkway undated	20	29
East River Parkway undated	20	30
East River Parkway undated	20	31
East River Parkway undated	20	32
East River Parkway undated	20	33
East River Parkway undated	20	34
East River Parkway undated	20	35
East River Parkway undated	20	36
East River Parkway undated	20	37
East River Parkway undated	20	38
East River Parkway undated	20	39
East River Parkway undated	20	40
East River Parkway undated	20	41
East River Parkway undated	20	42

## Photographs

East River Parkway undated	20	43
85th Birthday Celebration 1987	20	44
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
See also Box 10 Folder 2		
85th Birthday Celebration 1987	20	45
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
See also Box 10 Folder 2		
85th Birthday Celebration 1987	20	46
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
See also Box 10 Folder 2		
85th Birthday Celebration 1987	20	47
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
See also Box 10 Folder 2. Includes negatives.		
Industrial Site North of University Ave. undated	20	48
Industrial Site North of University Ave. undated	20	49

## Photographs

Industrial Site North of University Ave. undated	20	50
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Malcolm Ave. SE March 23, 1998	20	51
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Paula Denman undated	20	52
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**Scope and Contents note**

From Paula Denman's files. See Box 17 Folders 25-26.

Ringer House undated	20	53
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**Scope and Contents note**

Located at 88 Orlin Ave. SE

7-Eleven July 21, 1983	20	54
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**Scope and Contents note**

See Box 13 Folder 38

Super America undated	20	55
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**Scope and Contents note**

See also Box 13 Folder 55

Twin Cities Co-op Credit Union 1988	20	56
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**Scope and Contents note**



**Cassette Tapes**

See also Box 14 Folder 1

Witch's Hat Tower June 1996	20	57
Zoning 1982	20	58

**Scope and Contents note**

See Box 14 Folder 11. Photographs correspond to letter from Dorian Kottler.

**Cassette Tapes**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
PPA Meeting October 23, 1995	21	1
PPA Meeting October 23, 1995	21	2

**Computer disks**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Susan Gottlieb's Files 1996-2003	21	3
Implementation Coordinator Forms and Information Sheets undated	21	4
NRP Lighting Project undated	21	5
NRP Lighting Project and NRP Mid-term Report undated	21	6

## Realia

NRP Funds Release Procedure undated	21	7
NRP Totals 1999	21	8
Susan Gottlieb's Files undated	21	9
Miscellaneous PPERRIA Files undated	21	10
Miscellaneous PPERRIA Files undated	21	11
Board of Directors Names and Addresses; Grievance Procedure undated	21	12
<b>Realia</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Button undated	21	13
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Reads "PPERRIA 1901-2001"		
Button undated	21	14
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Reads "PPERRIA 1901-2001"		
Button undated	21	16

**Scope and Contents note**

Reads "Member of a small, determined, politically well-connected clique (PPERRIA, Inc.)"

Button undated	21	16
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**Scope and Contents note**

Reads "Member of a small, determined, politically well-connected clique (PPERRIA, Inc.)"

Button undated	21	17
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**Scope and Contents note**

Reads "Enjoying the Good Life, 35+ Years in Prospect Park"