



Board Meeting

January 9, 2024

Grace Trinity Church, 1430 West 28th St, Mpls MN 55408

6 PM – in-person or online

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82674352884>

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order 6 PM - EINA Vice President Ellen Van Iwaarden**

- II. **City Council Member Katie Cashman Update**
 - a. Excited to be here! Big shoes to fill, lots to focus on - revitalizing Hennepin and Uptown corridors. Professional background in urban planning and climate action.
 - b. Not a lot of updates, just got into the office, getting to know all the CMs, grateful for W10 Aisha and W3 Michael, who W7 shares borders with
 - c. Elliott Payne will be City Council President this year, Aisha Chughtai will be our VP
 - d. Staff: Kaley Brown from Whittier Alliance
 - e. Monthly Neighborhood Coordinator meetings calendaring, so Cuyler can surface things
 - f. City Hall Updates:
 - i. Ceasefire Resolution received Friday last week, no time for folks to talk to their communities about it, so it was postponed. Goal is to work toward a recommendation we can give to Pres. Biden. Room was tense, I'm open by email/phone if you have any comments on this.
 - ii. MPD Ride-around schedule to get to know what happens on a shift, with Sgt. Barlow
 - iii. Independent Auditors presenting to communities tonight/tomorrow night, to track accountability in re: Consent Decree, good opportunity to engage
 - iv. I will Chair Climate & Public Works Committee, understand there's a lot of changes happening in these neighborhoods with major road construction and the lakes
 - v. YWCA Uptown: New nonprofit coming in, sale isn't finalized yet but it will be good to see activity back in this space. Will give more updates in future. Workforce training and youth development. Sen. Dibble will tour the building Thursday, they're seeking funding from State legislature this year.
 - vi. [Partnership Egmt Fund](#) - \$25K toward work that betters the community. Education, air/water quality, etc.
 - g. Ellen: What do you think priorities should be as you're choosing which evaluator
 - i. A: Knowledge of the community. Out-of-state isn't acquainted with the community/people, would hope that staff are deeply connected to Minneapolis. Past results, are they proven to be effective?
 - h. Resident: Hennepin Ave redesign - what about redevelopment of Hennepin? I assume a lot of folks are waiting for the reconstruction so they don't have to wait out a closed street.
 - i. A: CPED has a small business team we need to uplift to provide resources to businesses, technical assistance, some monetary. Facade matching grant, etc. That work will come through the BIZH (Business, inspection, zoning, housing) Committee, which I'll be on but not Chairing.
 - ii. Brian: Look into why it takes SO long to finish these projects, the street reconstruction. Really hurts businesses.
 - i. Res: Gaza rhetoric can be rough, but their motivations are solid and to be respected.

- i. A: Broad consensus that people want peace and dignity for all.
- j. Paula: I bought my home here in 2020, the neighborhood is a shadow of its former self. Issues with construction, homelessness, break-ins, dealing drugs, car thefts, accidents. Really want to be working with you on engaging solutions to these things. What would you do to revitalize Uptown?
 - i. A: So many reasons for the current state of things, pandemic, lack of services, etc. I have a plan with CM Chughtai, which starts with a walkthrough of every business in Uptown’s commercial corridors, to share resources, info, and get feedback. Budget passed a lot of money for responders to homeless issues, alt. to MPD
 - ii. Resident: Council attitude has been “Uptown’s fine!” and resources get placed elsewhere. Maybe we’re still following the 2040 Plan, but it feels like the plan isn’t as applicable now. Would cost less to prevent the neighborhood from falling vs. rebuilding from nothing. I do real estate and see people leaving. Spent time in MKE, where they redlined significantly, are rebuilding from scratch B-level services.
 - A: Certainly isn’t the Uptown I grew up in, would love to work with community on arts and culture building
 - Julia: Funds allocated to training the community on how to respond to the homeless situation?
 - a. A: Hiring contractors, not just community members

III. Consent Agenda – Ellen Van Iwaarden

- a. Financials - Brian
 - i. Income is up due to grants, extra funding from 2022 for 2023
 - ii. Expenses in 2023 were slightly over budget (~2%), due to MWMO grant, staffing, etc.
 - Please send any lingering receipts/expenses in the next week for reimbursement
 - iii. Motion to approve financials: Jonathan moves, Julia seconds. No discussion, all in favor! Motion passes.
- b. Minutes (December) will approve in February as Quinton will send both December and January’s then.

IV. Coordinator Update -- Cuyler Dinegan

- a. Starting with the events, our second [Traction Grit Giveaway](#) is next Saturday, Jan. 20 (1–3pm) at Frattalone’s Uptown—register by Thursday, Jan. 18 for a free 25-lb bag of Traction Grit, which prevents polluting the lake with salt and chemicals during winter! Registration available from our homepage. The Safety Walking Club meets next Sunday, Jan. 21 (10–11:30 AM) at Triangle Park. Beyond that, the [Winter Skating Party](#) is our next big event, set for Sunday, Jan. 28 (1–3pm) at LOTI Ice Rink, which Quinton is planning with reps in Kenwood and Lowry Hill, please cross all fingers for cooperative ice and weather.
- b. The Jan. newsletter went out this night, continuing a good trend of engagement, I’ll resend to any unopened contacts later this week. If you have any content for the February newsletter, please email me by Sunday, Jan. 28.
- c. Still waiting on approval of our nonprofit mailing status from the Post Office, of course they’ve been slammed with holiday mailing, so I expect that will go through soon, then we’ll send a donation letter focused on EINA’s green efforts. And still working on our 2024 events/marketing calendar.
- d. Our joint Collaboration & Shared Resources grant with East Bde Maka Ska neighborhood is still in the planning stage, EBMSNA President Thang Holt has been away on vacation until this week, they’ll be deciding soon whether to post a public RFP for a fundraising coordinator. And Still

waiting to hear from the City if our Business District Support grant application is accepted, which would cover advertising costs in 2024. (Dan, any updates on your application for this?)

- e. The City's just opened their [Partnership Engagement Fund](#), which provides 40 \$25,000 grants for new/expanded programs presented by community-based orgs (partnering with neighborhoods) that better the community as a whole. They are looking not looking for just events, but relationship-building engagement projects. Letters of interest are due Feb. 19. If a community partner/program comes to mind, please read the PDF I emailed to learn if it's eligible before pitching for Board consideration.
- f. And still planning to apply to the State of MN's Senior Community Engagement Program, which provides paid part-time staff to increase our presence in area events and programming.

V. Committee Updates (as needed):

a. Public Safety - Julia Edelman and Paula Chesley, Co-Chairs

- i. Julia: We shifted Safety Walks from Tues/Sun to Sat/Sun, still meet at Triangle Park
 - Wear orange, collect trash, chat up unhoused folks, call folks in if in distress
- ii. Aileen Johnson (starter of Safety Walk Teams) provided:
 - Homeless Response Team (HRT) brochure (PDF)
 - Auto Theft Guide (PDF)
 - Kia/Hyundai (PDF)
- iii. [Neighborhood Safety Meeting](#): Friday, Jan. 26, 5:30 checkin, 6–8pm at Kenwood Rec Center; East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood involved; Mayor Frey, MPD Chief, CM Cashman, et al.
- iv. Ellen: EINA Board budgeted money to give MPD 5th Precinct a holiday meal. I came in Julia's stead, met all the staff at call; diverse group, super friendly.
- v. Paula: Some of us have gone to safety meetings and may be burnt out, but they DO help. To show numbers that tell elected officials you are concerned, makes a difference
- vi. Resident: Our building has a Safety Team, I will tell them to come to this or your Committee

b. Green Team - Ellen Van Iwaarden, Chair

- i. We're so strong right now, largely due to Henry moving here and driving trash pickups, Adopt-a-Drain and more. Cleaned up 4000+ gallons of debris, 964 from LOTI. Went from 16% drains adopted to 34%!
- ii. [Traction Grit Giveaway](#) next Saturday, register on our homepage by Jan. 18
- iii. Pause on organized Cleanups until annual Earth Day Cleanup with MPRB (date TBD)
- iv. Henry: Media has supported our Traction Grit efforts, WCCO and KTSP have interview me about using traction grit vs salt, which permanently pollutes our lake water
 - City offers free sand for sidewalks, which is also cut with salt (25% salt : 75% sand)
- v. Boom Update: Boom put in Hiawatha Lake as a test balloon, did work! Installed in June, in 4 months the boom trapped 2,000 gallons of debris
 - We've identified 2 outflows out of Hennepin Ave that pollute LOTI to do this
 - Paula: Thanks to you guys, you're really becoming leaders of this work, even at the state level!

c. Farmers Market - Dan Sutton and Jonathan Beck, Co-Chairs

- i. Jonathan: Didn't meet this month, meeting with Jenny to identify vendors for pop-up markets in 2024
 - Brian: We did budget for a report from her which she hasn't delivered.
 - Dan: We'll follow up with her, may not be relevant anymore

d. Built Environment & Transportation – Chair open, no action items

- i. Ellen: This Committee looks at zoning and variance requests on homes and businesses. You might tour sites, and stay updated on development in the Committee.

e. NRP – no action items, will review account balances and related in February

- i. Mike is out.

VI. Summer Social – Cuyler Dinegan

- a. As I and the event leads learned last year, a Summer Social in June creeps up on you. We'd like to confirm an Event Chair soon who can carry the planning at an easier pace.
- b. Date (June 11, 12, 13) (Tues–Thurs, Mike has HLP Board Thurs)
 - i. We skipped June Board meeting last year, this could fall that night (11)
 - ii. Ellen: Would advocate for Thurs. 13
 - iii. Folks are out of town till later in June
 - iv. NOT Juneteenth, either late June or just before schools starts (late Aug)
- c. Event Chair - Debra has run this for ~2 yrs
 - i. Ellen: Suggest we postpone designating Chair to check in with her
- d. Farmers Market Pop-Up
 - i. As Dan mentioned 2024 will be pop-ups, this event looks like the best fit

VII. New Biz / Old Biz -- All

- a. 1 Open Board seat, half will turnover this April
 - i. Cory is interested, he will email his interest/form; also interested in BET
 - Rents, caretakers near the Greenway
- b. Dan: Mall Park Survey is open till Friday - take it if you haven't
 - i. Wondering if we should craft letter detailing EINA's Mall Park design priorities, issue something from the association itself
 - ii. Seems strange not to wait for Transit Center work to be done till after Mall Park work
 - iii. Harvey: Small groups met with MPRB's Elizabeth Shaffer 1+ yr ago, they're not responding to our contacts about incorporating neighborhood concerns addressed before moving forward. Woonerf's purpose is to slow down traffic for pedestrian activities - there's not traffic or ped. activities there! It will cost \$400K to do this, which could be spent on the new park beside the Walker Library. Sitalines on Lagoon would also be terrible to make turns onto if they close streets
 - Mike has this, he'll share it with the Board
 - iv. Brian: It's already not a through street, mainly used for renters to turn around to park. Why not prioritize things that improve something that's new, or specific improvements that would actually be impactful?
 - v. Ellen: Motion for EINA to send a letter about neighborhood concerns regarding the Mall Project, we'd like more time. Dan moves, Henry seconds, no discussion, all ayes.
 - vi. Ellen will work with Dan to draft this, will proof with Board by email
- c. Henry: Subscribe Buttons? Yes to all!

VIII. Adjourn 7:35pm