



Prospect Park Board of Directors/Community Meeting: December 8th, 2025, 7:00pm.
This meeting was held in-person at PPUMC and virtually (hybrid)

Board Members Present: Eric Amel, Steve Brackett, David Frank, Arthur Herbet, Max Ostenso, Jerry Stein, Britt Howell, Gabrielle Metzger, and Donna Schneider.

Community Members: Joseph Ring, Lynn Von Korff, Vera Marshall, Susan Larson-Fleming, Vince Netz, Elaine May, and Kari Simonson.

Guests: Eduardo Barrera, Senior Equitable Real Estate Development Lead, Project for Pride and Living and Tina Erazmus, Director of Local Government and Community Relations, University of Minnesota.

Call Committee Meeting to Order: Eric Amel called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. A quorum was present. Agenda proposed and approved

Announcements/Updates:

- **Project for Pride and Living (PPL) update on their property located at 3430 University Avenue SE (previously site of First Independence and Wells Fargo Banks):** *Eduardo Barrera*, PPL's Senior Equitable Real Estate Development Lead presented PPL's revised plans. PPL had planned to build affordable housing on the site. They had started the community engagement process, met with neighbors and neighborhood groups, including PPA, and hired "Springboard for the Arts" to facilitate community engagement. Unfortunately, now PPL must sell the site instead. When the new administration took office in 2025, housing and programming funds were cut making it very difficult to put together a funding package. Furthermore, PPL is incurring significant holding costs on the site, such as taxes and maintenance. The site generates minimal income. First Independence Bank will no longer lease the "drive through" part of the property after 2/1/26. The main building requires renovation to make it usable. The garage space has been sealed to secure public safety, but the surface lot is available to Dogwood Café customers. "Element" is marketing the site. Currently there are no potential buyers. If the funding situation changes and the site has not been sold, PPL might be able to take another look at developing the site.
- **Midtown Greenway Trail Expansion Planning:** all invited to attend presentation and Q&A on the Midtown Greenway Trail Expansion Planning study to be held at PPA Transportation & Safety Committee meeting 6:30pm on December 11th.
https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/8155/5670/GreenwayTrailExpansionStudy_BAC_Presentation.pdf
- **U of MN 2026 Good Neighbor Fund:** *Vince Netz* updated the neighborhood 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 by January 16th 2026 so they can be reviewed and approved by PPA's board prior to the Good Neighbor Fund February application deadline. Presentation slides attached here.
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lbGPFiWu2FqbveRIbG9l4eXylO45yNjS/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=110458099896418521928&rtpof=true&sd=true

Committee Reports



Tower Hill Park. *Joe Ring* gives an update on the status of the Tower renovation. The City of Minneapolis allocated funds for renovations, but the work has been continually delayed. Eric Amel volunteered to contact Ray Dean at City of Minneapolis Facilities Services report on the process and explain why renovations have been delayed.

Transportation and Safety. *David Frank* announces that there is an important Transportation and Safety meeting this week, on December 11, for anyone who wants to learn more about what MnDOT is planning, particularly in connection with their work on I-94.

Land Use. *Eric Amel* points out that the main topics of the Land Use meeting were covered in the Wells Fargo site presentation given at the beginning of tonight's meeting.

Jackson Family Project. *Jerry Stein* highlights the Jackson Family Project events on May 14 & 15. On Thursday, May 14, there will be an in-person community education event open to the public. On Friday, May 15th, "Jackson Family Day" will be held again at Pratt School for Pratt students, faculty and MPS Board members.

Each year, this program highlights a different member of the Jackson family and their achievements over the past century. This year's focus is Marvel Jackson. She belonged to a writing group with Langston Hughes and was an accomplished journalist who produced remarkable work. One of her most notable efforts involved going undercover to investigate the Harlem "slave market," where Black women gathered early each morning to be hired for low-paying day labor. The practice was widely known in the African American community as a "slave market." Marvel wrote a series of powerful articles exposing this situation—pieces widely read in the 1950s but largely forgotten today. This year's community program will highlight her writing and its impact.

The committee will soon release a new video as part of an update to the Jackson Family Project website. Over the years, they've recorded interviews with Jackson family members and people who remember the family's early presence on Franklin Avenue. These recordings have been compiled into a new video that should appear on the redesigned website in the coming weeks. They encourage everyone to visit the Jackson Family Project website to watch it at <https://jacksonfamilyproject.org/>

Looking ahead, the committee is exploring ways to archive the materials they've collected so they can be preserved and accessed in the future. They've also begun discussing the possibility of creating a children's book based on the project. More broadly, the goal is to continue integrating the Jackson Family Project into Pratt school's curriculum and sharing it regularly with the community, so it becomes an anticipated part of local programming.

Finance & Admin Committee. *Gabrielle Metzger* gives an update from the Finance Committee. *Lynn Von Korff* successfully established PPA's new accounts. The only outstanding task requires waiting for the IRS to record our name change from PPERRIA to PPA (PPA can legally do business in both names). Name change paperwork was submitted to the IRS several times, years ago and again in early November 2025. It was submitted again because the IRS said they have no record of the previous request. It's impossible to reach the IRS by phone now to determine the status of the recent request. At this point the required paperwork has been faxed and then sent by certified mail according to IRS instructions.

The City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department approved PPA's Neighborhood Network/Equitable Engagement contract for 2026–2028. NCR is currently preparing the official contract documents. PPA has submitted all the paperwork and signatures required for the agreement to move forward. *Lynn* submitted the 2026 Equitable Engagement Plan. PPA will need to create and submit Equitable



Engagement plans for 2027 and 2028 for each year of the three year contract with NCR.

Review Consent Agenda. *Eric Amel* moves to approve the following minutes: Board & Community meeting minutes October 27th, 2025. *Gabrielle Metzger* seconds the motion. Meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Eric Amel adjourned the meeting at 8:21.

PPA's next Board/Community Meeting will be held 7pm Monday, January 26th. 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 far-left (East) side of building. All are welcome!