



Prospect Park Board of Directors/Community Meeting: October 27, 2025, 7:00pm.
This meeting was held in-person at PPUMC and virtually (hybrid)

Board Members Present: Max Ostenso, Steve Brackett, David Frank, Eric Amel, Jerry Stein, Britt Howell, Gabrielle Metzger, Donna Schneider, Jule Gorodisher, Ryan Woldt, and Stuart Levesque

Community Members: Joseph Ring, Lynn Von Korff, Vera Marshall, Andy Mickle, Dan Cross, Eric Lind, James Birr, Anneliese Simons, and Susan Larson-Fleming.

Guests: Tina Erazmus, Director of Local Government and Community Relations, University of Minnesota, Robin Wonsley, Ward 2 Council Member, Craig Vaughn, Executive Director, Transportation Collaborative and Consultants, Steve Elmer, Project Manager, Metropolitan Council.

Staff: Liza Davitch

Call Committee Meeting to Order: Eric Amel called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. A quorum was present. Agenda proposed and approved

Announcements/Updates:

- **Midtown Greenway Trail Expansion Planning Study**, presented by *Craig Vaughn*, principal, Transportation Collaborative and Consultants and *Steve Elmer*, Project Manager, Metropolitan Council on behalf of Met Council. *Steve Elmer* explains that the purpose of the Midtown Greenway Trail Expansion Planning Study is to develop a conceptual implementation plan for extending the Greenway that provides for a new transportation connection and recreational opportunity for all residents of the region and then to advance the concept or concept alignments into project development. It will connect the edge of the U of M's main campus with a termination point at 27th Avenue SE. A slide show was presented with further details and can be found at:
https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/8155/5670/GreenwayTrailExpansionStudy_BAC_Presentation.pdf
- **U of MN 2026 Good Neighbor Fund:** *Tina Erazmus* updated the neighborhood on several issues of joint interest, including on the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund. They'll be about \$120,000 in U of MN Good Neighbor Fund grants to distribute to university area projects. Prospect Park community groups or PPA committees planning to apply should submit draft applications to PPA in advance of the January 26th, 2026 board meeting. PPA's board will review and approve applications at that meeting. The University of Minnesota Local Government Relations and the Good Neighbor Fund Board will host a Kick-off Community Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, where they will present on the history of the Good Neighbor Fund, past funded projects, tips for a strong grant application and a Q&A with the Board. [RSVP to attend here.](#)
- **Ward 2 Update:** *Robin Wonsley*, Ward 2 Council Member, updated the neighborhood on an ordinance they brought forward with several other council members called "Stop Slumlords", which stands for *Slumlord Tier Oversight Protection*. There are about 160 landlords providing over 2,000 rental units of housing that are not meeting the city's code, about 13% of which are in Ward 2. The ordinance will address these substandard housing conditions. It was unanimously supported by the council.



- Other focus areas of Ward 2 include efforts to increase student voting turnout with Early Voting Pop-Ups. They also continue to work on rehabilitation efforts of the Witch's Hat Tower, with staff soliciting vendors with expertise in rehabbing historic water towers to perform the repairs. The goal is to start work in Spring 2026.
More information on Ward 2 initiatives can be found in their archived October newsletter editions at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/members/ward-2/newsletters/>.

PPA's Neighborhood Network & Equitable Engagement Funding application

Gabby Metzger, PPA's Board Treasurer, proposed a motion to approve PPA's 2026-2028 Neighborhood Network & Equitable Engagement City funding application, including budget. *Lynn Von Korff* summarized the application and its purpose. The application determines whether PPA will continue to serve as Prospect Park's neighborhood organization. PPA's 2026 equitable engagement activities continue to be recruiting additional renters to serve on the board, Jackson Family Project activities, and a collaborative community event involving students and renters to be held in Tower Hill Park when the Witch's Hat Tower reopens. If the application is approved, PPA receives \$15,000 in admin funding and \$5,000 for equitable engagement projects in 2026. The application is due no later than October 31st. PPA needs to submit board minutes for this meeting documenting board approval. ***Steve Brackett seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***

Committee Reports

Finance & Admin Committee & Treasurer's Report

- **Board Resolution:** *Gabby Metzger*, PPA's Board Treasurer, proposed a motion to approve the Board Resolution authorizing PPA to move funds to another bank. This motion was recommended and reviewed by PPA's legal counsel, *Jess Birken*, Birken Law. This motion was also recommended for Board approval by PPA's Finance & Admin Committee. ***Donna Schneider seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***
- **Volunteer Financial Officer:** *Gabby Metzger* proposed a motion to Motion approve the Volunteer Financial Officer job description, appoint *Lynn Von Korff* to fill the position, and terminate her volunteer independent accounting contract. These changes were recommended & the job description reviewed by PPA's legal counsel, *Jess Birken*. This motion was also recommended for Board approval by PPA's Finance & Admin Committee. Approving this motion will result in three changes: a) the position becomes a volunteer financial officer instead of a volunteer independent contractor, b) the position supervises PPA's part-time Communications and Admin staff instead of PPA's Management Council, and (c) the position reports to PPA's Board Treasurer or President. ***Donna Schneider seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***
- **PPA Revised 2025 Annual Budget:** *Gabby Metzger* proposed a motion to approve revised 2025 PPA Annual Budget. This motion was recommended for Board approval by PPA's Finance & Admin Committee. The revised budget incorporates several changes: 1) the environment committee's budget, 2) reduction in Renters' Right community organization expenses – our community organizer worked several weeks and then moved on, 3) moving funds from the independent contractor to staff line because Liza, PPA's staff, will start taking board minutes again. ***Donna Schneider seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***
- **PPA MN Paid Leave Policy and Procedures:** *Gabby Metzger* proposed a motion to approve PPA MN Paid Leave Policy and Procedures. *Lynn Von Korff* worked with the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to prepare PPA's policy and described it as follows: the motion was



recommended for Board approval by PPA's Finance & Admin Committee. PPA is required to adopt a MN Paid Leave policy by 1/1/26. The policy includes: PPA pays 100% of the premium, which will be under \$100 per year, PPA requires employees eligible for intermittent MN Paid Leave to take it in increments of 4 hours or more, and PPA won't "top off" MN Paid Leave hours, but will continue to offer PPA paid leave. ***Donna Schneider seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***

- **Schedule PPA's annual meeting for Saturday May 2nd (Neighborhood Day) instead of Monday, May 11th:** *Gabby Metzger* proposed a motion to schedule PPA's annual meeting for Saturday May 2nd (Neighborhood Day) instead of Monday, May 11th. *Lynn Von Korff* reported that this motion was recommended for Board approval by PPA's Finance & Admin Committee. Although not yet a requirement, NCR is *strongly encouraging* neighborhood organizations to hold an event on Neighborhood Day itself. ***The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.***
- **Report on PPA's 3rd quarter financial statements, Statement of Financial Position as of 9-30-25 and 3rd quarter Income Statement:** *Gabby Metzger* reported that PPA is in a sound financial position with sufficient cash on hand. PPA is on track financially per budget revisions, as previously described.
- **Report & review on PPA required policies and procedures:** *Lynn Von Korff* reported that PPA Board members have received all PPA policies. She reminded board members that they received these documents in two batches on June 14th and September 24th. In addition, board members received and approved PPA's MN Charitable Annual Report, including IRS 990, at the March 24th, 2025 board meeting. She requested board members retain these documents and let her know if they have questions.

Environment Committee - new leadership. *Steve Brackett* proposes a reestablishment of the Environmental Committee and asks if there is an interest in a possible combination of environment and community initiatives as the former Community Building Committee is now the Jackson Project Committee. Other board members express interest. Steve can be reached at brackett.steve@gmail.com or environment@prospectparkmpls.org to continue the conversation.

Transportation and Safety. *David Frank* updates on the proceedings from the minutes on Franklin Avenue safe crossing. See the Transportation & Safety Committee's September and October minutes for more information.

Tower Hill Park. *Joe Ring* highlights the committee efforts, along with the Garden Club, to remove the invasive buckthorn that has taken over the park. This was also featured in PPA's October newsletter.

Jackson Family Project. *Jerry Stein* highlights the Jackson Family playground sign on the Pratt School playground, which has been up for a couple of months. It features a photo of the family from 1909 and their stories in English on one side and Spanish on the other. The committee continues to sort through video documentation with a local production company, "Far on Foot", that is producing a video on the project. The video will be available on the [PPA website](#), and the [Jackson Family Project website](#) when it is finished.

Glendale National Register Nomination Application Preparation: *Gabby Metzger*, PPA's Board Treasurer, proposed a motion to approve contributing \$4,495 (half of the Hess Roise contractor fee) to prepare a National Register nomination application for Glendale Townhomes. Gabby advised the Board that PPA has sufficient "Prospect Park Forward" funds, raised in 2012 for new projects, to contribute half (\$4,495) of the Hess Roise fee to prepare a National Register nomination application for Glendale Townhomes and that doing so is consistent with use of Prospect Park Forward priorities. As of 9/30/25 PPA has \$7,971 remaining in Prospect Park Forward funds. *Joe Ring* described the project, including how it unfolded as a request by Glendale residents and how it reflects the neighborhood's ongoing commitment to Glendale Townhomes residents. There was a lengthy discussion about the project with *Joe Ring* responding to a series of thoughtful



questions. The project follows-through on earlier commitments made by the neighborhood to include Glendale in seeking national historic designation. The Hess Roise Scope of Service was submitted in the board packet. ***Steve Brackett seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions***

Review Consent Agenda: Eric Amel moves to approve the following minutes: Board minutes electronic vote, July 2, 2025, Finance & Admin Committee minutes, October 6, 2025, PPA Board/Community Meeting: March 24, 2025 and June 23, 2025, Transportation & Safety Committee, September 24 and October 16, 2025. ***Gabrielle Metzger seconds the motion. Meeting minutes unanimously approved.***

Eric Amel adjourned the meeting at 9:19pm.

PPA's next Board/Community Meeting will be held 7pm Monday, December 8th. The meeting will be hybrid (in-person at PPUMC, 22 Orlin Ave SE, and virtually on zoom). The meeting agenda & link to request a zoom invite will be published in PPA's newsletter at least five days in advance. To attend in-person, walk up the wooded ramp located at the far-left (East) side of the building. All are welcome!