

## January Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 • 7–9 pm

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Fireside Room

Virtual Option: [Join on Zoom](#)



east bde  
maka ska  
neighborhood association

**Present:** Kari Krautbauer (Chair), Bobbie Keller, Brittany Edwards, Lynn Annis, Glenda Marsh, Harry Savage, Tim Gnadt, Adam Olson, Molly Downey (Board); Ward 10 CM Aisha Chughtai (guest); Robert Glisky, Bruce, Clark Porter

**Absent:** Gary Farland, Tim Fontaine, Amy Reher, Thang Holt (Board)

### 1. 7:00 pm: Welcome - Kari Krautbauer, Vice President

### 2. 7:05 pm: Approve Last Month's Minutes

- a. Kari motions to approve, Brittany moves, Harry seconds. All ayes, minutes are approved.

### 3. 7:10 pm: Reports

#### a. President's Report: Kari Krautbauer, Vice President (Thang Holt, President)

- Meeting with new Board members 1-on-1 for discussion, expectations
- Reconnecting with Committee Leaders over Jan.
- **HOLIDAY MARKET: (Lynn)**
  1. At first very small, but great warmup for a bigger market
  2. Many attended bought things, lots of laughter
  3. Rolling skating needs more publicity
  4. Scheduling teardown for decor soon
    - a. Announcement will go out
  5. Manager at Seven Points impressed with cleanup!
  6. Hope to do a bigger bang next year
  7. Vendors (Tim Gnadt): "Very happy with amount of business they did at a 6-hr event"

#### b. Staff Report: Cuyler Dinegan, Coordinator

- **501c3:**
  1. I'm told the IRS could respond any day now or take the full 10 months. East Isles neighborhood's app took about 8 months. Cross fingers we can start getting 501c3 discounts and donations soon.
- **Branding:**
  1. Still working out what free printing with UPS Store will look like with owner Judy Longbottom.
  2. Boundary signs can go up in the spring now that we have new branding. Still waiting on estimates from sign fabricators. Cuyler will fwd sign map once drafted, for Livability to review/revise
- **Fundraising:**
  1. We ended 2023 with \$1,668 in online donations - not bad for 8 months of passive fundraising!
  2. Will start an annual fundraising letter, once 501c3 comes through as it's cheaper to print/send
  3. Our joining grant with East Isles neighborhood for the City's Collaboration & Shared Fund grant is underway. This is a \$15,000 grant to cover specific shared neighborhood expenses.
    - a. A development consultant is covered - determining with Thang whether to post a public RFP for this work soon.
  4. App for Business District Support grant is still under review by the City. If selected, we'll get \$10,000 toward advertising that helps lift up area businesses through Hennepin reconstruction.
  5. Still plan to apply for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), but waiting on 501c3 status as that gives us a higher ranking.
- **Comms:**
  1. Adding Safety Committee webpage under the Committees tab on our website, will link upcoming Safety Meetings, Neighborhood Walks, and safety-related resources there
  2. Newsletter went out Tuesday continuing great engagement (65% open / 8% click), just resent to those who didn't open the first send. Please fwd any Feb. newsletter content [by Sunday, Jan. 28.](#)
- **Farmers Market Collaborative update:**

1. East Bde Maka Ska, East Isles, South Uptown, Lowry Hill, and UA are planning to revive the East Isles FM that was on The Mall Park as “Uptown Farmers Market”
  2. In 2024, each neighborhood will host a pop-up market, hitched to a public event with good attendance. Need to bring to the February Collaborative meeting: suggestions?
    - a. Bde Maka Ska Pavilion Social in spring(?) - make sure to loop in Pimento, hear they’re not doing great
- **Finally, our next Board Meeting is Thursday, Feb. 1:**
1. Any requests for a guest? MPRB? MPD?
    - a. Cuyler will reach out to MPRB to attend

**c. Treasurer’s Report: Tim Gnad, Treasurer**

- Account balance: \$22K~
- Donation: As Cuyler mentioned, \$1,668 in 2023
  - Brittany: Could we put this into a Money Market account? Rates are still so low...could net 5%+, so that way our sitting money is making some money at least.
- 2024 EEF/NFF contracts: Stays at \$20,000, the total contract amounts shift by these are already fully allocated

**d. Committee Updates**

**Livability Committee - Gary Farland / Lee Todd**

1. No update, Chairs absent and no Dec. meeting
2. Next Committee Meeting: Monday, Jan. 22, 7–8:30 pm on Zoom

**Fundraising Committee - Harry Savage**

1. No update, Harry will talk with Thang and hopes other board members will jump on to help brainstorm
  - a. Cuyler will forward Fundraising Outline Tim/Ben developed
2. Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6–7 pm on Zoom

**Social & Engagement Committee - Lynn Annis**

1. Recap, takeaways on Uptown Holiday Market (Dec. 16 at Seven Points)
2. Feb. Social: Luminary Skating has been moved to Saturday, Feb. 3, 5:30pm at Bryant Sq Park (ice)
3. Jan. Social: Lynn has confirmed Thursday, Jan. 25, 5–7pm with Roat Osha
4. Next Committee Meeting: TBD, once Lynn has contact list from Thang

**Safety Committee - Glenda Marsh / Brittany Edwards**

1. Neighborhood Safety Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:30–8 pm at St. Mary’s
  - Confirmed attendees include: CM Chughtai, MPRB Community/Cultural Outreach, Elizabeth Shaffer, Somali Cultural rep, Reps from nearby neighborhoods, SMGOC security.
  - This first meeting of 2024 will focus on the July 4 2023 out-of-area large groups with illegal fireworks and to do prevent/deter in 2024.
  - Kari will fwd Lunds meeting notes and 2023 email contact list for Safety Committee to Glenda, Cuyler will fwd other minutes/resources. Glenda will reach out to the contact list for the February monthly meeting. No response to earlier email sent to Walking team contact, will try again.
2. MPD Crime Statistics Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:30–8 pm at FIVE Event Center
  - Brittany: Inviting Block Capt.s to this
3. Block Captain Updates: Holidays slowed things down, still chipping away at the map!
4. Neighborhood Walking Crew Updates: No update, Kari will forward her Walk contact to Glenda.
5. Next Committee Meeting: TBD, after next week’s Safety Meetings

**4. 8:00 pm: New Business**

**a. 2024 Board Retreat**

01/19 & 01/20: 5pm-8pm?

- Most prefer 1 time, either non-Friday weeknight or Sunday afternoon
- Kari will confer with Thang, then Cuyler will send Doodle.

Goals & Intentions

**b. Preliminary 2024 Strategic Planning**

Who are we? What do we do? What is our role?

What are the expectations?

Organizational Overview & Goal Setting

- Glenda: I'd like to know what the Board considers their top accomplishments, priorities.

SWOT Analysis Activity

- **Weaknesses:** Congested traffic, renter egmt/input, current finances, consensus (democratic process is difficult), closed stores, perception of not safe
- **Strengths:** Lake, grants, people/community egmt at block level, new park, diverse neighborhood body, new business relationships, pavilion, size
- Brittany: SWOT analysis is much more than this. I'll forward some possibilities:
  - *Ideas for nonprofit expertise help, we could get some grad students to help from Humphrey or the CEHD evaluation program. There are a bunch of professors/classes that might be looking to help with things, like a full SWOT analysis:*
    - <https://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/community/grantmaking>
    - <https://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/community/research-organizing-and-technical-assistance>
    - <https://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/community/data-and-visualization>
    - <https://www.hhh.umn.edu/capstone-projects-student-community-partnerships>

#### 5. 8:30 pm: Ward 10 Update - CM Aisha Chughtai

- End of Dec. I ended my 1st term on the CC. Approved our first City Ops Officer. Had 50 amendments come in, far more engaged than 2022 - far more active role in creating budget and how we can highlight community priorities.
- Secured money for safety ambassadors in Uptown. Businesses ask for this often, it's something that exists in DT, makes it more safe, welcoming, accessible. We're expanding that into cultural districts across the City, including Minneapolis. CM7 Katie Cashman is also excited about Uptown revitalization.
- Expanded renter relocation assistance. Apt building's pipes burst on Christmas Day, very few tools to support them at the time, lived in their cars. Philanthropists stepped in to help, but now we've expanded relocation assistance - how can we set up in a way that's useful from the get-go.
- Approved raises for our lowest paid City staff (311, housing inspectors, et al) had made \$18 doing frontline services as City gets more dense. Want to make sure those who are doing this important work are taken care of and stay.
- Invested in domestic violence navigators (1 per precinct). 1 in 3 of our aggravated assault cases was linked to domestic violence. Better supporting victims, connect them to services, getting MPD reports filed, helped them in our part of the safety puzzle.
- Have seen tremendous rise in hate crimes in the City, from community spaces, faith spaces, youth centers, specifically related to Islamophobia, transphobia, et al. These are meant to be safe spaces for folks to be in community. Will be working on this more, providing technical assistance, safety inspections - things we can control.
- Expansion of neighborhood traffic calming - a need in every neighborhood in Ward 10, including East Bde Maka Ska. Slowing traffic, make safe for pedestrians and kids.
- Started new term on Jan. 2, welcomed CM Katie Cashman and CM Aurin Chowdhury. Lot of conversation with them tapering off, capturing their historical City knowledge. I'll be serving on Audit Committee, in charge of City govt which employs 4K+ people, how the City uses contracts, what it does about its properties (e.g. 3rd Precinct); Admin & Enterprise Committee; also Chair of Budget Committee, have had 2 yrs as institution with a new governance structure. Budget is where the CC has its greatest control here, making sure City services are delivered equitably.
- Was elected as CC Vice President this week. Excited to elevate this community's needs - Kmart project, Uptown revitalization, etc. to see these things in a larger way. Challenges are alike across the City, but we're all bringing unique perspectives to these problems.
- Spent all today on City Strategic Planning with Mayor, was really productive, CC walked away feeling really good, interested in how we talk to each other privately to fwd projects, rather than talking to the news. Feel optimistic!
- In coming year, watching how we're using our respective lanes to work together. Consent Decrees with MDHR, City/MN brought in options for the independent auditors for these Consent Decrees. Tell the City, public, and courts if MPD is on track with the plans. Dialogue was good, things got heated but people were passionate.
- Talking with Cashman's office about coordinating Uptown revitalization, Hennepin Ave torn up 2024-2025. Making sure the City's VERY communicative about what's happening every step of the way.

Q&A

**1. How can your office support our neighborhood's efforts to prevent property crime, and control crowds with illegal fireworks along the parkway and Bde Maka Ska? What advice do you have for how best to work with our local park board and 5th precinct law enforcement offices?**

Glenda: We'll be tending this question at next week's Neighborhood Safety Meeting, we can get into this then.

CM: I'll be there! So glad you're talking about this now, Park Police were just communicating they'd like to address this early.

G: So excited to have you there!

**2. I'm concerned about finding a solution for the unhoused group that uses the wide sidewalk around the Walker Public Library as their living space. I formerly used that library in person but after witnessing some of the manic behavior I have decided that using the library is a risk not worth taking. (At other times, the population using the sidewalk is either asleep or nodded out so it appears obvious that drug use is constant and recurring.) Are there plans to help the troubled individuals in that group and make the library safe for me and my neighbors?**

CM: Safety around Walker and Uptown Transit Station are deeply tied together. 6-8 months ago, we looked at the Hi-Lake Transit Station model, ways they addressed rise in violence there. We built something at Uptown Transit Station, with stakeholders in MPD, MPRB, N.A., City staff, Metro Transit, and others to talk issues, what patrols are seeing, identifying other linked safety issues (garbage collection, etc). Walker Library has communicated at all these meetings, have comm'd that it IS getting safer, but there's a long way to go. A lot of overlap with a lot of different orgs to resolve these issues without duplicating/conflicting efforts. We'll continue on this work. I'm feeling optimistic about how much more regularly the City is talking to our service provider partners - how to increase capacity to get folks into permanent housing, cycling folks through a continuum of care. ALL our providers (esp the good ones) are facing multimillion \$ budget shortfalls, so how do all the involved orgs support the expansion of that work while staying in our lanes.

**Brittany: What's the plan with Hennepin, how are businesses being supported?**

A: Monthly meetings in anticipation of construction, open to the public. Engineer leading this project is incredibly experienced, has done this for 30 yrs, very communicative with residents and businesses. There will be regular meetings as we work towards success. Goal is to move as quickly as possible to finish construction. City will also make sure to connect businesses to existing technical assistance, business support programs, helping folks move into vacant storefronts. Things that aren't currently happening: subsidizing commercial rent freezes, helping make capital improvements, marketing support so their corridor isn't forgotten when their street/area is torn up.

**Harry: MPRB still tearing up golf course?**

CM: We don't have authority to veto MPRB's money spending.

**Bruce: I'm concerned with [the City's 2040 Plan](#), which seems to have been hijacked. I work with developers and everything's come to a standstill. You're doing a study right now, but this 1 judge keeps dismissing things. And we need housing to keep rents down, which is also an issue--**

CM: And if folks want to move here, which they do, we need housing for them. We're in the middle of active litigation on this lawsuit. When the City is being sued, it limits what I am allowed to say, about our legal strategy, where things stand, etc. I'm not intentionally being evasive, this is the subject of a LOT of internal discussions. It continues to be on our state's legislative agenda, we're in conversations with our MN legislators/senators about the laundry list of things we want them to take on. Limited time till the House goes to reelection. We have a lot we want to get done at the state, and this is staying on our agenda. I'm looking at this situation as CM Ellison is the key person on this issue, with the elder CMs leaving. I trust his expertise, but things have happened with this lawsuit

Glenda: This is a recently adopted plan?

Bruce: 2020, it's stymied.

**Glenda: Redevelopment... I lived in Sacramento for a long time. I see all these new apartment complexes have gone up. Does the City have any anti-displacement measures in place?**

CM: 4D Program (incentive/benefit to property owners who cap rent and give preference to low-income households), guaranteed Basic Income Pilot (went GREAT, talk of expanding; gives \$400 monthly to folks living below poverty line in specific zip codes), inclusionary zoning policy (builds in affordability into every new dev project). We do some things, but it's not enough bc we do see displacement happening.

**6. 9:00 pm: Adjourn**