



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

# Hill & Lake Press

Published for East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood Isles, & Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhoods

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**SWLRT wreck came despite plenty of warning  
Concerned residents predicted the problems,  
but the Met Council ignored us and continues to  
barrel ahead with catastrophic potential.**

**By Mary Pattock**

For years, concerned Minneapolis residents warned Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council of problems they would face building and operating the Southwest light-rail project (SWLRT). Instead of heeding our advice, the agencies dismissed us as ignorant NIMBYs, discounted our wisdom and pushed the project through.

The problems we predicted have materialized and the project is a shambles: four years behind schedule, paralyzed by infighting with contractors and far over budget. Sold to us at \$975 million, SWLRT has tripled in cost to \$2.7 billion — and counting.

Having made a complete mess of the project, the county and the council tell us we have no choice but to proceed. And unbelievably, now that the problems we predicted can no longer be dismissed, the Met Council has the audacity to claim that the issues were "unforeseen."

But over and over, in public testimony, letters and reports, we predicted:

- The space between the Kenilworth Channel and Lake Street would be too narrow to accommodate the project. But the council ignored us and was forced to build a costly tunnel.
  - The tunnel would be too close to the condominium building foundation (18 inches); hence the council had to build secant walls.
  - The SWLRT would run dangerously close to the existing railroad line; so Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) demanded a \$93 million safety wall to protect the segment near their trains (but the homes of many residents remain exposed).
  - The congested construction site would be complex and dangerous, involving heavy machinery, hazardous freight, residences, auto, bike and pedestrian traffic. In fact, there have been two potentially fatal instances of safety failures and the collapse of a crane above a condo. The project has a safety incident rate worse than the industry standard.
  - The geology of the area — shaped by glaciers — is complicated and unstable. Predictably, metal pilings were dented by boulders as they were driven into the ground. Divers had to be hired to detect the underwater leaks, and the leaks needed repair.
  - The costs were grossly underestimated, hence the coming financial raid on Hennepin County taxpayers.
- We made other predictions that remain to be tested.

## Legacy of Hennepin Avenue in Jeopardy

**By Josie Owens**

Since Lowry Hill was first developed at the turn of the last century, residents have chosen to live here for the special balance the neighborhood offers—living on a quiet street in walking distance to parks, shops and restaurants. As the neighborhoods flanking Hennepin Avenue grew, businesses and entertainment venues quickly followed. There has been a timeless continuity on the business corridor. In the 1930s, a date night might include a dessert at the popular soda fountain in Burch Pharmacy. In the 1970s, teens walking home from West High School might stop at Bridgeman’s Ice



SWLRT

Photo by Dorothy Childers

We said ridership estimates were inflated. We know that post-pandemic, more people will work from home, and ridership will be even lower.

We incessantly cited the catastrophic potential of an accident involving both SWLRT and the adjacent freight train. Light-rail transit runs by overhead electric wires, only 10 feet from a freight train that regularly hauls explosive ethanol. This is a design for disaster — storing the matches next to the lighter fluid — on a massive scale. It sets the stage for an explosion like the one that destroyed Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, in 2013, killing 47 people. A similar SWLRT accident would instantly incinerate a Minneapolis neighborhood encompassing thousands of homes, a grade school and a nursing home.

But the Met Council dismisses this warning as it dismissed all the others that we have, correctly, raised. There is no satisfaction in having our previous predictions proved correct. There will only be hideous grief if we are proved correct in this one as well.

What to do now?

### ADVERTISEMENT

Met Council units involved in SWLRT construction should be immediately placed in receivership, perhaps under the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The new leadership should consider rerouting the

Minneapolis section away from the problematic lakes area.

The Legislature should:

- Support the bipartisan group of legislators demanding that the legislative auditor investigate the Met Council's handling of the SWLRT.
  - Reconstitute the council so it's accountable to the public. A majority of its members should be elected, not appointed by the governor. While any incumbent governor may be reluctant to cede control over this exceedingly rich and powerful agency, he or she should be even more reluctant to be responsible for the malfunction and irresponsibility inherent in its current structure.
  - Prune the Met Council back to its original planning function and move its construction and operations function to a different agency or agencies.
- Finally, every unit of local government should study this colossal failure as a lesson in what happens when government officials are too arrogant to heed the wisdom of the people they serve.
- Mary Pattock lives in Minneapolis.

“Be kind. Be useful. Be fearless.” ~ Barack Obama

Cream Parlor. Today, people walk up to Sebastian Joe’s for a cold treat on a hot summer evening. Sue Westerman, a real estate agent who works primarily in the Lowry Hill and Lake of the Isles area, says that her clients choose to live here rather than the suburbs for that lifestyle. “When I work with buyers looking for homes in the neighborhood, one of the things they love about the neighborhood is the walkability to all our neighborhood shops and restaurants. And the buyers really appreciate the smaller, locally owned establishments, many of which are located on Hennepin Avenue. We all know Covid has financially challenged these businesses. It would be such a detriment to the

fabric of our community, if we lost these businesses due to the disruption of the road construction and loss of parking.”

Unfortunately, the proposed Hennepin Avenue South Reconstruction Plan between Lake Street and Douglas Avenue threatens this cherished symbiotic existence. A construction zone, permanent loss of parking, and only two lanes of traffic could be the death knell for this once vibrant shopping corridor.

Susan raised her three children in the neighborhood and says, “The ease of parking on Hennepin made living in Uptown and Lowry Hill seem like a small town right

**Josie Owens Continued on page 7**

### Neighborhood Meetings

Where we are Now by Jean Deatrck Editor  
 We are doing well in spite of the covid shutdown. We are blessed with many friends, advertisers, and supporters in our neighborhoods who continue to contribute, who continue to place ads, who continue to be involved with articles and also suggestions.

I couldn't have done it without you.  
 And thank you to Becky and Damon Farber for their generous contribution to Hill and Lake Press.  
 And please welcome Craig Wilson who will become editor of Hill and Lake Press beginning in March. He is well-known and active in the neighborhood. We are fortunate. Hill and Lake Press is fortunate.

Because of the coronavirus, we are staying home, staying safe, and ofte meeting by the internet, telephone, Zoom, and other virtual meetings. Please check for changed meetings times for KNO, LHNA, EIRA, and CIDNA on their websites or in monthly minutes. We can again socialize, but please be careful and wear masks when indoors.

Hennepin Reconstruction  
 By Harvey Ettinger and  
 Laura Liesch <lauraliesch@aol.com>

For those of you not more closely following two very important pending project proposals for our area, both of which are recommending varying degrees of transformative change, please read below....

Hennepin Ave Reconstruction Project..proposing major reductions in parking along Hennepin Ave (and Uptown) which will likely further negatively impact existing businesses already suffering from a deteriorating business climate. Also, additional facts are dribbling out which could result in other unanticipated outcomes for residents living in this area...(see below).

If you have concerns, please forward to links below, but NOT to Lisa Goodman who is supporting delay.

From two long-time area residents...  
 "I tuned into the recent Hennepin Avenue Virtual Open House. One of the speakers reported that homeowners on undisclosed adjacent streets would see an increase in their property taxes to fund what is a city-wide project. Is this true?"

"I am a 45-year resident of Lowry Hill and East Isles. I live on Humboldt one block west of Hennepin. Hennepin Reconstruction to page 4

When I moved to the Lowry Hill in 2005, I marveled at the small-town unity embodied in the Hill and Lake Press. Over the years I have appreciated its focus on our local neighborhoods of East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood and Cedar Isles Dean, committed to covering stories "Where the Biggies Leave Off"—the once "Biggies" like the Star and the Tribune, which later merged into the StarTribune 1982 long after the founding of the Hill and Lake Press in 197X.

Now nearly five decades later, the local media landscape is almost unrecognizable with a pared down StarTribune and the departure of the SW Journal and even the Wedge Courier—with the notable exception of the Hill and Lake Press.

The fact that we still have our beloved Hill and Lake Press is a direct testament to the dedication and hard work of one person, its Editor, Jean Deatrck. Jean has worked tirelessly month in, month out, sharing the stories of our community on actual paper that is delivered to over 6,000 households and businesses around Lake of the Isles, Dean Parkway and Cedar Lake. We leave these papers out on kitchen tables and nightstands, casually learning about community events, glancing at neighborhood minutes, reading about major projects that directly affect our community's livability like Southwest LRT construction and Hennepin Avenue planning.

I have contributed several special interest articles over the years as well as the "Meet Your Neighbor" column since 2008. When I learned of Jean's need to retire as Editor, I knew I needed to step up and volunteer to move Jean's legacy and the Hill and Lake Press forward.

Starting in March 2022, I will be the new Editor. Although the Hill and Lake Press will certainly evolve and change, my hope is that it will remain a strong local voice keenly focused on our Hill and

**No Lunch with Lisa in February. Lunch will return in March.**



Lake community. I welcome your thoughts and energy as we transition over the coming months. Please feel free to contact me at hilllakepress@gmail.com if you are interested in contributing to our collective future. Sincerely, Craig Wilson



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Meet Your Neighbor, Charlie Rybak

Craig Wilson interviews Charlie Rybak about Southwest Voices, growing up as a “Rybak” and his hope for Minneapolis.

**What was it like growing up in Southwest Minneapolis?** It was a great place to grow up. I had a bunch of great experiences with the parks system, playing sports at Lynnhurst, doing the urban tennis program on summer mornings, having a great sledding hill at Lyndale Farmstead, and have a bunch of fond memories of my favorite food spots as a kid – Broders, Sebastian Joe's, Dunn Brothers, Victor's, Great Wall, and Zumbro, among others. As I got older, I got to work a bunch of really fun jobs, like delivering the Southwest Journal, being a baseball umpire for the park board, working as a landscaper, making sandwiches at the Jimmy John's in Seven Points (then called Calhoun Square), running the cash register at Chipotle in Cedar Commons, bagging groceries at the Kowalski's on 54th and Lyndale, and more. I learned as much at these jobs as I did in any classes in school, and really think everyone should work jobs where they don't sit behind a computer at some point in their lives.

**What was it like to be the son of Mayor RT Rybak?** This has always been a really hard one for me to answer, because I don't know what it would be like to not grow up with a name like mine. The best side of it was that it gave me a chance to meet people from all across the city when I was a little kid. I was really lucky to get to experience things that didn't exist in my community, people who lived in a different part of the city or didn't look like me or spoke a different language than I did pretty early on. I am a very lucky person, so I try not to dwell on the negatives, but I think people should know how hard it is to have your family in the spotlight all the time. It can be really taxing on your relationships to have to share a parent with the world. When you go out to lunch, people will come up and interrupt your family to yell about a pothole. It's also very weird to have hundreds of people across the city pretend to know everything about you because of your last name. I found it quite liberating to leave Minneapolis for a while, which was an important period of time that allowed me to forge my own identity, which can be a hard thing to do when every person that takes your ID or credit card immediately begins asking about your parents, or assuming that you share experiences and political views with the people that you're related to. All in all, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything in the world. But I think we should all remember that the families of politicians didn't sign up for this, and that we should all be a bit more forgiving towards people's kids, spouses, and more. Showing up at people's houses and making their family's life miserable is not going to lead to us having better politicians or better politics, it's only going to make everyone that works in these tough jobs more likely to leave them. We need good people more than ever. Yell at politicians, give them hell when they're at work, but we really need to stop imposing the costs of that work on people's families. It's not fair to them.

**What did you do after leaving Minneapolis?** I went to George Washington University in D.C. I stuck around DC for about five years, where I got into digital media work. I then left for San Francisco, where I got really involved with the tech startup world, before getting back into politics and digital media after Trump's election. I love Minneapolis but being able to see and experience other cities gave me an essential lens for evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of this one. There are many of both, and I'm not sure I would've been able to see them as clearly if I hadn't spent time elsewhere.

**What is Southwest Voices?** Southwest Voices is a digital publication that covers Southwest Minneapolis. We put out a daily email newsletter every morning, which includes a round-up of major stories, things we publish, ways to get involved in local government and your community, and more. You can sign-up by going to [www.SouthwestVoices.news](http://www.SouthwestVoices.news). We started the organization after the unfortunate closure of the Southwest Journal. Local news is essential for connecting us with

one another. Losing a hyperlocal news source covering this area of Minneapolis has been really bad for our community. We're hoping to build something strong and sustainable to cover the stories happening all around, and to continue to help make Southwest Minneapolis a place that's thriving and welcoming for all of its residents. While all of the content is free, we are supported by memberships and advertising/sponsorships, which you can get more information about on our website. Becoming a member is a great way to help us grow and cover more things happening in the local community.

**What motivated you to launch Southwest Voices?** Local news is essential. I think a big chunk of the existing local news infrastructure in the Twin Cities doesn't do a great job of covering Minneapolis, especially in the past year or two. There have been real efforts to use this city as a punching bag the last couple years. There are people that want Minneapolis to fail. I love Minneapolis, and I think we're going to prove all the doubters wrong. We all chose to live here because we know it's special, and that its best days are yet to come. I also think that neighborhood-level news can cover stories that other news sources don't have the capacity to get to. I can see Southwest Minneapolis when I look outside my window, and Melody Hoffmann (our fantastic Founding Editor) can do the same and having an organization covering this community that's actually

from and of this community is really important, especially during this moment in time. Communities deserve to tell stories and define the narrative about themselves, not only have stories about their community told to them, and we're trying to elevate voices across the neighborhoods that we cover to do that.



Meet your Neighbor to page 4

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## Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction from page two

## Meet your Neighbor from page 3

**What is your hope for Minneapolis?** I love this place with all my heart. I had a phenomenal childhood here. There are good people that live here, beautiful nature all around us, and incredible small businesses and community groups that really love this place. I think it's important for us all to recognize the fact that not everyone in Minneapolis has that same experience. This part of the city has a lot of power and resources, and I think it's all of our responsibility to do more work until everyone has things as good as we have. Everyone deserves a great school, a good-paying job, clean water, thriving local businesses, and safety in their homes and when they walk down the street. Everyone. For a long time, Southwest Minneapolis has had things better than a lot of other places in the city, and I hope that people will take this moment to continue to show that this part of town will work to extend that deal to everyone in every corner of the city. We're in a moment of transformation, and while that can feel scary at times, we have the ability to come out of this stronger, closer to our neighbors, and with a more equal and just city than we had a few years ago. I'm hopeful that we can do that but getting there is going to take some real work from people, especially people that live in Southwest Minneapolis like we do.

If the plan eliminates parking on Hennepin, Humboldt and other residential streets will inevitably become the go-to parking alternative. My block is already heavily "parked" due to apartments with no off-street parking.

My property taxes already cover city street upgrades and maintenance in the Public Works budget. Why should my neighbors and I be penalized with higher taxes when the proposed plan is a citywide project? It is both senseless and discriminatory if selective property owners on both sides of Hennepin are required to bear a portion of redevelopment/repurposing costs.

In my opinion, the entire project, as currently proposed, will result in Hennepin Avenue becoming a rapid transit corridor that connects downtown to

Southdale. Currently, city buses stop on every Hennepin block when requested. The proposed plan calls for restricting Hennepin stops to three (if I recall correctly) intersections. In addition to jeopardizing the livelihood of small businesses on Hennepin by forcing parking into the residential neighborhood, the plan provides even less transit service to the adjacent neighborhoods than they receive now. In my opinion, these issues have not been adequately addressed. I read recently that a shocking 50% of people who expressed support for the plan do not live in any of Hennepin Avenue's adjoining neighborhoods. If true, this fact alone should result in an immediate decision to delay plan approval. The plan needs to go back to the drawing board."

### IGNORE YOUR LAKES AND THEY'LL GO AWAY.

By Sandra Nelson

Or they could become unrecognizable. As a 44-year resident of Lowry Hill and Lake of the Isles, I was alarmed to learn what the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) currently proposes for redevelopment of Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. See it here:

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12\\_Cedar-Isles\\_Initial-Park-Concepts\\_final.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-12_Cedar-Isles_Initial-Park-Concepts_final.pdf)

The plan begins with six "Guiding Principles" developed from input provided by a vast — and vague — "community engagement" initiative:

**PROTECT** — refers to restoring and preserving Cedar/Isles ecology, water quality, climate mitigation and wildlife. This principle should command 95% of MPRB's focus in my judgment.

**INVITE** — refers to reaching a broader audience and making the lakes a tourist destination, conjuring up visions of an outdoors "State Fair." Our precious lakes are not a commodity or consumer product. I vigorously oppose marketing initiatives aimed at tourism in our residential neighborhood.

**CONNECT** — refers to making bike, pedestrian and vehicular "circulation networks" around the lakes "flexible and clear." What is a "flexible" circulation network? Is there a plan afoot to allow cyclists and walkers to share the same path? While better signage on the walking and cycling/rollerblading/skateboarding paths is sorely needed and long overdue, the "flexibility" idea is unclear.

**TELL STORIES** — refers to sharing "authentic stories" about the lakes' "layered history."

Is it the Park Board's role or responsibility to develop and disseminate information about the lakes' history, much less arbitrate authentic stories?

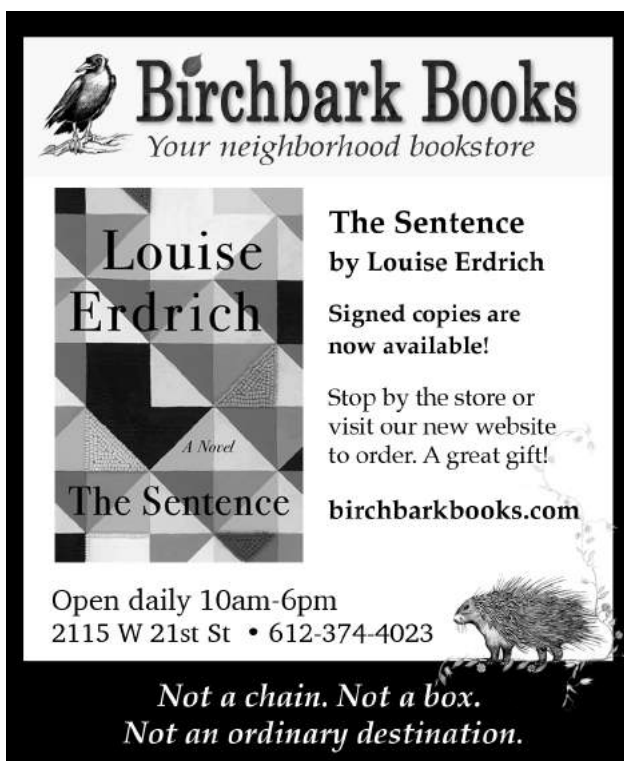
**CELEBRATE** — meaning? Is the plan to construct an outdoor history museum on each lake? Stages for plays? Shelters/buildings for picnics and late-night parties? Outdoor classrooms for whom? Street closures for how long and what purpose?

**RESPECT** — Refers to "strengthening relationships with the lakes." Residents and visitors already have a strong physical and emotional relationship with the lakes. Lake of the Isles has welcomed residents and visitors since the 1880s. In 1989, thanks to 65 citizen activists, an abandoned railroad yard was turned into serene and scenic Cedar Lake in the heart of the city.

The following comments address Lake of the Isles, which is one block from my home.

#### CONCEPT A: LIVING LAKES

- I endorse all environmental recommendations.
- I oppose Activity Hubs; regardless of their design, the concept is antithetical to the beauty and serenity of the lake. A year-round warming house, rental kiosks, mobile stage, outdoor classrooms and multiple restrooms adjacent to the lake shoreline will make Isles completely unrecognizable.
- I oppose the addition of lake decks. There is an existing deck on the south end of Isles where there are no residences. I have never seen a line of canoeists, kayakers or



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THE URBAN COYOTE  
 “Monsters from the Id”

Mayor Frey and Mr. Vlatkovitch,

I'm asking you to please delay the Hennepin Ave Reconstruction Plan until Margaret Anderson Kelliher can assume her role as the new Director of Public Works and can review the impact of the redesign on local businesses and neighborhood livability. It is my understanding that transportation planning professionals have been engaged in the planning effort but not experts in creating viable commercial business corridors, which is standard practice at other agencies like MNDOT.

The success of area businesses, and access to them, is an important factor of neighborhood livability and our quality of life. This plan falls short of protecting businesses. We do not want the mass exodus of businesses as has happened in other places after removal of street parking. The current plan's reduction of parking along the corridor from 300 spaces to 20 will kill business along the corridor.

An example of this is Hennepin Ave between Lake St and 31st where the city's poor planning process has led to the departure of dozens of business, most recently Kitchen Window.

Please don't let the carnage spread to the rest of the corridor. Fix it.

With Gratitude,  
 Craig Wilson  
 Lowry Hill resident

Spring

Relaxing his hold for a moment  
 flexing his muscles for April  
 Winter's caught off guard  
 And the coiled Spring

leaps!  
 Shouting,  
 Melt!

Shannon King

One of the best science fiction movies of my 1950's youth was "Forbidden Planet." The story is of a spaceship launched from a crumbling earth to search through interstellar space for another habitable planet, and finding one. Landing, the astronauts discover two survivors from a lavishly rich civilization. The inhabitants had everything they needed and wanted at their fingertips, for they had solved the puzzle of nuclear fusion, an endless supply of free energy. And yet they had destroyed themselves, the civilization in shambles. Meanwhile, the visiting spaceship was attacked by terrifying monsters made of pure energy. In the final scene, civilization's remnants crumbling around them, the last citizen is dying (his of course beautiful daughter escaping with the visiting space cadets). The spaceship commander asks the dying man, "What went wrong?" He whispers, "Monsters from the id."

Remember your high school Freud? The id holds the unimpeded instincts of childhood-- impulse, fear, resentment, anger, aggression, appetite, sexual energy, unmediated by the Superego of morality or the educated ego that brings the two together. Humans are supposed to grow enough to contain them.

Yet today those monsters are everywhere loose in our land. Angry adolescents with guns and few restraints on pulling the trigger. Angry truck drivers blockading borders. Citizens enraged at life-saving vaccines and protocols. Insane conspiracy theorists in public office. Fascists and Nazis and racists and anti-Semites and religious bigots and misogynists and gay bashers crawling out from under their rocks into the echosphere where Trumpster dumpsters riot to end democracy, all fighting like rabid dogs a war that does not exist except in their heads. What opened the door to these dank recesses of the psyche, these monsters from the id?

In our era, it began on the far fringes of the radio dial with the end of the "fairness doctrine" on publicly licensed airwaves and then television. The fact-free talk show format pioneered by lamentable Rush Limbaugh and Rupert Murdoch's Fox media empire fed passions

and class resentment with misinformation, attacking so-called elites, meaning we who dwell in the fact-based universe. Not parenthetically, Rush Windbag died in a \$26 million Palm Beach mansion with \$600 million in the bank earned by exploiting his sad "dittoheads." Murdoch remains monstrously alive, growing \$17 billion stash with Tucker and Hannity conspiratorial rants.

Then the hijacking of the world wide web. The greatest communication device ever devised, designed to bring the world the sum of human knowledge and wisdom to our fingertips, also opened wide the psyche's dark cellars of resentment, jealousy, bitterness, brokenness, the whole ugly spectrum of the repressed human spirit.

And so we get to this month's tragic stories of two dead teenagers, Amir Locke shot by police sleeping with a gun on a couch, and Deshaun Hill, 15 year-old quarterback of the North High School football team, shot apparently at random on a street corner. I know of good people who are protesting at City Hall right now against "police violence." And I know of bad people who are shooting kids for disrespect and pistol-whipping women for their purses. And I know people like myself, rooted to my couch in paralyzed anger and remorse for the city and nation and planet I love, wondering how to stop the craziness and carnage.

"It's all so senseless," said Otis Elder's younger sister, quoted in the StarTribune. Otis Elder was murdered by the 17-year-old teenager who sparked the police no-knock raid that killed Amir Locke and led to the arrest of the teenager now charged with Otis' murder. "Amir would be alive, my brother would still be alive if that little boy hadn't done what he did.\*"

**"Senseless." Another name for "Monsters from the id."**

CORRECTION. Last month I quoted a statistic from Steve Sack's cartoon in the StarTribune that "A child is killed by a gun every minute of every day in America." That stat was corrected to "every HOUR of every day." Still, "senseless."

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## Is it Safe to Come Home? By Joanne Provo

I am fortunate to be able to spend a few weeks in Puerto Vallarta in the midst of our Minnesota winters. When those plans were foiled last year by Covid and before vaccines were ubiquitous, I thought that maybe my annual escape had run its course. But after last February's polar vortex, I decided that as long as I could get vaccinated and travel safely, I would return to PVR this year.

The place I rent is relatively secluded and since I am long past the age where being in crowded bars and nightclubs has any appeal, my stay here is pretty much like being at home. My days include trips to the grocery store, working, reading, writing and staying connected to the rest of the world thanks to stable Wi-Fi. I enjoy my daily walks, especially as they require a sun visor rather than boots, hats and gloves and while I have to watch for cracks in the sidewalks at least I don't need to worry about slipping on the ice.

Yet, when I shared my plans to come to Puerto Vallarta again this year, I got lots of unsolicited advice and warnings that it was not safe to travel to Mexico given the high levels of crime and gang activities. I was concerned but have been coming here for so many years without incident that I decided to forge ahead.

The irony is that while I was enjoying my time here this week, I got a text from my downstairs neighbors that there had been an armed carjacking in front of our house on 35th and Irving Avenue South. They witnessed the entire thing and had they left their house 30 seconds earlier they are convinced it would have been them and not an unfortunate contractor working on the house a couple of doors down. This fellow, in his mid-60's, was returning to his car parked on the street when two young men pointed a gun at his face, demanded his keys and everything on him and took off in his car which had his cell phone and his supply of work tools. In spite of doing everything they asked, they still shot at him before they drove off. This was early afternoon on what is supposed to be a relatively safe street in south Minneapolis. I have lived there for 20 years without incident, so this was jarring.

My neighbors were shaken up. This man was in shock and after talking to the police he had no phone and no way to get home. My neighbors drove him back to his home in Minnetonka as his shock turned to anger at the loss of his car and work tools.

As I sit here listening to the waves and contemplating my return to Minneapolis, I am wary about what the summer will bring. I have enjoyed my daily walks in Lakewood Cemetery over the past summers, but the neighborhood apps and watch groups continue to caution against walking there alone.

The rates of crime have been escalating, that is well documented. These incidents have become more frequent and more brazen. The question that has not been answered to anyone's satisfaction, is what can be done. While we are likely two months away from the snow melting, the idea of another tumultuous summer in Minneapolis is causing more anxiety than any international travel plans.

I moved to Uptown over 30 years ago and have rarely felt that my physical safety was in jeopardy. Maybe I have been naïve or just lucky, but it saddens me that I feel so much safer walking the streets of Puerto Vallarta than I do going out my own front door in Minneapolis.

This is a link to an hour-long interview Mary Pattock did with KFAI radio as a follow-up to the Strib piece two weeks later which is on page one of Hill and Lake Press. It will be on the KFAI website for another week or so. However, I have also captured it as an MP3. So if you could upload it to your website, and create a link for it, the interview would be available on your website until you took it down.

I suggest this because the interview was a whole hour long, comprehensive, and people tell me, informative. Here it is, a recording of Don Olson's 2/17/22 Northern Sun News on KFAI

NorthernSunNews\_2022-02-17.mp3

## Grand Reopening of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

### "Spoonbridge and Cherry" Reunited



Photo by Dorothy Childers

It was a cold and windy day when a group of people gathered at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden to witness a perfectly-executed return of the newly-painted Cherry onto the Spoonbridge.

## POWER OF THE PRESS

By Harriet Horwitz



Photo by Dorothy Childers

### Strib article brings East Isles couple 15 minutes of fame

If the Kardashians are famous for being famous, the same can be said of Joyce and Ron Murphy.

On January 22, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, in the Inspired section, highlighted the couple's many years of providing warm clothing and supplies to homeless and people in need. End of the story? No way.

An unexpected gift in return was the hearty blast of notoriety that followed. Not a common experience for 87-year-olds. Neighbors commented, of course.. And in a very 2022 twist, son Owen and niece Neila in California posted the article on Facebook. Soon the Murphys were embraced by Likes, Loves and virtual whispers of "sweet couple", "caring people" and "very special." A former childhood neighbor, now in Hawaii, responded, as did Pat Gould, now of St. Louis, who introduced the two over 65 years ago.

Do they enjoy the attention? "Yes," said Joyce. "And 15 minutes is enough." Their daughter Julie Murphy adds "Covid is a hard time; people are having hard times. Reach out. "

Josie Owens continued from page 1

within the city. It was easy to stop at the balloon store, the bead store, and the coffee shops. We could run into Penzeys or the bookstores or Kitchen Window easily. In the evening we could walk safely all around, and our kids could walk or bike to their friends' homes." This kind of family lifestyle brought Rita, her husband, and their two children (5 and 2) to a house across the street from Susan last year. However, twenty years later, there is a different feeling in the neighborhood. Rita says, "The changes will make it SO much more difficult for us to take our kids places on Hennepin if we have to walk a ways to get there. We already find ourselves going to Barnes & Noble more frequently than Magers & Quinn because the parking guarantees the kids don't have to be outside for too long. We live here partially because we love the small businesses and want to support them, but they need to be accessible for our family". Unfortunately, the permanent removal of 280 parking spots will make it very challenging for families like Rita's to shop on Hennepin.

Although the residents worry about the survival of their favorite restaurants and shops, they also are concerned about what happens when the traffic gets backed up on Hennepin. Where will the cars go? Is it realistic to think that just because the city offers buses that drivers will abandon their cars? A city bus is great for the direct commute, but many people have commutes that involve multiple stops - dropping and picking up children at school, going to the gym, and grocery shopping are part of one's day. Whereas Susan felt comfortable with her children's autonomy, parents have more concerns with reckless and distracted driving today. Rita says, "We're nervous about people cutting through because people driving in residential areas like they are on main streets is dangerous."

Lowry Hill was developed in a time when people had horses and carriages. The streets are narrow. Cars line many of the streets. In the winter, the snow makes these streets even narrower. Navigating the streets

becomes a dance between cars. Usually, it is polite. Those who live in the neighborhood know to add a bit of extra time for the drive. However, what happens when people outside the neighborhood start using it as a shortcut to get to downtown or the highway? To ignore this probability is to ignore the past. Twenty-five years ago Lowry Hill experienced a similar problem. An Irving Street resident recalls how the city worked on safety in the summer of 1996. "We were experiencing a lot of commuters cutting through the neighborhood to get to downtown from Edina and St. Louis Park. Irving bore the brunt of it as a wider snow emergency street. The city used our block as the place to test out speed bumps. People are used to them now, but there were some angry, honking objectors for a while." Other measures have had pros and cons. For example, a traffic circle had a brief existence on Irving at Summit. The four-way stops are often ignored. "I see so many people roll right through the stop signs. If they do stop then they speed up to the next one." So, what can the city do when the commuters come through? There are already no right turn signs on Lake of the Isles Parkway to deter cutting through. However, these are only for the morning hours. What happens when Hennepin's extra lane of traffic moves into the residential streets for all hours of the day? Is the city going to extend the hours for no right turn? How do the residents turn into their own neighborhood? Will Rita's kids enjoy the same safety as Susan's did twenty years ago when playing and riding bikes?

The big question on most residents' minds is why is the city doing this? Who will benefit? Not the businesses as they are unified in opposition to the plan. Not the residents who have chosen the neighborhood for the proximity to these endangered shops and restaurants. The general feeling in the neighborhood is that the city is not listening to the community and is just trying to check a box. Another resident says, "I enjoy walking to local businesses to avoid parking on the already con-

gested Hennepin, but I have the luxury of time and health. I generally have thirty minutes to do on foot what it would likely take me ten minutes to do in a car. I am also physically able to walk the five or ten or fifteen blocks, sometimes through snow or ice, without difficulty. Not everyone has the luxury of time or health." Many people question the removal of two lanes of car traffic for a two-way dedicated bike lane. Rita says, "I support bikers, but as a parent, I want things to also be accessible for my family, and for everyone else who needs access. We have amazing bike routes and a history of killing businesses by adding more where they aren't needed, so I just don't think we need any more unless truly warranted."

Lowry Hill and Hennepin Avenue have coexisted and supported each other for 120 years. The area has thrived economically because of the original urban planning that created it. After Covid and social unrest, will Hennepin Avenue survive this latest assault? Will this be the demise of this loved city neighborhood that has existed so pleasantly in the heart of Minneapolis for 120 years?

The City Council will be voting on the Hennepin Avenue South Reconstruction Plan in the next month. Council Member Lisa Goodman supports reevaluating the staff recommendation, so it is unnecessary to contact her office. Mayor Jacob Frey has the powers to delay the project until Margaret Anderson Kelleher, the former Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner, and new Director of Public Works for the City of Minneapolis, assumes her position and can evaluate the project's impacts on livability. Residents are encouraged to contact the mayor's office to delay the project and reevaluate the staff recommendation. Mayor Jacob Frey and his staff Mychal Vlatkovitch can be reached by calling 311 or emailing [Jacob.Frey@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Jacob.Frey@minneapolismn.gov) and [Mychal.Vlatkovitch@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Mychal.Vlatkovitch@minneapolismn.gov).

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# Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association

Michael Jon Olson

## CIDNA Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2022

### DRAFT - PROVISIONALLY APPROVED

Minutes submitted by Mike Siebenaler and Michael Jon Olson

#### Attendance

Board Members Present: Laura Cederberg (Chair), Laura DeMarais, Stephen Goltry, Rosanne Halloran, Dean Kephart, Mary Pattock, Claire Ruebeck, Mike Siebenaler (Treasurer), Tim Sheridan (Vice Chair)

Board Members Absent: Amanda Vallone

Community Members Present: Nkongo Cigolo, Jeanette Colby, Anton Dmytrenko, Anita Duckor, Nancy Green, Steven Goldsmith, Vanne Owens Hayes, Maria Henley, Chris Homsey, Canan Karatekin, Charlie Lobeck, Rosemary Lobeck, Madeline Mary, Laurie Pohlman, Judy Tukkonen

Others Present: Michael Jon Olson (CIDNA Coordinator), Councilmember Lisa Goodman (Ward 7), David Davies (Metropolitan Council - SWLRT Project Office), Representative Frank Hornstein, Elizabeth Schaffer (MPRB Commissioner)

#### Preliminaries

Meeting was called to order at 6:05

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.

#### Reports & Presentations

Ward 7. Councilmember Goodman reported that Margaret Anderson Kelliher has joined the city as Public Works Director and that Lunch with Lisa has been postponed till March 23 (the topic will be city colleges including a tour of MCTC). CM Goodman then shared her concerns regarding city policy on no knock warrants.

Bills Related to SWLRT. Minnesota Representative Frank Hornstein reported on two pieces of legislation he recently introduced regarding SWLRT:

- The first bill directs the legislative auditor to "conduct a special review of the Southwest light rail

transit project costs, cost overruns, scope changes, delays, personnel qualifications, construction quality, and management."

- The second bill transfers authority of the SWLRT project from the Met Council to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

- A companion for both bills has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Scott Dibble. Committee hearings on these bills will occur as early as this week.

Representative Hornstein also said he is very concerned about damage to the Calhoun Isles Condominium building and supports its residents. The condo association chair, Vanne Owens Hayes, thanked him and Sen. Scott Dibble for their support.

#### MPRB. Commissioner Elizabeth Schaffer reported:

- The final public hearing on Minneapolis redistricting is on February 24. The latest redistricting map moves the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood into MPRB District 6 from District 4.

- The Cedar Isles Master Plan process is continuing.

- MPRB denied the SWLRT permit to close Cedar Lake Parkway.

- The Stone Arch bridge will soon close for two years for necessary repairs.

Commissioner Schaffer also thanked CIDNA for the public art that will be installed at the Cedar Lake South Beach this year. Elizabeth can be reached at: [eshaffer@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:eshaffer@minneapolisparcs.org) or 612-791-3701.

**SWLRT.** David Davies reported the closure of Cedar Lake Parkway for SWLRT construction is expected to begin late February or early March and may last up to ten months. He also noted that the Met Council has hired a third party to investigate the damage to the condominiums near the SWLRT construction site. Mary asked him to relay to Metropolitan Council Chair Charlie Zelle that his

statement, reported by the Star Tribune, that area

neighbors are responsible for SWLRT delay

because they insisted that a tunnel be built, is simply not true.

**Search Committee.** Laura Cederberg reported that the committee is still soliciting candidates for new Coordinator.

**Communication Committee.** Mary reported that Tim has identified potential locations for new neighborhood signage. She said work continues on the new CIDNA website and the committee is considering a survey in spring to see what social events CIDNA residents would like to attend.

**Environment Committee.** Claire reported that MPRB has now approved the public art project for Cedar Lake South Beach. The artist will provide three designs that will be the basis for a community engagement to choose a final design. She said the committee would be submitting a comment on the MPRB Cedar-Isles Master Plan.

**Joint Safety Committee.** Laura DeMarais reported that the group has been calling 311 to report ADA violations regarding snow removal. She urged everyone to report needed sidewalk repairs to the "Sidewalk Repair Hunters" group.

#### Actions

**Moved and seconded:** The CIDNA Board of Directors strongly supports legislation proposed by Sen. Dibble and Rep. Hornstein to transfer responsibility for SWLRT construction from the Met Council to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Passed unanimously.

**Moved and seconded:** The CIDNA Board of Directors strongly supports legislation proposed by Sen. Dibble and Rep. Hornstein to direct and fund the Office of the Legislative Auditor to audit the Met Council's management of SWLRT construction. Passed unanimously.

**Moved and seconded:** Whereas SWLRT construction is jeopardizing the safety of CIDNA residents who live in the Calhoun Isles Condominiums such that some residents feel unsafe living there, therefore the CIDNA Board of Directors calls on the Met Council and Hennepin County to provide and pay for comparable temporary shelter to any residents who want it, until the safety issues are resolved to the the residents' satisfaction. Passed unanimously.

**Moved and seconded:** To approve the 2020 and 2021 annual reports to the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. Passed unanimously.

**Moved and seconded:** To approve the CIDNA Financial Policies. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

## Kenwood Neighborhood Organization

By Matthew Spies

Below are DRAFT minutes from the February meeting. Please advise if any edits are warranted.

### KNO Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022

#### Online Meeting

\*\*\* DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED AT MARCH MEETING \*\*\*

Present: Mark Brown (Chair), Jim Barnett (Vice Chair), Jeremy Nichols (Treasurer), Matt Spies (Secretary), Will Stensrud, Melinda Platt, Courtney Kiernat, Kyle Leier, Jack Levi,

Absent: Evelyn Turner, Lana Baggentos

Guest Speakers: Lisa Goodman (City of Minneapolis), David Davies (SWLRT Office), Lt. Calvin Noble (Park Police)

**1. Approval of January meeting minutes.** Courtney Kiernat motioned to approve January meeting minutes. Jeremy Nichols seconded. Motion passed.

**2. Comments from Councilmember Goodman. The next lunch with Lisa is on March 23, 2020.**

**3. Southwest Light Rail Update by David Davies.** A round of town hall meetings will be conducted in mid-March.

**4. Renovation of 2424 W. Lake Of the Isles Parkway.** Courteny Kiernat made a motion to provide the property owners a letter of non objection to the proposed renovation on 2424 W. Lake of the Isles

Parkway based on the proposed design shared with the board given the support of the immediate neighbors. The motion was seconded by Will Stensrud. Motion passed.

**5. Introduction and remarks by Park Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer.**

**6. KNO Coordinators Report by Amanda Vallone.** Matt Spies made a motion to approve Amanda planning a Kenwood neighborhood volunteer engagement night. Seconded by Jeremy Nichols.

**7. Neighborhood pollinator gardens proposal led by Angie Erdrich.** Angie provided an overview of a proposal to partner with various governmental and non-governmental organizations to support 20 gardes and shoreline restoration along Cedar Lake. Matt Spies made a motion to commit up to \$1625 to support the program. The motion was seconded by Courtney Kiernat. Motion passed.

**8. Gas Leaf Blower Mitigation efforts led by Jack Levi.** Jack discussed efforts to reduce the number of gas powered leaf blowers in the city of Minneapolis.

**9. Financial Report.** Jeremy Nichols reviewed the annual financial report that was shared with the board ahead of the meeting.

#### From Linda Mack,

Dear neighbors, some of you may have received notice about a major remodeling at 2424 W. Lake of the Isles--and others of you may have heard about it. Because the project involves removing some additions to the 1929 Tudor Revival house and adding other spaces, it is described as a "60 % demolition" and will go to the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission for a hearing on March 1. (The original 1929 house will remain.) The architects for the project, Joan Soranno and John Cook of HGA, would welcome the opportunity to share the plans with you, so find below an invitation to a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. The house is owned by Bob and Becky Pohlrad and Bob will join the meeting as well. Feel free to share this invitation with any others you think might be interested. Thanks, Linda Mack

Joan Soranno has invited you to a scheduled HGA Architects & Engineers meeting to review the design for Bob and Becky Pohlrad's residence at 2424 West Lake of the Isles Parkway. Please feel free to forward to anyone else who might be interested.



## East Isles Residents Association

Minutes submitted by Jenna Egan

### EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2021, 7 pm

Online via Zoom

#### MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Becky Accettura, Natasha Dockter, Mike Erlandson, Larry Lamb, Rod Lauture Peter Mason, Brian Milavitz

Staff present:

Jenny Breen, Farmers Market Manager

Guests present:

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council - Ward 7  
Claire Wilson, Loppet Foundation Executive Director  
Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

Asked by the City Council President to continue serving as Chair of the Business Inspection and Housing Committee. First Business meeting is Tues. Jan. 18.

[https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/9066?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=-2021 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Award recommendations](https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/9066?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=-2021%20Affordable%20Housing%20Trust%20Fund%20Award%20recommendations) (minneapolismn.gov)

Lunch with Lisa on Jan. 26. Downtown leaders will share their Downtown Recovery Efforts. Presenters include: Steve Cramer, President & CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council; Sarah Anderson, President & CEO of BOMA; and Melvin Tennant, President & CEO of Meet Minneapolis.

Luminary Havdalah is a free community-wide gathering outdoors at Levin Park, just east of Lake of the Isles on the evening of the Luminary Loppet festival. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1086655685434478ah>

City of Minneapolis launches behavioral crisis response teams pilot project. Canopy Roots serves as the provider. <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2021/december/city-launches-behavioral-crisis-response-teams-pilot-project/> Behavioral Crisis Response Teams Pilot Project - City of Minneapolis (minneapolismn.gov)

Budget has been approved, 2.6 million approved for youth programming.

Lisa has a new Policy Aide - Zach Schultz.

Hiring Community Service Officers. <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/jobs/police-jobs/hiring-cso/>

Council member Goodman's newsletter: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-7/newsletters/>

Claire Wilson, Loppet Foundation Executive Director

Loppet Foundation Executive Director Claire Wilson gave the following announcements:

Gratitude to EIRA and the NRP Committee for the funding to purchase a new snowmobile to groom the Chain of Lakes.

Dedicated to accessibility for all residents to attend events, programming and the trails.

Luminary Loppet is Sat. Feb. 5 from 6 - 10 PM at Lake of the Isles. <https://www.loppet.org/innesota-green>

Green Team Chair Ellen van Iwaarden gave the following announcements:

Rep. Hornstein and his intern Dori are interested in working with neighborhoods on zero waste. Requested 5 million dollars for local organizations to conduct pilots on getting multi-family units to start and/or increase composting. Green Team and Dori are interested in East Isles neighborhood outreach.

Green Team meeting is on Wed. Jan. 19 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report

January 2022 Finance Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the January 2022 Finance Report.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5a:

Motion to approve the January 2022 Finance Report. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

Financial Management Policies and Procedures Draft Amendments

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the Finance Committee's proposed amendments to EIRA's Financial Management Policies and Procedures. They were first introduced last month but voting was postponed until this month to give Board members more time to review.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5b:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022R-01: Resolved that EIRA amend the Financial Management Policies and Procedures. Motion by Erlandson, seconded by Degerstrom. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

NRP Phase II Plan Modification and Contract Amendment

Pursuant to notice given at the December 2021 Board Meeting, Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented Plan Modification no. 10 to EIRA's NRP Phase II Plan and the 8th Amendment to NRP Funding Agreement no. 28340 for approval.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5c:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022R-02: Resolved that EIRA approve Plan Modification no. 10 to its NRP Phase II Plan, as well as the 8th Amendment to NRP Funding Agreement no. 28340 with the City of Minneapolis. Motion by Erlandson, seconded by Degerstrom. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

Organizational Name Change

President Emma Erdahl and Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom discussed the possibility of changing the organization's name to "East Isles Neighborhood Association." The main reasons behind the move are:

With the expansion of membership eligibility in the organization to now include business owners and organizational representatives, "East Isles Neighborhood Association" would be more inclusive than "East Isles Residents Association."

Reason to pursue this action now is to coordinate with the rebranding.

The Board was very amenable to this proposed action.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022R-03: Resolved that EIRA amend its Articles of Incorporation effectively changing the name of the organization to "East Isles Neighborhood Association." Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Milavitz. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 1 nay.

Fundraising Committee

President Emma Erdahl announced that the new Fundraising Committee needs a Chair and those who are interested should contact Coordinator Jenna Egan at [jenna@eastisles.org](mailto:jenna@eastisles.org).

Southwest Voices Donation Agreement

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the proposed donation agreement with Southwest Voices. Southwest Voices would donate a percentage of the membership revenue from people who live in the East Isles neighborhood to EIRA.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 8:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2022R-04: Resolved that EIRA approve the donation agreement with Southwest Voices. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

Outreach and Engagement Committee

Outreach and Engagement Committee Chair Becky

Accettura gave the following report:

Board Members should start thinking about nominations of names to be added to the volunteer recognition plaque located in Isles Bun & Coffee.

Committee Member Sandy Nelson is leading a project to collect names of East Isles block captains to assist in a neighbor survey. Board members should share their block captain's name with Sandy if they know it.

Open Forum

The following topics were discussed during Open Forum:

There was an inquiry about when Grace Trinity Church would reopen for EIRA to use for meetings. Finding other meeting space since the Church has been closed for renovations has not been easy.

The next BET Committee meeting will be on February 18 at 7pm. Public Works staff will be in attendance to present their recommended layout for the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

### EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 7 pm

Online via Zoom

#### MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Erik Anderson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Becky Accettura, Natasha Dockter, Mike Erlandson, Larry Lamb, Peter Mason, Brian Milavitz

Staff present:

Jenny Breen, Farmers Market Manager

Guests present:

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council - Ward 7  
Nancy Johnston, former EIRA President  
Other East Isles Neighbors

1) Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2) Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

- City budget adopted. Highlights include: \$140 million on affordable housing. \$2.6 million going toward youth programming that will be developed and facilitated by the Minneapolis Parks Board, and Minneapolis Police Department will continue to recruit.

- Lunch with Lisa on Jan. 26.

- Mayor has put together 3 work groups - Charter Dependent work group, Economic Recovery work group, Community Safety and Reform.

- Holidazzle returns this year.

- New impound lot with better accessibility, expanded waiting area and energy efficiencies. <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2021/november/new-impound-lot-facility-opens-nov-22/>

- Lisa has a new Policy Aide - Zach Schultz.

- Council member Goodman's newsletter: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-7/newsletters/>

- Free Energy Squad visit. 0% APR financing for energy upgrades such as air sealing, insulation, and solar. Whether you qualify for the free visit or not, a visit can help you improve your home's energy use.

- Starting Oct. 1, a City ordinance requiring a 5 cent fee for each carryout bag provided by a store goes into effect. Enforcement had paused temporarily when the pandemic began.

EIRA minutes continued on page 10

### EIRA minutes from page 9

#### 3) Approval of Minutes

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 3:

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 2021 Board Meeting and November 2021 Membership Meeting. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Dockter. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

#### 4) Farmers Market Season Recap

Farmers Market Manager Jenny Breen presented the following 2021 season recap:

- Farmers Market impacted again by COVID. Less attendance than years past. Vendors still were impressed with the amount of people that attended and purchased items.
- Did not require attendees and vendors to mask.

To Cedar Isles Condominium Association Residents: What Happened:

On January 27, 2022, residents of the Cedar Isles Condominium Association (CICA) discovered cracks in the hallways and common areas between the 3145 and 3151 buildings. The cracking was on floors three through ten along joints between the buildings. The residents observed separation of the carpet tiles and separation between the walls and ceiling. The residents immediately contacted First Service Residential and Green Line Extension project office staff about the cracks. Project staff investigated the cracks the following morning, on Friday January 28. The project office engaged a structural engineering consultant with expertise in high rise structures adjacent to construction to conduct an evaluation. The consultant provided a presentation of its investigation later that day. Preliminary results of the investigation were shared with CICA's LRT coordination group as well as CICA's geotechnical and structural engineering consultants.

The project office and CICA representatives, including engineering representatives, are coordinating closely to resolve this issue.

What We Know Right Now:

- CICA and the project office's structural engineers have evaluated both the 3145 and 3151 buildings and deemed the buildings safe for residential occupation.
- Except for limited maintenance work described below, the project office paused LRT construction activities adjacent to CICA while the cause and extent of these cracks are investigated.
- Crack monitors were installed by project staff on February 2, 2022, in the lobbies and hallways of the 3151 building on floors 3, 7, 8 and 10. Crack monitor



Friends,  
We have made it to March  
Winter is almost done,  
We have big plans this year  
For a lot more fun!

You see a blend  
Of the old & the new,  
We have a message to send  
About all we can do for you!

We plan to be clear  
About what we are able to do,  
Letting our younger members  
Be here to carry it through!

We are coming up to Easter,  
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Stop in to visit us-  
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- Brought live music back to the market.
- Had a number of new vendors, and more produce vendors. Chicken and egg vendor.
- In 2022, there will be new structuring of farmers market management and committee.
- SNAP EBT was offered this year at the farmers market, and shoppers used it.
- In 2022, offering Market Bucks - match SNAP-EBT spending dollar-for-dollar (up to \$10) at the farmers market.
- Were a couple thefts at the farmers market this past year. Has occurred at other Minneapolis farmers markets. Farmers Markets of Minneapolis collaborative is looking at ways to prevent thefts and have a security presence. More to come in the future.

#### 5) Nancy Johnston, Kenwood Isles Condos and former EIRA President

Nancy Johnston reported that residents of the Kenwood Isles Condos have formed a Diversity Committee with the goal to expand and commit to understanding and promoting multiculturalism and anti-racism. Their committee are reaching out to other neighborhood associations to discuss the current state of Uptown and any outreach being done and are wondering if there can be some type of collaboration with EIRA. It was suggested that members of their committee attend the next EIRA Outreach and Engagement Committee meeting in January.

#### 6) Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report

##### a. December 2021 Finance Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the December 2021 Finance Report.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6a:

Motion to approve the December 2021 Finance Report. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

##### b. 2022 Management and Program Budget

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the 2022 Management and Program Budget recommended by the Finance Committee.

**The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6b:**

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-32: Resolved that EIRA adopt the Management and Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.** Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Lamb. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

##### c. Financial Management Policies and Procedures Draft Amendments

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the Finance Committee's proposed amendments to EIRA's Financial Management Policies and Procedures. To give Board members more time to review, the vote to approve will be postponed until January.

##### d. Fundraising Committee

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom reported that the Finance Committee is recommending that EIRA form a Fundraising Committee as a way to increase EIRA's fundraising in light of decreased City funding. The Board will need to take action to form the committee and adopt a committee charter.

##### e. Bank Accounts

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom reported that the Finance Committee is recommending that EIRA move its banking from Wells Fargo to Bridgewater Bank.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6e:

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-33: Resolved that EIRA authorizes moving its banking from Wells Fargo to Bridgewater Bank.** EIRA will open both a checking account and credit card account with Bridgewater, and move all funds currently in its Wells Fargo checking and savings accounts to its new Bridgewater checking account. EIRA's checking, savings, and credit card accounts at Wells Fargo shall be closed. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Milavitz. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

##### f. 2022 Neighborhood Network Fund/Equitable Engagement Fund Contract Approval

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the 2022 NNF/EEF Contract between EIRA and the City of Minneapolis.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6f:

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-34: Resolved that EIRA approve the 2022 NNF/EEF Funding Agreement with the City of Minneapolis.** Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

##### g. NRP Phase II Contract Amendment and Plan Modification Proposal

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom and NRP Committee Chair Mike Erlandson presented the NRP Committee's proposal for a series of two contract amendments and a plan modification to EIRA's NRP Phase II Plan. The purpose is to reallocate funds to provide 5 years of supplemental funding to EIRA's Management and Program Budget, as well as allocating funds to replace EIRA's neighborhood boundary signs as part of the rebranding project. The first of 3 recommended actions in the proposal, approve the 7th Amendment to its NRP Phase II Implementation Contract, would be taken tonight. The last 2 of the recommended actions, initiating Plan Modification #10 to EIRA's NRP Phase II Plan and approving the 8th Amendment to its NRP Phase II Implementation Contract, will be taken at the January 2022 Board Meeting.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6g:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-35: Resolved that EIRA approve the 7th Amendment to NRP Funding Agreement no. 28340 with the City of Minneapolis. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

##### 7) Neighborhoods 2020 Policies

The Board reviewed the final set of policies that EIRA is required to adopt to remain eligible for City funding under the Neighborhoods 2020 program.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 7:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-36: Resolved that EIRA adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy, Board Development Policy, Employee Handbook, Whistleblower Policy, ADA Policy, Members Grievance Policy, EEO/AA Policy, and Language Access Policy. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

##### 8) Outreach and Engagement Committee

Outreach and Engagement Committee Chair Becky Accettura gave the following updates:

- Volunteer of the Year nominations for Annual Meeting 2022. Recommend nominating East Isles resident Julie Kucinski. Plaques are at the Isles Buns & Coffee with volunteers' names on the plaques. Degerstrom - recognizing neighbors who have given back over the years, not just a new volunteer each year. Can be both. Accettura - will discuss and decide on recognized neighbors at our next meeting.

- Neighbor Survey Project. Strategy is to collect Block Captains contact information to help us distribute and share the Neighbor Survey Project. Please make sure to share your Block Captain information with Sandy at sandra@snadvertising.com.

##### 9) NRP Committee

NRP Committee Chair Mike Erlandson gave the following update regarding the Loppet Trail Groomer that EIRA provided NRP funds for:

- The Park Board is going to work with the Loppet Foundation to procure the trail groomer.
- May be ways for EIRA to be recognized for our donation of the trail groomer to the Loppet Foundation.

The remainder of the meeting was held in closed session to discuss personnel matters

##### 10) Contracts for EIRA Coordinator and Farmers Market Manager

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 10:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-37: Resolved that EIRA approve Independent Contractor Agreements 2022C-01 with Jenna Egan and 2022C-02 with Jenny Breen. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Erlandson. Motion carried with 9 ayes and 0 nays.

##### 11) Adjournment

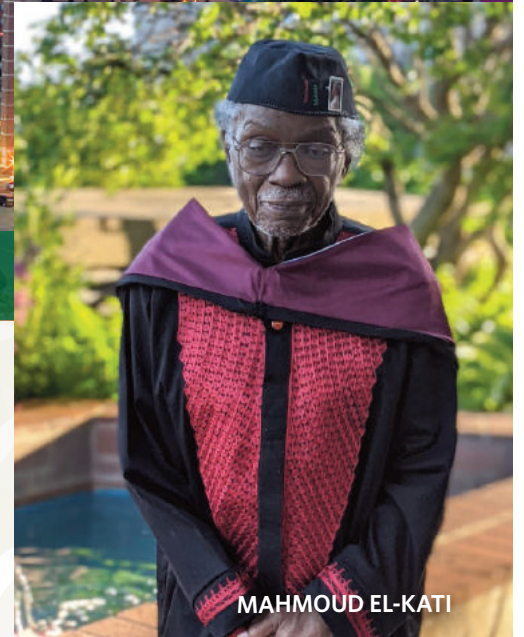
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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## THE KENWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



MAHMOUD EL-KATI

### Active Activist

## NEIGHBOR MAHMOUD EL-KATI

If you can't find Mahmoud El-Kati in his apartment at The Kenwood Retirement Community, look in the library or the workout room. At age 86, Mahmoud continues to seek, and create knowledge and keep himself physically healthy. He is a long-time activist, teacher, lecturer, writer and commentator on the African American experience. Despite the continuing struggle of our country to face our history of slavery and racism, Mahmoud remains optimistic. He feels that "human beings can change their attitudes."

Mahmoud credits his family, particularly his grandmother, with his abiding interest in words and learning. He recalls that she was a first-generation freeborn Black woman who was an avid reader of multiple Black newspapers. Her circle of elder friends in the Black community were also an enduring influence. After saying hello, elders would always ask Mahmoud how he was doing in school and rewarded him with a quarter on answering truthfully that he was doing very well. The elders recognized the importance and magic of reading and writing which had been prohibited for Blacks during slave times. Mahmoud points out that the Black community was transformed from illiteracy to literacy in 30 short years. Growing up in this tight-knit community Mahmoud never had any doubt that he was going to college.

Mahmoud is a Professor Emeritus of History at Macalester College. In 2008, Macalester established the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies in recognition of his scholarly and community work. This endowment is used to bring distinguished scholars to Macalester for an extended engagement that includes public presentations, classroom appearances and conversations with students, faculty and the local community. Mahmoud was also a founder of The Way, a Northside Minneapolis community center established in the aftermath of urban unrest in 1966. The Way was devoted to cultivating racial pride in African-American youth.

Mahmoud is the author of, among other books, *Politically Considered: 50th Commemoration of the Supreme Court Decision of 1954*, *The Myth of Race/The Reality of Racism*, and *Haiti: The Hidden Truth*. These books are on a special shelf at The Kenwood which also

features other Kenwood residents' published works. He's also written numerous articles on the myth of race, Ebonics, gangs and Black youth, education, and sports, among other issues. His writing has appeared in *Insight News*, *The MN Spokesman-Recorder*, *New York Times*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and *The Nigerian Times*.

During the pandemic, Mahmoud kept himself very busy. He is a founder of the Nu Skool of Afrikan American Thought, a group which continued to meet virtually every fourth Friday of the month as they have in person for years. The group is, as Mahmoud says, "very democratic, everyone who is interested in learning about the African American experience is welcome." They currently meet at the High School for Recording Arts in St. Paul. He also was featured in a short film Listen, Please by J.D. Steele with three other elders in the Black community, Josie Johnson, Bill English, and Sally Steele Birdsong. You can view it on Facebook or YouTube. In addition, Mahmoud and Josie Johnson conducted a discussion of the protest movement which can also be found on YouTube, *Minnesota Spokesman Recorder: Elders of the Protest Movement*. Mahmoud was featured in the *Star Tribune Magazine* in Autumn 2020, *Seeking Justice, Leaving a Legacy* along with Black leaders Josie Johnson, Spike Moss, Sharon Sayles Belton, and Nekima Levy Armstrong.

And if that wasn't enough activity during the pandemic, Mahmoud also received an honorary degree from Augsburg University in Minneapolis.

In addition to keeping his mind in shape, Mahmoud works out regularly. Twice a week, his personal trainer comes to instruct him in his workouts. Mahmoud returns the favor and instructs his personal trainer on the U.S. Constitution.

In September, Mahmoud will be making a presentation about Haiti for a gathering of Kenwood residents. The Kenwood has a long history of residents presenting on various topics such as the Harry Potter books, economic theory, The Civil War, architecture, and more. We look forward to opening our doors to our neighbors again so that you can join in and continue to learn from our amazing residents.

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## Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 8, 2021

Location: Zoom

Time to Call Meeting to Order after Quorum: 7:02 PM by President Charles Scheiderer

Board Members Present: Charles Scheiderer (President), Thomas Regnier (Vice-President), John Lillehei, MD (Secretary), Jacquelynn Brown, Vickie Gilfillian-Bennett, Fran Davis, George Montague, Sue Westerman, Robert Hinck, Chad Harkin, Anne Nelson, Craig Wilson

Other Attendees: Lisa Goodman, Lieutenant Charles McCree, Charlie Rybak, & Carla Goodwin plus 10 Zoom Participants

### Minneapolis City Council Update

7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman presented a neighborhood and city update. The next Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at The Abbey, located in Loring Park at 47 Spruce Street, Minneapolis 55403. Connected to a 19th Century Mansion, The Abbey has been thoughtfully restored with modern amenities and opens this spring.

The Zoning Board approved the variance at 2215 East Lake of the Isles Parkway.

Lisa shared her thoughts on the Minneapolis Police no-knock warrant in the face of the Amir Locke's unfortunate, preventable death. The use of the no-knock warrant is a product of the country's "war on drugs", launched by President Nixon in the 1970's and then gained momentum in the 1980s under President Reagan. Three states and a few cities currently ban no-knock warrants. There are many forces that a pressuring Mayor Frey and Governor Walz to do the same. Lisa added that city residents are in a necessary period of deep reflection and change required to restore trust in our Police.

Finally, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, is being tapped to run the Minneapolis Public Works Department.

### Minneapolis Police Department Update

5th Precinct Lt. Charles McCree provided an update. Inspector Katie Blackwell was not available. One juvenile has been arrested and another has an outstanding warrant in connection with two January Lowry Hill carjackings. There were an additional two non-Lowry Hill carjackings connected to last weekend's City of Lakes Loppett Winter Festival. There has been a citywide increase of theft of cars left running and unoccupied during the cold snap. Lt. McCree warned against such practice. The MPD daily patrol of the Lowry Hill neighborhood started a few days ago under the Lowry Hill resident organized Minneapolis Safety Initiative.

He emphasized that carjackings, theft of person and of home are most often crimes of opportunity. Once again, be aware of your environment, stay off cell phones, scope out your surroundings before entering or leaving your cars, keep car doors locked and home

doors locked at all times, and outdoor lights and motion lights activated.

### Minutes of January 4, 2022 LHNA Board Meeting

#### Motion carried to approve the minutes

#### Crime and Safety Update

Crime & Safety Chair Sue Westerman presented an update. January 2022 Lowry Hill Crime has dropped 50% from December 2021. It is possible that this is secondary to the bitter cold weather but hopefully this downturn continues. Sue and Jennifer Wirick Breitingers food and beverage delivery to the 5th MPD Precinct during the January 18th Roll Call was a much appreciated success. The Minneapolis Police Initiative Police Buy Back program has started with daily patrolling throughout Lowry Hill. Lowry Hill resident Cam Winton organized this program. All questions regarding this program should be directed to him at:

camwinton@gmail.com

#### Treasurer's Report

Charles Scheiderer provided the LHNA January 2022 financials for Treasurer Toni D'Eramo. The 2022 Budget is in process by the new Budget Committee.

As of January 31, 2022:

Assets	
Total Bank Accounts:	\$35,563.33
1205 Prepaid Expenses:	\$5,517.50
Total Assets:	\$41,080.83
(1205 Prepaid expenses includes \$5,517.50 in prepaid 2022 expenses for accounting, web and ad production services)	
Liabilities & Equity	
2101 Advances on City Contracts:	\$5,517.50
Equity:	\$35,563.33
Total Liabilities & Equity:	\$41,080.83
(2101 Advances includes \$5,517.50 in prepaid expenses advanced through Contract 42371)	

#### Events Committee Update

Events Chair Jacquelynn Brown discussed a plan for the 2022 Lowry Hill Neighborhood event schedule, following a successful and well attended 2021 season. For 2022, the proposal is Music in the Thomas Lowry Park on certain Sundays, Fall for Jazz including crafts for kids, the Ice Cream Social, Bingo, and supporting the Kenwood Halloween Party to name a few. In addition to posting these events on the LHNA website, there may be funds available to pay for a neighborhood wide flyer drop enumerating the 2022 planned Lowry Hill events as well as newsletter summarizing them.

#### Zoning

Zoning Chair Fran Davis echoed Lisa Goodman's report on the approval of the variance for 2215 East Lake of the Isles Parkway with work to begin this spring. There is no new information on 1527 W. Franklin.

Fran introduced Carla Godwin, Project Manager at the Graves Foundation & Training Director at Peris Hill.

Carla stated that the Peris Hill is 50% occupied and should be fully occupied by the end of March 2022.

#### Neighborhood Priorities

Chair Craig Wilson reported that the North High Track Booster Club has surpassed the fundraising goal of \$44,000 with over \$50,000 in donations for Track Team equipment. Information on donation to the Booster Club is on the LHNA website: <http://lowry-hillneighborhood.org>

Craig will speak with Bob Cooper on the 2022 return of the \$94,000 in Propel Funds to the LHNA.

#### Communications Update

The new Lowry Hill Neighborhood Signs are in production and will be installed in 2022. There will be a more details at our March 1, 2022 Board Meeting when Communication team Toni D'Eramo and Tyler Ecklund-Kouba return.

#### Budget Committee for 2022

The 2022 City funding for the LHNA is more complex. There is the Equitable Engagement Fund, Neighborhood Network Fund, Collaboration and Shared Resource Fund, Partnership Engagement Fund, and finally the \$94,000 returning from the Propel Loan.

President Scheiderer solicited volunteers to form a 2022 Budget Committee to evaluate, access and utilize the funds listed above.

Committee Members: Charles Scheiderer, Craig Wilson, Sue Westerman, Chad Harkin, Anne Nelson, Vickie Gilfillian-Bennett, Jacquelynn Brown, Fran Davis, Thomas Regnier

#### Southwest Voices and Charlie Rybak

Charlie Rybak discussed the new free digital Southwest Voices that started in October 2021 by co-founders Charlie Rybak and Andrew Haeg. One can sign up for the digital news at: [southwestvoices.news](http://southwestvoices.news). Charlie grew up in the southwest neighborhood and has a keen interest in digital media and local news. He thought it important to impart local news to the SW neighborhood especially since local newspapers such as the Southwest Journal have unfortunately ceased publication. He emphasized that the loss of neighborhood news has exasperated the division, divisiveness, and polarized dialogue in our communities. With Southwest Voices, Charlie hopes to rebuild communication and meaningful conversation in our city and local government.

The Southwest Voices also covers local goings-on such as Park Board and School Board Meetings as well as cultural events. It welcomes and embraces reader email feedback to enhance their experience.

#### March LHNA Zoom Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 7:00 PM

As there was no further business,

Meeting adjourned by Charles Scheiderer at 8:15 PM by motion carried.

#### Minutes by John Lillehei, MD Secretary, LHNA Board

## KINH DO RESTAURANT IN UPTOWN

### HELP KINHDO STAY IN BUSINESS

#### A few words from Jonathan

Hi my name is Jonathan and I am the grandson of the original owners of KinhDo. My grandparents immigrated from Vietnam with hopes of a better life for their family. They were able see their dream come true when they opened KinhDo. After 30+ years, my grandparents were able to retire and finally relax and travel the world.

They handed over the restaurant to my parents with hopes that they could continue the family business. Everything was great until the pandemic hit. My parents, Jay and Dathao, did everything that was asked of them. They shut down the dining room and only offered takeout. Even when indoor dining was allowed to resume, they continued to only offer takeout because the few employees that they had had underlying health issues. Then the riots took a toll on business.

They were able to stay in business with the generosity of their landlord. Unfortunately, the building was sold in June '21. The new landlord increased their rent and their CAM fees.

I have seen my parents struggle, and it breaks my heart. They have worked so hard trying to keep KinhDo open because they love Uptown. They have hopes that Uptown will be great once again and would like to be able to see that happen. Unfortunately with the increase in rent and food costs, they need help. My parents have always kept their hardships to themselves, but I can see the stress in their eyes. **Therefore I have started this gofundme account to help them. Any help is appreciated!**

Thank you! The love, kindness, and support my family has received the last few days have left me speechless. There are not enough words to express my gratitude. My parents have always taught me that family is everything and it takes a village to raise a family. You are all a part of my village! I am not able to help out at the restaurant as much as I would like, but if you happen to stop by and see a young man working please stop me and say hi. I would personally like to thank each and everyone of you.

Much love, Jonathan Rowe

### North High Track Team Exceeds Fundraising Goal By Tyler Ecklund-Kouba

The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and Kenwood Neighborhood Organization, in partnership with administrators and the booster club from North Community High School, has raised over \$50,000 for track equipment for the North High Polars track team. The generous gifts from neighborhood organizations and individual contributors has surpassed the \$43,000 initially needed to purchase the equipment. The money will be used to pay for hurdles, pole vault equipment, starting blocks, and a new starting system. "This is such a huge blessing," said North High Principal Mauri Fristleben, "What a gift." The fundraising began in October 2021 with hopes that the money would be raised and the equipment purchased by the 2022 Spring track season. Fundraising organizers and donors are looking forward to cheering on the Polars this upcoming season. Donations to the booster club are still welcome. If you wish to contribute, please send a check payable to the North High Booster Club and mail it to: North High School 1500 James Ave N. Minneapolis, MN 55411.



An Interview with Park Board President Meg Forney

By CHARLIE RYBAK

"We definitely found out that parks are essential services." An Interview with Park Board President Meg Forney 1/29/22, 1:52 PM

<https://www.southwestvoices.news/posts/we-definitely-found-out-that-p...essential-services-an-interview-with-park-board-president-meg-forney> Page 2 of 8

This piece is part of our series of interviews with local elected officials, which you can read here.

Most recently, we interviewed former Park Board President Jono Cowgill.

**How do you think this Park Board will be different than the last one?**

Meg Forney: Last December, we passed a historic levy. It's \$1.3 million for expanded youth services. I could go on and on about that, but the unprecedented part about this election was that the voters chose five Commissioners with school-age children, and seven that have ones that are 25 years of age and under. Those are the exact ages that we'll be focusing on during our term with our youth investment. That's pretty phenomenal.

I don't think there's ever been a Board of Commissioners that has had that type of unique makeup to it, and how apropos is it to be rolling out this funding during our term? These are people whose kids have been involved in our park programs, so they have a personal vested interest and they have a perspective that is unique and timely. When I realized that, it was this huge "ah ha!" that they bring an understanding that's going to be critical in this term.

These are people that have a sincere interest in our parks. We're going to be needing that. We also "We definitely found out that parks are essential services."

Stefanie Musich and I have been on for two terms. The two of us realized that in our "first term, we may have never chaired a single solitary committee meeting. Well, with seven new people, the odds are going to be that new people are going to be thrown into the deep end.

My experience with the park system has been very, very extensive, but I tell people that when I became a Commissioner and took the oath of office, I feel like I

Meg Forney to page 14



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# Hill & Lake Press

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An Interview with Park Board President Meg Forney continued from page 13.

By CHARLIE RYBAK

went through a veil to the other side and realized just how huge the system. I thought I'd do it all but nope, it probably took a good year-and-a-half, and Steffanie Musich said the same thing. I decided that in order to jump start these Commissioners into that role of governance, which is totally different than campaigning, I decided to make them co-chairs of the committee. I am hopeful that it will be successful in getting into that role of governance.

**You're the longest serving member of the Park Board. How has the job changed during your tenure?**

MF: You know, I say to people that with the pandemic, in some ways we found that possibly our downtown is not essential. We found out that even transportation may not be as essential as we thought. But we definitely found out that parks are essential services. I think it's been a real "aha" to people of just how important that open space is for their sanity and their mental health. It's really critical.

The youth funding that we have, and how the pandemic has hit our youth – I don't know the stats, but I do think that youth violence is dramatically up, and I think we, the park system, can play a critical role in engaging our youth in a productive way. It's so unbelievably timely right now.

**Why did you want to lead the board at this moment?**

MF: You know, there are seven people that are new to it. It seemed appropriate to have that continuity. Stephanie and I did discuss it, and she indicated to me that she was not interested in the leadership, so I felt like this is the time. I should be rising to the occasion.

There have been past presidents who were in it for the power. I'm not interested in the power, but I am interested in bridging the gap for these new members. When I joined, it was a mature, seasoned board. They already had their stride and how they worked together. In some ways, it was easier for us, and for the seven new members, it will be a bit tougher. How do I run a committee meeting? How do I make a motion? It was needed to have one of us as the leads.

**What would you like to see happen with the Cedar - Isles Master Plan?**

MF: I want it to be reflective of what the community is looking for. That's probably the most important thing. I was on Zoom with the committee the other night, and I thought it was interesting that naturalization seems to be the way this group is pointing, and I think that's wonderful. I love it.

We're realized that with so many aspects of our park system that we tried to tame, mother nature had other ideas. She's the lead, not us. That's what I see in the Cedar - Isles conversation. Water quality is paramount to all of us. Also, what I hear is an acknowledgement of climate change, and how important it is that our natural resources are our best line of defense for climate resiliency.

**What do you think about the idea of making it legal for people to drink alcohol in parks?**

MF: I'd prefer not to. It took us years to pass a smoking ban in our parks. Our parks are largely for families and children, and I don't believe that is messaging that I would prefer to have. I also think that there are a lot of different ways that we could address the issue. Making a blanket ordinance change might not be the way, but giving more capacity to Bread & Pickle and Sea Salt, that type of thing, might be a better way of going that route if there's interest.

The capacity for doing that oversight is beyond our capability. Our Park Police have enough of a charge just



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March 19, 2022

to monitor what we've got right now. Just monitoring the speed people are doing on our bikeways, keeping it at 10 miles per hour. We have more critical issues, like youth violence, that needs to be addressed than what comes with open bottle.

**What's your idea of a perfect sunny summer Sunday afternoon in the parks?**

"We definitely found out that parks are essential services." MF: For me it would be rowing on the Mississippi River. It's magical.

I share with people, please, that gorge... most people don't even know we have a frickin' gorge!

You are in a major metropolitan area, and when you're in the gorge, you have no idea you're in it.

We have eagles, herons, you name it. I tell my rowing coach, I could care less about improving my stroke, your number one job is pointing out the wildlife. Every season is just incredible. It's such an asset, and most people don't realize that it's there.

I'm also a bike rider, I'm a walker, I used to do triathlons, there are so many phenomenal experiences for people to have. We're up to 97% of every resident in the city living within six blocks of a park! It's unbelievable.

Every backyard doesn't have to have a gorge in it, but we have some pretty damn exciting pieces of nature here. The city of Minneapolis is actually inside a park. It is! That really is the thing that defines the quality of life in this city. It's the park system that really raises everybody's boat.

**One of our readers wanted to know – why have so many of the park and rec youth centers and open gyms been closed recently while private sports programs have been open?**

MF: Have there been any restaurants that have been closed in the last month? Have there been any services that have been curtailed? They're out sick, and if they're not out sick, fear of getting sick, caring for a child who is sick. It has hit every single aspect of our city. I was on a call with the Superintendent this morning, and every day, they're having to close a facility. It's a revolving door of closures. It's no different than any other place. Schools are going virtual for two weeks. Is it because of willy nilly-ness? No, it's out of concern for people's health and safety.

Now, by doing that are we putting more kids at more risk? Yeah, I'm sure there's all of that. I know there are kids that are impaired by that. But it's related to concerns for people's health and safety.

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**How do you think the board should deal with public-private partnerships moving forward?**

MF: I think we are becoming more and more reliant on public-private partnerships. How we create those agreements is what is the critical part.

We have one of the most remarkable public-private partnerships in the state, and that is the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. It's outstanding. Are we just lucky, or was it the right attitude, was it the right approach? I don't know, but it just works.

Have there been mistakes? Have there been things we can be learning from? We're very fortunate, with something like Water Works, it's that public-private partnership with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation that makes that incredible.

Do you know who Linda Mack is? She wrote an article about Water Works, and she said it's like the city's "front porch." I think this city will no longer be known as the city of lakes, it's the city of the Mississippi! We have the only falls on the entire Mississippi! It was through that public partnership that made that whole area iconic. USA Today just named it a top ten new attraction in the country. Who would've thought, it was our sewage system, now it's our front porch.

We've got a huge 1% with the Lake Harriet Bandshell. I was the co-chair for the fundraising for that when it was originally built. We rely on the private sector, so much, because they're passionate. How we balance it is probably the most critical thing. But I use the example of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts – it's an amazing thing, and people forget that it sits on Park Board land.

**What's your favorite lake?**

MF: I can't say the river, huh? I would say the Mississippi. I love all the lakes, I'm a total water baby, my mother brags about the fact that I swam before I walked. Every one of them, to me, is premier. What I experienced on the Mississippi River – I'm getting a bit choked up here – the fact that we're continuing our paths and public access above the falls, it will change the nature of this city by extending those parkways into North and Northeast Minneapolis. Both areas basically have no bodies of water today.

You hear all about the Nile, but every little kid knows the song, M-i-s-s-i-s-s-i-p-p-i, and most people never go visit the Mississippi. It's right in their back rd, and we're about to open the gates and make that accessible to everybody. I just get so excited about that. Favorite body of water? That's the Mississippi.

SAND UPON THE WATERS

By Tom H. Cook

What's for dinner?

In these dark times even those of us fortunate enough to be granted "life's basics" (and more), have on occasion shuffled to the kitchen, opened the refrigerator and muttered dejectedly. Whether peering into a state of the art Sub-Zero, or a Frank's Fridge (my brand), the angst is the same. Forget F. Scott Fitzgerald's whiney three o'clock of the soul. Who of us has not stared into the abyss of sparse shelves and drawers and wondered what could possibly constitute a meal?

I am not talking carb wheels, balanced diet, or food pyramid. This is a desperate search for something that goes with paprika. Whether stuck working from home, the global pandemic (it was in all the papers), frigid weather, the supply chain, pinhead anti-vaxxers, poor planning, or just plain sloth, there are times that call for great culinary imagination. A bouillion cube spread on a long forgotten pack of Saltines. Or catsup packet tomato soup.

Where am I going with this? While I am not yet bereft of ideas, here are a few odd notions unearthed from the lower corner of my metaphoric refrigerator. None are worth a full column. If you are looking for an over-arching theme, forget it. But be sure to try the dill.

It's about perspective: The scene is a centuries old gentlemen's club in a very tony section of London. Three elderly members are exiting the showers, deep in discussion. Suddenly a wayward tour group of women enter the locker room. Momentarily flustered, the men grab for towels. Two of the men wrap the coverings

around their waist before the intruders retreat. Post "invasion" both notice their friend had covered his head and face with a towel. They are momentarily taken aback, but quickly begin hectoring him. "Are you daft? What were you thinking?" "Why ever would you do that?" Unruffled, he replies, "I do not know about you gents, but in this town I am far better known by my face."

\*Droll wit department: How to make a stranger feel very uncomfortable. Upon meeting, look them straight in the eye and say, "If you know who won the Super Bowl, please don't tell me. I'm taping it!"

Stolen joke: A minister, a priest and a rabbit walk into a bar. The bartender asks quizzically, "What are you doing here?" "Damn spellcheck!" says the rabbit.

Near The End: Those of us of a certain age are wont to read the obituaries even before the sports page. A classic New Yorker cartoon has an old codger staring at a newspaper open to the death notices. His thought bubble reads "Five years older. Two years younger. Your age exactly!"

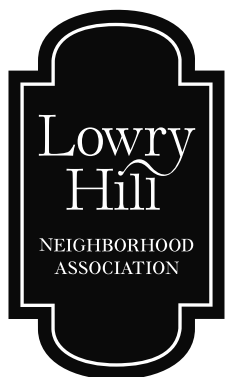
Death is like high school! My high school friends in the Aquarium Club (Flip and Finn) agreed with my sour grapes belief that popular "cool kids" who knew how to do the Watusi, flirt and date were merely early to mature and would peak in late adolescence. Yes, they were class officers and went Ivy, but corporate America would wear them down and trample their souls. "These hot shots will be sucking sterno in an alley before they are forty!" chortled Finn. Flip added, "Those of us who

have already been ground into gristle by public education will (like cockroaches) survive better in the faceless mind-numbing adult world."

It turns out we were wrong. The in crowd, at least according the New York Times and the L.A. Times, survived and flourished. As I read between the lines of obituaries, it seems there are stories of challenge and success, adventure and philanthropy, luck and pluck. They may have been knocked down (I wouldn't even know how to get 48 million dollars in debt) but they rebounded and ended up owning much of the Maritimes. These were high school stars now passing, but leaving an exciting legacy.

Being envious of the recently deceased is not my finest trait. Still, a sixteen-inch three-column (not that I am counting) obituary with photo is darn impressive. Could I have led a more memorable life? I never ran with bulls in Pamplona, free soloed K-2, or successfully quit the Columbia Record Club. I am not in the quiet desperation category, but I have stayed well back from the edge. Decades ago I must have unwittingly signed up for the Quantity Not Quality life package. Put simply, the descriptors brainiac, wild man, rager or party animal have never been applied to me in a non-ironic manner.

Tom H. Cook is a writer, and as of three months ago a Zoom graduate of intermediate level "basic swing" dance. When the pandemic eases he hopes to practice with a partner.



LHNA Safety Tips...

Keep Your Home Safe

There are a few, very simple things you can do to help keep your home safe.

- Keep exterior lights on! On front and back porches, and near your garage. Motion detector lights are also very effective.
• Keep exterior doors and windows locked with quality locks, including the garage doors. Keep garage doors closed unless you are in or near the garage, even during the day.
• Don't leave a garage door opener in a car parked outside on the street, parking pad or alleyway.
• Don't leave wallets, purses, computers or other valuables in a car, even if the car is in the garage.
• Do not leave valuables, like bicycles, unsecured on porches, patios or in the yard. And, if you have very valuable bikes, even if stored in the garage, keep them locked.

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Please Remember Snow Shoveling Rules

Minneapolis requires single family homes and duplexes to clear sidewalks within 24 hours after it stops snowing. All other properties must clear sidewalks within 4 daytime hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) after it stops snowing.

Be Notified When a Snow Emergency is Declared

You can find snow emergency rules on the LHNA website. For email or text alerts from the city sign up at https://www.minneapolis.gov/getting-around/snow/

Support Needed

More than ever, LHNA relies on the support of residents like you. Please consider making a charitable donation to LHNA online at lowryhillneighborhood.org or send a check to: LHNA, PO Box 3978, Minneapolis, MN 55403

The next LHNA meeting is Tuesday, March 1st at 7pm

All residents are welcome to join via ZOOM. Details on how to attend will be on the website. If you have a question or wish to be on the agenda, please email us at lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org.

Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at lowryhillneighborhood.org

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