



**Prospect Park Board of Directors/Community Meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7:00pm.**  
**This meeting was held in-person at PPUMC and virtually (hybrid)**

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

**Community Members:** Joseph Ring, Lynn Von Korff, Susan Larson-Fleming, Lupe Castillo, Pam Harris, Leah Honsey, Mary Britton, Briana Smith, Elaine May, John Politsch, Aloida Zaragoza, Sophia Valdez, Brina Smith, Emma-Cecila Moran, Isaac Bandy, Meghan Eskolin.

**Guests:** Ward 2 Council member Robin Wonsley

**Staff:** Liza Davitch

**Call Committee Meeting to Order:** *Eric Amel* called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A quorum was present. Agenda proposed and approved.

**Announcements/Updates:**

**Community Support and Resources during ICE/BPA presence in the City:** *Britt Howell* addresses ways the community can support our neighbors at Glendale during this time. BF50 has partnered with Northside Grocery and Deli to provide fresh produce and other perishable items to residents at Glendale. *Steve Brackett* from Luxton Park is assisting with food distribution, for visiting students to the recreation center to take home perishable items to their families. More information about the Northside Grocery and Deli can be found at : [www.northsidegrocery.com](http://www.northsidegrocery.com) accompanied by a Youtube video: [https://youtu.be/EKWJCE2lBv0?si=UCYlBq-kh5Q-G\\_62](https://youtu.be/EKWJCE2lBv0?si=UCYlBq-kh5Q-G_62)

*Mary Britton* is also posting updates through the PPelist about where donations can be contributed. She's been working with Jean at Luxton Learners and distributing food at Venture Academy.

*Lynn Von Korff* shares the City of Minneapolis' [Know Your Rights](#) website and a vast amount of resources, materials and support shared by local organizations, including other Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. PPA will add these resources to our neighborhood website.

- *Eric Amel and Lynn Von Korff* propose a motion to draft a PPA Board statement of response if there are authors willing to contribute to writing the statement. *Max Ostenso, Eric Amel, Lynn Von Korff and Britt Howell* offer their support in drafting a statement. **Britt Howell seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

**Ward 2 Update:** *Robin Wonsley*, Ward 2 Council Member, has been re-elected, sworn-in again and now serves as the Council's Minority Leader. She noted that while there are many developments happening, the most urgent issue facing the city is the current presence and actions of federal immigration enforcement.

She shared that recent conversations involving Governor Walz and Mayor Frey led to a request for Border Patrol agents to leave the city, which she welcomed as a positive step. However, she emphasized that approximately 2,000 ICE agents remain in Minneapolis. Despite the seriousness of the situation, she said the strong response and organizing efforts by local residents—especially the demonstrations on Friday—have shown the power of community action. Wonsley added that during national meetings and calls she has attended, leaders from cities and states across the country are looking to Minneapolis as an example of how communities can respond with organized resistance while maintaining compassion and solidarity during difficult times.



Wonsley explained that one key effort involves urging Governor Walz to declare a state of emergency and issue an eviction moratorium. She noted that many residents have been unable to work due to the current conditions, which could lead to widespread eviction notices in the coming weeks for those unable to pay February rent. With ICE agents still present in the community, she stressed that preventing people from being forced onto the streets is critical, both for housing stability and for their safety. The Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting these efforts about two weeks ago, and the St. Paul City Council later passed a similar measure.

Wonsley asked the PPA board to consider issuing a resolution supporting two initiatives: the eviction moratorium and expanded rental assistance. She shared that next Tuesday she and several council colleagues will propose allocating \$1 million for rental assistance through organizations already working with the city to keep residents housed. An additional \$500,000 is being proposed for legal services to support residents navigating immigration proceedings, including habeas corpus-related legal challenges.

- *Eric Amel* proposed the motion: Prospect Park Association (PPA), representing the Prospect Park community, resolves to support efforts by the City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota to establish an eviction moratorium. The resolution also supports allocating funding through city and state resources to provide rental assistance for residents in need, particularly those directly impacted by Operation Metro Surge. ***Gabrielle Metzger* seconds the motion.**

A roll call vote was held: Aye—8 (*Arthur Herbert, Steve Bracket, Britt Howell, Eric Amel, David Frank, Max Ostenso, Gabrielle Metzger, Donna Schnieder*). Nay—0. Abstained—1 (Jerry Stein). **Motion carries.**

For further details from the Ward 2 office, see their January newsletters at: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/members/ward-2/newsletters/>

**Prospect Park Coop Legacy Fund Grant.** *Lynn Von Korff* discusses the PPCLF grant details. The fund offers grants of up to **\$1,500** to support community projects serving the neighborhoods of Southeast Minneapolis with a focus on residents of the Prospect Park neighborhood. If applicants would like PPA to help administer their project, the proposal would need to go before the board at the **March 23 meeting**. It should be submitted ahead of this date to [staff@prospectparkmpls.org](mailto:staff@prospectparkmpls.org) in order to be added to the March Board meeting agenda. Applicants are not required to go through PPA, but can apply directly through the **Prospect Park Co-op Legacy Fund**. Announcements about the program will be posted on the PPE list. Further history about the grant can be found at <https://prospectparkmpls.org/community-guide/organizations.html>

**PPA 2026 Board Candidate Recruitment & May 2nd Annual Meeting.** *Lynn Von Korff* encouraged board and community members to recruit Board candidates for PPA's upcoming board election and described this year's process. The board election will take place at the **May 2nd annual meeting**, when the online election officially opens. The board operates on an alternating election cycle, meaning roughly half of the members are up for election each year. This year, eight board seats are open, each for a **two-year term**.

**U of M Good Neighbor Fund Applications.** *Lynn Von Korff* gives a description of the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund (GNF). These funds were designated by the state when the stadium was built at the University to support community projects in neighborhoods surrounding the campus. To apply, an organization must be a designated group such as the Prospect Park Association, but community groups can submit proposals through us. Grant amounts typically range from a few thousand dollars up to \$15,000.



PPA informed local groups and our own committees that they needed to submit their applications to us in advance because the Prospect Park Association board must approve proposals before they are forwarded to the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund. Their deadline this year is February 15. PPA received two proposals that will be voted on tonight (copies of the two grant proposals were included in the “board packet”).

*Lynn Von Korff* gives a description of the *Surly Gives a Damn* grant, from the charitable foundation connected with the Surly Brewery, as their representative was not present. Proposed motion to approve the Surly Gives a Damn GNF applications. **Steve Bracket seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

*Lynn Von Korff* moves to approve the Jackson Family Project GNF applications. **Eric Amel seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

*Jerry Stein*, Jackson Family Project co-chair, gives a description of the GNF application for *The Jackson Family Project: Creating a Community Hub for learning, discussion, and reunion*. The project will build on and grow the progress and impact made over the past 5 years in the Jackson Family Project. It proposes to bring the community together around a Jackson family reunion and community discussion of the groundbreaking journalism of Marvel Jackson (the eldest daughter of Madison and Amy Jackson); and communicate with the wider community and anyone interested in the Jacksons by growing the existing Jackson Family Project website into the premier hub of information and inspiration related to the Jackson family story and their history. More details on the project can be found at <https://jacksonfamilyproject.org/>.

## Committee Reports

**Tower Hill Park.** *Steve Bracket* provided an update on the Tower Restoration Project, which aims to repair the structure and reopen it to the public. This includes repairing the steel stairs, restoring the tower’s concrete and reinforcing steel, and installing new electrical systems for lighting at the observation deck. Funding for the work will cost up to \$175,000, which was previously secured through the city budget with the help of Council member *Robin Wonsley*.

*Eric Amel* met with *Ray Dean* from the city’s Facilities Services Department, who has been overseeing the project. He reported that the City plans to issue a third round of bidding, combining the work under a single general contractor or construction manager. The renovation has been delayed because the city received no bids when they first issued a call bids. Going forward they plan to change the bid to include opportunities for general contractors to bid, which should yield results. *Ray* assures that the project is still active and moving forward and hopes to join a PPA meeting to provide further updates.

*Joe Ring* announced that Hess Roise, the historic preservation firm working on the Glendale preservation project, has completed the application for the historic designation of Glendale Townhomes. The application is expected to be submitted to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office next month. Unlike earlier preservation efforts—such as the designation of the Prospect Park Historic District and the Tower and Tower Hill Park—the Glendale project has been driven largely by the residents themselves, who have raised funds and put significant effort into the process. If the application is approved at the state level, it will then move to the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for final review.

*Joe* added context for those who may be new to the discussion, explaining that Prospect Park’s historic preservation work has involved three major components:



1. The Prospect Park Historic District, recognized for its distinctive winding streets, park-like character, and diverse architectural styles.
2. The Prospect Park Water Tower and Tower Hill Park, which have also received historic recognition.
3. The Glendale Townhomes, an early public housing development originally built for returning World War II veterans.

**Land Use:** *Eric Amel*, Committee Chair, gave updates on the committee's focus, which included connecting with Prospect Park resident *Bob Sykora*, on issues related to the I-94 soundwall and graffiti, and landscape architect, *Jean Garbarini*, on recently installed fencing.

**Finance & Admin Committee & Treasurer's Report.** *Gabrielle Metzger*, PPA Treasurer, presented the proposed PPA 2026 annual budget and year-end financial statements, PPA's 2025 "income statement," comparing actual to budgeted income and expenses, and Financial Position as of 12-31-25. *Gabrielle* noted that *Lynn Von Korff* prepares the budget each year, ensuring it is balanced. *Lynn* confirmed that the Finance Committee had reviewed and approved the proposed budget before bringing it to the full board. *Lynn* noted that the board will formally approve the year-end financial statements when PPA's 2025 MN Charitable Annual Report and IRS Form 990 are presented in March. The key takeaways, she explained, is that PPA finished the year with a small surplus, the organization remains financially stable, operated within its means, stayed on budget, used its city funding as planned, and raised \$3,500 in individual donations.

- *Gabby Metzger* proposed to approve the PPA 2026 annual budget. **The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.**

**Other Business:** The next Board/Community Meeting is Monday, March 23, 2026.

*Eric Amel* makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Arthur Herbert* seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.