

## February Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 • 7–9 pm

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Fireside Room

Virtual Option: [Join on Zoom](#)



east bde  
maka ska  
neighborhood association

**Present:** Thang Holt, Kari Krautbauer, Tim Gnadt, Adam Olson, Bobbie Keller, Lynn Annis, Gary Farland, Harry Savage (EBMSNA); D4 MPRB Comm. Elizabeth Shaffer; 4 residents online

**1. 7:00 pm: Welcome - Thang Holt, President**

**2. 7:05 pm: Approve Last Month's Minutes: Thang motions, Gary moves, Glenda seconds. All ayes.**

**3. 7:10 pm: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Update - Elizabeth Shaffer, District 4 Commissioner**

- **Trolley Path & Park:** There will be lots of opportunity for community input, for both the design and other elements. Process of park development will likely take 2+ years. Thankfully we have our Master Plan to work from, if there are elements folks are concerned about. Nothing official has been put forward to allocate money for that, all informal right now.
- **[Proposed Mall Park Updates](#)** - Mall Park Staff Survey Closed
  - Colleen still accepting feedback, East Isles has chimed in with issues about the design. This design was made in the process of about 30 parks, when the SW area Master Plan was done. It was 1 team of people planning all the parks, a lot of thought went into it.
  - Moving forward with Sewer Work - part of funding for this project is from Met Council to do part of this work. If we didn't collab, it would come out of general MPRB easement pot of money.
  - I've heard concern about the Mall Park from Gary and others in your neighborhood. One thing I've encouraged them to look at again is the East end of park, where a plaza would go (MPRB, MT, Library all signed off on plan). I think we should be more proactive about a permanent connection for the trail, as Hennepin's about to be torn up.
  - It's tough on a lot of fronts - a lot of different opinions, changing a historic park space. But we are in the business of park spaces, not just roadways. I'm hopeful we'll be able to make some tweaks that will satisfy more people, but not everyone is ever going to agree. Usually we can get a majority for updates, in this case we may not.
  - There's a scrub area between Greenway/Pkwy. We should pull out buckthorn and other shrubs to create more useful greenscape. Hopefully they consider that.
- Glenda: Is there an outcome rubric at MPRB, or is it just fishing through different ideas to see what folks might like the most?
  - E: With 3 entities right there, the idea was to bring a beautiful spot to an unused spot. Originally the plan was to create a walking Mall without a roadway - cross streets made that difficult. This plan was a compromise.
- Thang: I understand this matters to most people. My battle is that it's NOT in our neighborhood...
  - E: I absolutely don't think that's the case. We've taken input from all, and there will come a meeting where folks can respond to the final design, once decided. Tools to be able to attend meetings/etc.
  - Gary: I strongly disagree. It's a public park adjacent to our neighborhood. Our neighbors are affected, so I think it is our business. This public input doesn't allow you to contribute to the big questions - you can comment on a feature, but not the broader design issues (streets). Media's reporting that MPRB doesn't have enough \$\$\$ to repair the Pkwys - why spend \$600K to redevelop Mall Park in the face of real opposition. Aside from losing 60-70 parking spaces too.
  - E: All funding at MPRB is put out in 5-year chunks. We've been funded by the City. City handles road construction, is planning to add more. Easement fees go into planning budget, not maintenance; Pkwys are not money we ever see, it stays on the City's side as a line item there.
- Gary: Colleen told me MPRB isn't in the business of providing parking, but this project is about removing parking that's been there for over a century. There's real damage to people who need to park elsewhere on streets that are already loaded with cars.

- E: I'm supportive of saving parking as much as we can. If the woonerf is removed, that grants some spaces back. But the tough spot is the lawn park, would be much tougher to amend. Cross streets will stay.
- E: July 4 safety is on our radar already, please reach out if you need anything.
- Harry: Would a historic designation protect the Hiawatha Golf Course?
  - E: We don't know, we don't know if a lawsuit would come out of it or not. It's been a tough decision from the beginning for MPRB. I can find a better update for you.
    - Glenda: Is there a committee one could attend for that?
    - E: Not one that's active right now.
- Thang: This is not appropriate for our guest's purpose here - not related to East Bde Maka Ska. This question has been brought to every guest speaker we bring in.
  - Harry: A lot of residents use it!
  - Gary: If we have a guest that affects the City and surrounding area, folks can ask questions. We talked about the Mall Park despite it not technically being in the neighborhood.
  - Cuyler: The Mall Park is adjacent to East Bde Maka Ska. The golf course is ~5 miles away, basically Richfield distance.
  - Kari: Cuyler did ask if folks had questions by email, Harry could have surfaced this then. When we had CM Chughtai last meeting we ran out of Q&A time - we should have a process to prioritize most relevant questions from the neighborhood or board.
  - Thang motions to create agreement/guidelines around guest questions. Glenda moves, Lynn seconds. In favor: 6 ayes, 3 opposed. Motion passes.
  - Kari and Lynn will collaborate to draft some guidelines for review.
    - Lynn: This will not restrict people, it will give folks a way to communicate most effectively.

#### 4. 7:40 pm: Reports

##### a. President's Report: Thang Holt, President (5 min)

- Debriefing holidays, catching up with Kari, touching base with all of you (Gary and Bobbie TBD).

##### b. VP's Report: Kari Krautbauer (5 min)

- Currently creating my work list, please reach out if there's any help I can provide!

##### c. Staff Report: Cuyler Dinegan, Coordinator (5 min)

###### ■ 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 on the map of locations where boundary signs could be installed - will fwd to Livability for review. Boundary signs can go up in the spring now that we have new branding. Still waiting on estimates from sign fabricators.

###### ■ Fundraising:

1. Will start an annual fundraising letter, once 501c3 comes through as it's cheaper to print/send
2. 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. I'm currently writing a draft of the Fundraising Coordinator RFP, which will go to the grant group for review before posting.
3. 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.
4. 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. Safety Committee webpage has been added under the Committees tab on our website.
2. Newsletter will go out next week. Deadline for the March newsletter is Sunday, Feb. 25.

###### ■ Staffing update:

1. I've been Coordinator for both East Bde Maka and East Isles, our neighbors north of Lake St, and as of this month I'll also be Coordinator for Lowry Hill, located just north of East Isles.

■ **Finally, our next Board Meeting is Thursday, March 7:**

1. Any requests for a guest?
  - a. **Met Council** - regional park acquired the land, Jonathan Pacheco is our rep.
    - i. Glenda: They do a lot! Just don't ask the rep to tell us about the org, they will eat up all their time.
    - ii. **Cuyler will reach out for Met Council primer from Aryca (NCR Specialist), and reach out to Jonathan Pacheco**
  - b. In future: Marion Greene - Hennepin Co Comm, Attorney's Office (changes to how they're treating kids committing crimes), CM Chughtai, MPD Insp. Nelson, Soil & Water Conservation District, DNR (aquatic invasive species)

**d. Treasurer's Report: Tim Gnadt, Treasurer (5 min)**

- Minor updates to bank balance, no updates to donations since Jan. board meeting

**e. Committee Updates**

**Safety Committee - Glenda Marsh (5 min)**

1. Neighborhood Walking Crew Updates - **difficult reaching Saturday Walk leader David Ratner Merch to give to Walkers? Bring that to Safety Committee**
2. Jan. Neighborhood Safety Meeting (lot of orgs present)
  - Learned a lot about 4th crowd problems, MPD resource limitations, cultural activities
  - Here it was particularly Somali youth, focusing on bigger picture issue, how to discourage gangs of kids who'll mob an area (largely coming from outside Metro)
  - Strategies from Somali community reps
  - How can WE as residents complement efforts from the other orgs?
  - Glenda will forward brainstorming spreadsheet created from meeting**
3. Jan. MSTAT Meeting (Gary): Talked to Chief O'Hara about gang focus, State is focused but City isn't paying attention.
  - Glenda: Not much neighborhood can do about gangs. Stats for EBMS?
  - Gary: Things are getting a little better overall, across the City.
4. Block Captain Updates - Brittany Edwards (absent)
5. Next Committee Meeting: Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30 pm at Lund's Community Room

**Livability Committee - Gary Farland / Lee Todd (5 min)**

1. Committee Meeting Recap & Update:
  - MPRB, you just had an update directly
  - Uptown Holiday Market?
    - Thang: Thanks for being there day-off, took a lot of collaborating to pull off from so many orgs and businesses. Everyone wants to do it again. My current space is figuring out who's going to actually do it. Goal to identify another individual(s) and make it less work overall.
  - Vacant property at Holmes Ave, have built up foundation. Judy Shields reported but isn't sure what building will be put there.
  - Duet Coffee seeking liquor license, seeking wine and beer. No objections from Livability. I identified a seeming move away from Cowboy Slim toward higher-end places.
2. Next Committee Meeting: Monday, Feb. 19, 7-8:30 pm on Zoom (3rd Mon.)

**Fundraising Committee - Harry Savage (5 min)**

1. Committee Meeting Recap & Updates:
  - 3 people came to Fundraising Meeting: Gary, Adam, Harry. Discussed ideas on fundraising, doorknocking, etc.
  - Talked with Thang about Gala, looking at co-Chair for that and 10 volunteers
    - Glenda: Are we deviating from the plan?
    - Thang: We've never done any of this, really, esp Gala. Goal is \$30,000 raised, we do need more people involved.
    - Harry: That's the desire. We'll aim for that in prizes.
    - Glenda: How will the Gala coincide with 501c3? Will you push?
    - Glenda: Business Sponsors is how you'll do this - ask them. Ticket sales are okay. SKIP silent auction completely, it's a HUGE task. We hired a consultant every year, who'd coordinate us calling local businesses, electeds, etc.

- Harry: I'd like to keep it simple, small. Doorknocking, etc...

2. Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6–7 pm (4th Tues.)

**Social & Engagement Committee - Lynn Annis (5 min)**

1. January Social - Canceled due to weather
2. February Social - Monday, Feb. 5, 5–7pm at Roat Osha
3. Recap on Holiday Market Event & Teardown
4. Committee Update & Confirm Next Meeting:
  - Social on Monday! Roat Osha's very excited to have us
    - Tricky entrance, you MUST enter off alley, opposite Seven Points
  - Decor Break of Seven Points, for Holiday Market
  - Updated you by email, please fill out Doodle if you haven't
  - Pimento is now open only Thurs–Sun
  - Next meeting TBD, depends on Roat Osha turnout; possibly 2 meetings to meet timing needs of those interested

**4. 8:40 pm: New Business**

**a. 2024 Budget Review - Tim**

- We'll come in \$5000-\$8000 under budget for 2023. Adam did a fantastic job making 2023!
- 2024: Hill & Lake Press budget?
  - Cuyler: \$1,000 could replace the annual invite postcard line item - would pay for ½ page invite AND for 2-3 smaller event ads, each with QR code to donate to EBMSNA. HLP has confirmed they've voted to deliver to EBMS / WMS in perpetuity. Comms survey respondents asserted they'd see our ad.
    - Gary: Would that make us a member, or just an advertiser? Worth finding out.
    - Thang: Could fundraise in support of local journalism, etc etc
  - Boundary Signage estimate may be outdated. **Cuyler will forward past and present estimates.**
  - If we raised \$6,100, we don't have to dip into our reserves cookie jar.
  - **Thang MOTION to approve 2024 budget. Lynn moves, Glenda seconds.**

**b. 2024 Board Retreat - Thang**

Thang will email us all for a half-day retreat!

**6. 9:04 pm: Adjourn**

***We invite and encourage participation by all. If you require accommodation to participate or access documents, please contact us at least 3 days in advance by email or 612-584-9260. Or contact MN Relay Services at 1-800-627-3529, or contact 7-1-1.***