



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

# Hill & Lake Press

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## New delays for SWLRT construction

By Jeanette Colby

Remember when the Kenilworth alignment for the Southwest LRT was the “cheaper and easier” option?

That rationale justified discarding the Uptown route, a route that would have served dense and diverse Minneapolis neighborhoods rather than a sparsely populated urban green space. After the Kenilworth alignment was chosen, a decision was made not to relocate freight rail despite long-held policy and promises. Suddenly, things got a lot harder and much more expensive.

Construction finally began 2019. But last Thursday, January 14th, the Southwest LRT project of-fice announced that they have “encountered unforeseen obstacles in the Minneapolis portion of the alignment” that will lead to further construction delays and probable cost increases — though how long, how much and who will pay has yet to be determined.

“These are no small changes,” says the Met Council, “and require thoughtful and deliberate engineering, design plans and construction methods.”

The new obstacles include two things. After the Kenilworth alignment was chosen, BNSF Railway Company expressed concerns about the safety of running its freight trains alongside passenger rail. They demanded a 3-foot thick, 10-foot high wall be built from the Bryn Mawr station to north of Glenwood Avenue (1.5 miles) as a measure to prevent disaster if either a light rail or freight train should derail. Now, more than three years after having agreed to it, “the Met Council has completed analysis and design for the wall and has a fuller understanding of the complexity and resources needed to construct it,” according to Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene, who provided responses to emailed questions.

Second, “due to poor soil conditions,” including boulders, cobbles, and railroad debris buried deep in the ground, the Met Council’s contractors are having trouble installing sheet metal walls for the tunnel near the Calhoun-Isles Condominiums (CIC), known to many as “the silo condos.” In Thursday’s WebEx meeting, project manager Jim Alexander explained that the planned press-in piling method just didn’t work in this area. Instead, they will try what engineers call a secant wall. “Because of the presence of the boulders, that caused us to take much longer than we anticipated...We are taking this approach out of an abundance of caution to protect the foundations of adjacent buildings.”

The caution is appreciated, but how many Zoom calls does it take to say, “We told you so?” For years, people who know the area, including a third-party engineering firm hired by CIC, have warned the Met Council — both formally through the Environmental Impact Statement process and informally at meetings and in conversations — about Kenilworth’s “poor soils,” subterranean surprises and high water table.

Contractors will begin building the secant wall in February. The Met Council hopes this strategy will solve the problem of squeezing freight rail, light rail, bicycle and walking trails into a narrow corridor between two lakes. “We’re looking at all the factors to make sure the contractor has a good solid plan before we get going on this,” said Mr. Alexander, but there are no guarantees.

Met Council Chairperson Charlie Zelle (who, incidentally, lives near the tunnel construction site)



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Noise and vibrations continue in some areas, while the Met Council awaits new plans and cost estimates in others.

expressed confidence that big, complicated projects often run into challenges and these can be overcome. But CIDNA resident Claire Ruebeck pointed out, “a lot of these things are being discovered in the field as you go. That’s not a good way to build this project or to invest care in the community that has to live here.”

And as Hennepin County braces for a new hit to their transportation budget, SWLRT in Kenilworth has definitely proven not to be “cheaper and easier.”

## Rime Ice Creates a Winter Wonderland



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Residents who came to Lake of the Isles to enjoy Winter activities were treated to a magical backdrop caused by the fog.

Lunch with Lisa monthly events have resumed. On January 27 12:00 - 1:00. The speaker is Michelle Rivero, Director of Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. For more information contact Lisa Goodman's office: Judy Sherin, Associate, [judy.sherin@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:judy.sherin@minneapolismn.gov). To join the event, all you need to do is click on the link below and you will be directed to the virtual event!

**Neighborhood Meetings**

Because of the coronavirus, we are staying home, staying safe, and meeting via the internet, telephone, Zoom, and virtual meetings. Please check for changed meeting times for KNO, LHNA, EIRA, and CIDNA on their websites or monthly minutes.

**Cedar-Isles Parks Meeting: Cedar-Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) - Meeting #4**

Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, 6-8 pm via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94758777668>  
More info here: [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/project\\_update/s/community-advisory-committee-meeting-4-scheduled-january-25/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/project_update/s/community-advisory-committee-meeting-4-scheduled-january-25/)

**Racial Justice Rally Carries On**



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Senator Dibble returns to the Minnesota State Senate The 2021 Legislative Session began Tuesday, January 5 with the swearing-in of new and returning members of the Minnesota Legislature. State Senator Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis, will be returning to serve as the Senator for Senate District 61, representing the southwest, south, and downtown areas of Minneapolis.

"I am honored to continue serving the people of Senate District 61 and the state of Minnesota," said Sen. Dibble. "We are living in a challenging time, and there is a lot of work to do in continuing to ensure the health and safety of our community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This legislative session, we also need to pass a responsible and balanced budget to ensure economic security for all Minnesotans. The key to the recovery will be investing in our transportation and transit infrastructure, creating jobs and ensuring everyone has access to opportunities whatever their circumstances may be."

Senator Dibble will be serving on three committees this year: Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, Metro Governance Committee, and is the DFL lead on the Transportation Committee.



SWHS 2019 grads Grace Legris, Ellie Puzak, Siobhan Dietz and Isabella Kemling

Since last June, area residents have been holding a racial justice rally at the intersection of West Lake Street and Dean Parkway. The group meets at noon Saturdays for the 15 minute silent, peaceful gathering. All are welcome. For more information, contact co-organizers Stacia Goodman ([stacia@staciagoodman.com](mailto:stacia@staciagoodman.com)) or Patty Schmitz ([pschmitz2806@gmail.com](mailto:pschmitz2806@gmail.com))

**Where we are Now**  
By Jean Deatrck, Editor

Hill and Lake Press is doing well thanks to the outpouring of support from our community and our advertisers. We appreciate your support and hope you continue to help Hill and Lake Press thrive. Many small newspapers are dying, but we hope to continue successfully. And thank you to our many contributors, most recently, Elizabeth Shaffer.



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### Elizabeth Shaffer Considers Run for Park Board District

By Jean Deatruck

Many of our readers may recognize Elizabeth Shaffer as the President of Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, the non-profit responsible for organizing and fundraising for the reconstruction of the historic Seven Pools in Lowry Hill. I recently learned that Elizabeth is considering running for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and I wanted a chance to visit with her about this. Here is the interview we had on January 18, 2021:

**Rumor has it that you're considering a run for park board District 4, is that correct?**

Hi Jean, yes, the rumor is true.

**What is motivating you?**

Almost every day I get to enjoy the natural beauty of our city's parks.... taking Bella for a run or biking the trails. With our city's parks being ranked as one of the best in the nation, I want to help promote and enhance our natural and recreational assets. What we have been given is a true treasure. I am also motivated by the people I see using our parks....seniors, youth, families, sport-enthusiasts, pet-lovers, etc. In Thomas Lowry Park, we have our own group of regular patrons....the Kenwood Residents, Tai Chi group, Pablo, Kristin and Dave podcast, Joe who knows all the dog's names who visit the park, informal work-out groups and our fantastic team of volunteers, including 'Head Gardener' Bill, who volunteers almost daily in the landscape beds.

I am also motivated to keep the focus on MPRB's primary mission, whose purpose prioritizes my love of parks and people...."to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations." The events of this past year have seen a shift in this focus. I assume best intent of our current commissioners as I know they care for our parks and our people as well, but like any organization, you need to keep a laser-focus on your stated mission and core competencies.

**What's an example of the current Park Board's shift in mission?**

Two examples come to mind directly. One is the political posturing on display at public board meetings, which can divert our focus and hinder good decision-making. MPRB's mission is nonpartisan. The other example is the handling of encampment issues and resolutions.

**What would you like to see happen at the Park Board?**

Park commissioners have a tremendous platform to inspire and support their community. If I run, as a potential future commissioner, I would spend time building community between area residents and priori-



Elizabeth Shaffer with Bella

tizing consensus building. Knowing the needs and priorities of each park will better allow commissioners to facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources between parks for the benefit of all stakeholders. Parks are critical to building our neighborhoods.

**What is your vision for the future of the Park System?**

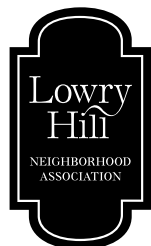
As we move into 2021, I believe our park system has a pivotal role to play in the emotional and spiritual restoration of our city. As MPRB is the primary steward of our city's natural spaces, we need to do everything we can to make our parks the most beautiful, peaceful places....AND activate them as platforms of relationship building across the things that often divide us... .age, race or socio-economic differences. This will take respect and hard work between residents and commissioners, commissioners and MPRB staff....all of us.

**What makes you qualified?**

In addition to my passion for Minneapolis parks, I love youth! I am trained as a middle school teacher, have spent my life supporting education, am organized and a hard worker. As an empty nester now, I want to give back to my community... leading the effort to restore the Seven Pools was a good start and now I'm ready for more. I realize this is a job that requires a lot of time and energy, which I am prepared to give.

**How can people get involved? I'm in the process of connecting with other District 4 residents about their thoughts around parks. I would love to hear from you. [eashaff@me.com](mailto:eashaff@me.com)**

## Happy New Year from your Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association



**The next LHNA meeting is  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

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](mailto:lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org).

### LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

#### 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](http://lowryhillneighborhood.org) or send a check to: LHNA, PO Box 3978, Minneapolis, MN 55403

#### 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 [Minneapolis.gov/getting-around/snow/](http://Minneapolis.gov/getting-around/snow/)

#### SAFETY TIP – KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Community collaboration is important in keeping everyone safe. The first thing you can do to improve neighborhood safety is simply get to know your neighbors.

- **Activate a neighborhood/block watch** to keep an eye on what's happening on your street.
- **Share personal contact information** with each other for fast and easy communication.
- **Establish one contact per group** if needed for neighborhood alerts.
- **Notify neighbors if you'll be out of town.** Consider swapping with neighbors for lawn mowing, sidewalk shoveling, or even parking in each other's driveway.
- **Stay connected with neighbors.** If you notice a garage left open, packages, mail or newspapers left on the porch, let your neighbor know.
- **If there is a crime incident, let neighbors know right away.** They may have seen something or may have a surveillance camera that captured the crime on film.

Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at [lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://lowryhillneighborhood.org)

**Dear Minneapolis Parks supporter,**

On December 31, Friends of Minneapolis Parks (FOMP) filed the a complaint commencing a lawsuit against the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) concerning the encampments in Minneapolis parks. In its complaint, FOMP alleges the Park Board violated the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA) and exceeded its authority under the Minneapolis City Charter. Through this legal action, FOMP's ultimate goal is to prevent MPRB from continuing to permit and support encampments that have proven dangerous and are detrimental to our parks.

Although the last park encampment (Minnehaha) was recently disbanded, FOMP was forced to take action because MPRB has passed resolutions and established an administrative framework to support encampments in the future; these are contrary to MPRB's mission and its authority under the City Charter. FOMP did not take this step lightly, however, and it hopes to cooperatively resolve these issues with MPRB in order to restore the Minneapolis park system to its nationally renowned status.

With this legal action, we continue to need financial support and ask that you recommit to FOMP's cause in 2021! We also ask that you invite your friends and neighbors to lend their support as well. As a FOMP supporter, we will keep you updated on the case as it progresses - stay tuned!

Thank you for your support,  
FOMP Board

## THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board held its annual meeting Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 to select officers for 2021. Commissioners re-elected Jono Cowgill as President and LaTrisha Vetaw as Vice President. A news release with more information is attached and pasted below.

**Media Inquiries: Dawn Sommers, 612-230-6407, dsommers@minneapolisparcs.org**

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board selects officers, board committees and external appointments for 2021

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) held its annual meeting Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 to select officers for 2021. Commissioners re-elected Jono Cowgill as President and LaTrisha Vetaw as Vice President.

President Cowgill and Vice President Vetaw began serving their four-year term on the Board in 2018 and were first elected as President and Vice President of the Board in 2020. Cowgill represents District 4 and Vetaw serves At Large.

The Board elected Commissioner Londer French as its representative on the Board of Estimate and Taxation, Jennifer Ringold to serve as Secretary to the Board, and law firm Rice, Walther & Mosley as General Counsel.

### Standing Committees

President Cowgill appointed the following Commissioners to serve one-year terms on MPRB Standing Committees:

- Administration and Finance Committee – Chair Meg Forney, Vice Chair AK Hassan, Steffanie Musich, LaTrisha Vetaw, Londer French
- Legislation and Intergovernmental Committee – Chair LaTrisha Vetaw, Vice Chair Kale Severson, AK Hassan, Chris Meyer, Meg Forney
- Operations and Environment Committee – Chair Steffanie Musich, Vice Chair Londer French, AK Hassan, Chris Meyer, Meg Forney
- Planning Committee – Chair Chris Meyer, Vice Chair Meg Forney, Steffanie Musich, Londer French, LaTrisha Vetaw
- Recreation Committee – Chair Londer French, Vice Chair Kale Severson, LaTrisha Vetaw, AK Hassan, Stephanie Musich
- Standards and Conduct Committee – Chair Chris Meyer, Vice Chair AK Hassan, LaTrisha Vetaw, Londer French, Steffanie Musich
- Special Committee
- Park Police Governance, Operations and Oversight Committee – Chair LaTrisha Vetaw, Vice Chair AK Hassan, Chris Meyer, Londer French, Kale Severson

### External Appointments

MPRB Commissioners and Minneapolis residents were appointed to serve on the following external boards, committees and organizations. All appointments are one-year terms unless otherwise noted.

- Planning Commission (second year of two-year term) – Chris Meyer
  - Bicycle Advisory Committee – Kadence Hampton, Janice Gepner, Kyle Larson
  - METRO Blue Line Extension LRT Corridor Management Committee – Chris Meyer, Kale Severson (alternate)
  - Cedar Riverside Partnership – AK Hassan
  - Internal Audit Committee – Steffanie Musich
  - John H. Stevens House Organization – Steffanie Musich
  - Midtown Community Works Partnership – Jono Cowgill
  - Minneapolis Institute of Arts Board – Jono Cowgill
  - Minneapolis Parks Foundation – Meg Forney
  - Minneapolis Tree Commission – Chris Meyer, community appointments will be made at the Jan. 6, 2021 Board meeting
  - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization – Chris Meyer, Meg Forney (alternate)
  - Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board – Steffanie Musich
  - St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board – Chris Meyer, Meg Forney, Jono Cowgill, Al Bangoura, Sally Grans Korsh
  - Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee – Meg Forney, Jono Cowgill (alternate)
  - Youth Coordinating Board – LaTrisha Vetaw
- Board Meetings
- The MPRB usually meets at 5 pm every first and third Wednesday of each month for regular meetings. MPRB meeting agendas and related information are posted on the MPRB Meeting Portal page, usually the Friday preceding each Wednesday Board meeting.
- To minimize the risk of exposure to or potential spread of COVID-19, the MPRB is conducting its meetings virtually as authorized under Minn. Stat. Section 13D.02. Most Commissioners will call in and the meeting will be viewable live via webcast and TV options.
- Board meetings are broadcast live on the Minneapolis Government Meeting Channel (tune to SD channel 14 or HD channel 799 on Comcast or SD channel 8001 or HD channel 8501 on CenturyLink) and online on the Minneapolis City Council TV website. Video recordings of Board meetings are posted on the 2021 MPRB Meetings Playlist on YouTube, usually available two days after the me

## Virtual high school Science Bowl.

150 high school students from across Minnesota will demonstrate their science and math skills on Saturday, January 23 during the Minnesota Academy of Science's virtual high school Science Bowl.

As a regional competition of the U.S. Department of Energy, the winning team will advance to the National Science Bowl. Science Bowl enables students who are passionate about math and science to go beyond classroom learning and to strengthen their teamwork skills. "Science Bowl encourages pursuing knowledge and curiosity in general," said 2020 High School Science Bowl participant Bryanna Shao.

In this year's virtual Science Bowl, students compete in five-person teams to solve technical problems and answer questions in all branches of science and math. The tournament runs in a fast-paced, Q&A format with teams with the highest scores continuing to the next round of competition. Science Bowl tournament manager Kristine Fowler points out that the competition has taken on new relevancy this year, stating "the virtual Science Bowl format allows this exciting event to go forward even in a time of physical distancing. Coaches tell me that practicing for the competition has been a great way to keep their students positively engaged with science and with each other."

Founded in 1873, the Minnesota Academy of Science (MAS) is a statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for Minnesotans of all backgrounds to engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning, inquiry, research, and networking. MAS sponsors STEM education programs and events for students in elementary school through college. MAS coordinates the annual Science Bowl with the help of more than 100 volunteers and with generous support from Ecolab, General Mills, Hardenbergh Foundation, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the United States Department of Energy.

The high schools participating in the 2021 Science Bowl are: Academy of Holy Angels, The Blake School, Breck School, Burnsville Senior High, Carlton Secondary, Century Senior High, Chanhassen High School, Chaska High School, East Ridge High School, Edina Senior High, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Maple Grove Senior High, Minnetonka High School, St. Paul Academy - Summit School, St. Francis High School, Rock Ridge Public School, Wayzata High School, and Woodbury Senior High.

For more information:

Emily Shepard, MAS Communications Coordinator, emilyshepard@mnmas.org

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**BRAIDING “BRAIDING SWEETGRASS”**

By James P. Lenfestey [www.coyotepoet.com](http://www.coyotepoet.com)

One of the joys of writing this column for the neighborhood Hill and Lake Press is that the editor allows me to braid disparate strands — family, neighborhood, city, state, country, planet, state of mind — into the monthly Urban Coyote wanderings you hold in your hands. Pulling a column together feels a bit like braiding strands of sweetgrass into a fragrant portrait of life in our community. Strands, for example, of...

Dawn on Christmas day, swimming in Cedar lake, walking in Lakewood cemetery, tennis in Kenwood park, attending Honor The Earth powwow, watching birds at feeders and in migration, delighting at Halloween, inviting the neighborhood wild turkey to Thanksgiving dinner, a fiftieth wedding anniversary, city, state and national politics, the world view of Native America, the region’s racist past and present struggle, meditating while painting spindles..., all while living in this “unintentional community” we call neighborhood.

Yet today, January 2021, we feel insecure. Insecure not primarily because of a spike in crime, though real, due mostly to Pandemic fallout, but because most of us, myself included, have failed at fully braiding our lives into the needs, wants and desires of other communities, including plant and animal communities other than our own hubristically self-proclaimed homo sapiens sapiens.

Sapiens squared? Give me a break! The brilliant

bur oak in my backyard has outlived five generations of sapiens sapiens resident in this house since 1902 and will outlive this pandemic-humbled generation many times over again.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. saw through the smokescreen created by our “big brains” in the novels “Cat’s Cradle” and “Galapagos.” In the first a scientist invents a compound, Ice Nine, that rearranges molecules of liquids into crystalline form. If accidentally dropped into a lake, not to mention the Great Lakes or an ocean, water would turn crystalline and all life would end. And yet it was invented “because we can.” In Galapagos, civilization has simply exhausted itself playing in its sandbox of wars, weapons, financial collapses and pandemics. Out of options, a few descendants survive on the remotest island of the Galapagos. The rest is all Charles Darwin.

Could there be another way? In “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants,” Robin Wall Kimmerer shows us there is. A decorated professor of environmental science and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Dr. Kimmerer eloquently weaves disparate strands of ancient tribal and modern scientific knowledge into a strategy for the return of ecological balance, healing not only our planetary home but our alienated human communities.

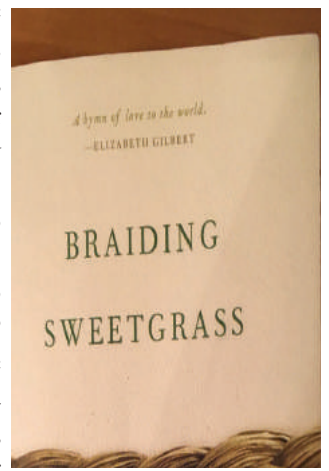
The book has become a breakout word-of-mouth bestseller since arriving over-the-transom at Milkweed Editions in Minneapolis in 2012. Today over 500,000

copies are in print in nine different languages, and, like her beloved mosses, trees and sweetgrass, her audience persistently grows.

Will we be able to weave our local and planetary neighborhoods into the stories Kimmerer tells? And do so in time? She writes, “We have braided a sweetgrass community, awakening for each other the knowing that we are not alone. The strength of that community has the power to activate change, and our collective rhizomes are spreading.” I feel the tickle of those rhizomes in my palms as I write.

**PUBLIC NOTICE.** Along with naturalist David Astin and advocate Jan Neville, I will lead a 6-week ZOOM discussion for Plymouth Congregational Church, “Reading Braiding Sweetgrass: Healing Our Relationship with the Natural World.” Wednesdays at 4pm from February 3 through March 11, we will stroll for an hour through the glorious garden of Kimmerer’s prose, with open discussion, thoughts for further study, and links to activities inspired by these fertile pages. Free and open to the public. To enroll, find the registration button here (scroll down to “Braiding Sweetgrass” listing): <https://www.plymouth.org/explore/take-a-class/>

**Required: “BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Wisdom of Plants,”** by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Milkweed Editions). We encourage participants to purchase the book at Birchbark Books, a native-owned bookstore, along with a braid of sweetgrass, to hold its fragrance with you during discussions and long after. Visit [www.birchbarkbooks.com](http://www.birchbarkbooks.com), call 612-374-4023, for mailed delivery or store pickup. A syllabus of the weekly reading assignment and discussion questions will be emailed in advance of sessions.



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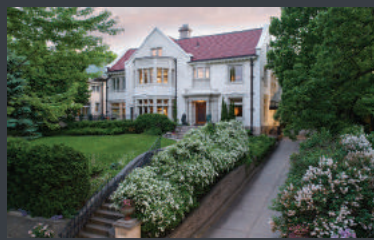


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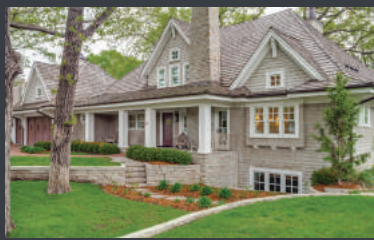
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57 Groveland Terrace, MPLS \$2.150M



2212 W Lake Of The Isles Pkwy, MPLS \$2.350M



6016 Leslee Lane, Edina \$1.950M

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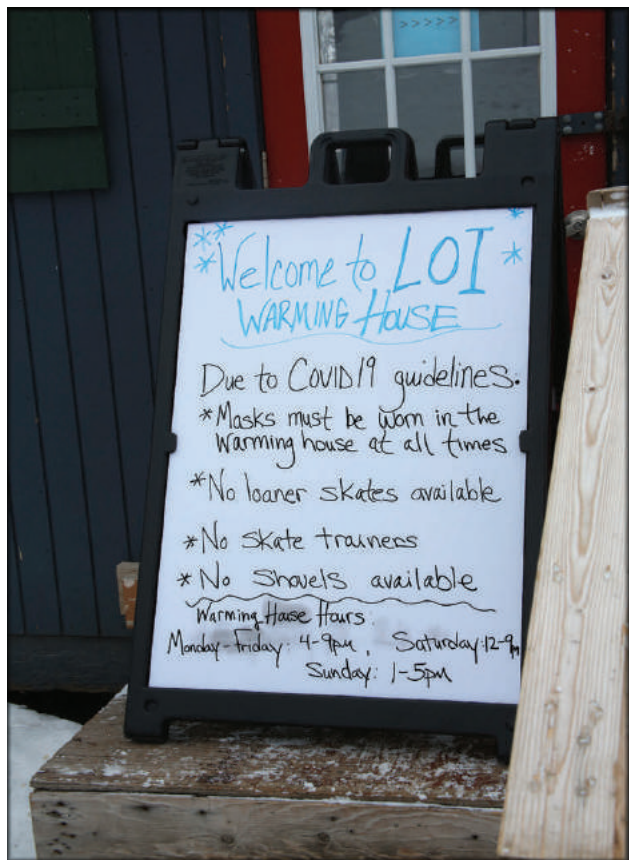
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### Ice Skating on Lake of the Isles, Pandemic Style 2021



Photos by Dorothy Childers

## THE FOGEL GROUP



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## Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association

By Rosanne Halloran

**Board Meeting Minutes** Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 6-8 p.m.

**Online via Zoom**

**Minutes by Rosanne Halloran**

Board members present: Chair Mary Pattock, Vice Chair Tim Sheridan, Treasurer Kevin Johnson, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Evan Carlson, Stephen Goltry, Dean Kephart, Claire Ruebeck, Interim Coordinator: Amanda Vallone

Invited guests: Met Council Outreach Coordinator David Davies, CIDNA Financial Consultant Robert Thompson

**Call to order: Mary Pattock, Chair**

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The board approved the minutes for the December 9, 2020 meeting.

**City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7**

Lunch with Lisa monthly events have resumed. On January 26, the speaker is Michelle Rivero, Director of Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. For more information and to suggest future topics, contact Lisa Goodman's office: Judy Sherin, Associate, judy.sherin@minneapolismn.gov.

A video of Lisa touring the renovated downtown Dayton's store is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm3k0eutqAw>

Police Department: Former Fifth Precinct Inspector Amelia Huffman was promoted to one of MPD's three deputy chief positions, in charge of professional standards and training. Katie Blackwell, former commander of training division, is now Fifth Precinct inspector.

In response to an inquiry about rampant crime, Lisa said that, while crime statistics are not as low as we'd like them to be, they are lower than in recent months.

As police reform begins, in the interest of enforcement collaboration, some roles have moved to other departments.

**Chair's Report, Mary Pattock**

Rosanne Halloran, CIDNA Coordinator Search Committee chair, reported that the position will soon be advertised.

Mary and Rosanne will step down as officers in May, leaving the chair and secretary positions open.

The City Council voted to fund neighborhood associations at \$25,000 minimum per year, which is slightly less than CIDNA's current funding.

**Treasurer's Report, Kevin Johnson**

Robert Thompson, CIDNA's financial consultant, said CIDNA's \$132,824 affordable housing loan to Propel, a non-profit finance company, has been repaid, since the projects have been completed. CIDNA will consider options for using the funds, including the original intention of using them for SWLRT mitigation.

**Interim Coordinator's Report, Amanda Vallone**

CIDNA sent a postcard to all its residents encouraging them to submit online feedback on the draft Parks for All Comprehensive plan. (Note, since this meeting, the Park Board extended the deadline to July 18.)

To receive CIDNA mailings, send a request to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).

Send topic suggestions for the February 3 CIDNA newsletter by January 27 to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).

Amanda asked the Board to suggest edits and improvements to the CIDNA website.

Artists who participated in the CIDNA mArt in November donated a gift of their art to Jones Harrison staff members. Amanda will soon post the recipients' photos, with a thank you to donating artists, on the CIDNA website and in social media.

The City's Division of Race & Equity is holding an online panel discussion 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, January 19, the National Day of Racial Healing.

**Transportation Committee Report: Guest David Davies, Southwest Light Rail Community Outreach Coordinator**

There will be a town hall meeting on January 14, 6 p.m., hosted by Met Council Chair Charlie Zelle. Jim

Alexander, SWLRT project director, will give an overview of the Minneapolis part of the project, followed by Q&A. Meeting video and a copy of the presentation will be posted on SWLRT website:

<https://metro council.org/transportation/projects/Light-Rail-Projects/Southwest-LRT/Public-Involvement.aspx>

Project cost will increase by around \$200 million due to addition of: 1) a mile-long protection wall between the light rail and the freight rail beginning at Bryn Mawr station, a BNSF safety demand, and 2) a secant wall to stabilize the soil where the LRT tunnel will be dug near the Calhoun Isles Condominiums, because shifting soil had been observed during construction. The project will also be delayed about a year, incurring additional costs. At this time, the source of additional funds is unknown.

Because the SWLRT expert on train horn signals is on leave, the question raised about them at last month's CIDNA meeting cannot yet be answered. Claire said the CIDNA corridor is supposed to be a no-horn area, but they're sounding anyway. TC&W crew is always the track crew, regardless of which train is passing through. Met Council doesn't have speed monitoring equipment.

The (safety) incident rate remains in the 5.4 range, (which is higher than the national industry average). There have been no new safety incidents in Minneapolis involving non-project people and property.

The Met Council decided to pump tunnel excavation water into the sanitary sewer, instead of into the Kenilworth channel, to avoid pollution and the danger of melted spots on the ice. The water will go through infiltration chambers, and measures will be taken to prevent sanitary sewer overflow. Bridge construction has been shut down for the winter and will resume in the spring. Sheet installation has concluded.

Work will soon begin to create the bottom floor of the tunnel. It will involve alternate periods of pouring concrete, concrete setting, and pumping of water over 4-5 days until cell is dry. First concrete pour should be in mid-February. The pour for each segment of the tunnel will be noisy and involve approximately 30 concrete trucks.

**Environmental Preservation Committee Report, Claire Ruebeck**

Park stewardship: The Board approved renewing the park stewardship agreement with MPRB for Park Siding Park in 2021. The Board also authorized the Environmental Preservation Committee to pursue park stewardship agreement with MPRB for Cedar Lake South Beach in 2021, contingent on future Board approval of the details of the agreement.

Parks for All Comprehensive Plan: CIDNA completed its efforts to promote resident response to the plan. These efforts were funded by a Collaborator Grant from the MPRB and Minneapolis Parks Foundation. Residents may offer their feedback online (Note - the MPRB extended the deadline to July 18). CIDNA will submit formal comments, recommending no expansion of the MPRB mission statement, and that MPRB's support of housing and homelessness, and disposition of parklands, be consistent with its mission.

Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan. Cedar Isles is part of the Regional Park system, the regional equivalent of state parks. The system is overseen by the Met Council in partnership with 10 area agencies, including MPRB. CIDNA is collaborating with community allies, including Cedar Lake Park Association and Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO), to encourage preservation of natural areas. CIDNA resident, James Reid, is an alternate member of the project Community Advisory Committee.

Adam Arvidson, MPRB Director of Strategic Planning, convened an ad hoc group of community members and MPRB staff to address water quality in Cedar Lake and Chain of Lakes. This is a multi-jurisdictional issue.

**Communication Committee Report, Dean Kephart**

The neighborhood survey is still being planned.

## Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO Minutes)

By Amanda Vallone

**Meeting Minutes January 4, 2021**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO) Meeting Minutes was called to order at 6:34 pm on January 4, 2021 by Board Chair Mark Brown. The meeting was held via GoTo Meeting due to COVID-19.

**Present**

Board Members present: Chair Mark Brown, Vice Chair Jeremy Nichols, Treasurer Matt Spies, Evelyn Turner, Jack Levi, Will Stensrud, and Melinda Platt.

Others present: Council Member Lisa Goodman, SWLRT Community Outreach Coordinator David Davies, Communications Coordinator Amanda Vallone, Jim Barnett, Carissa Brown

**Approval of Minutes**

Mark Brown requested a motion to approve the December 2020 meeting minutes. Evelyn Turner moved to approve the minutes, and Melinda Platt seconded. Motion passed.

**Updates from Council Member Lisa Goodman**

**KNO to page 9**

Claire suggested asking residents for their ideas on how to use the repaid Propel loan funds.

**Land Use and Zoning Committee Report, Evan Carlson**

No report.

**Neighborhood Safety Committee Report, Stephen Goltry**

Sidewalks are open and landscaping is completed between curb and sidewalk in front of 3100 West Lake. The traffic control box going West near traffic lights in front of 3100 obstructs driver's view of crossing pedestrians. In the same location, 311 has been notified about dangerous pedestrian crossing from plow-created drifts.

**Social Committee Report, Amanda Vallone**

The Board approved up to \$350 for a Winter Luminary Walk in Woods, Saturday, Feb 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The family event to celebrate the area's natural beauty is in collaboration with Kenwood Neighborhood Organization. There will be social-distancing markers throughout the event area. If you'd like to help, contact [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org). This is a separate event from the City of Lakes Loppet Winter Festival at Theodore Wirth Park on Jan 30-31 and Feb. 6-7, 2021.

Board approved \$250 for a Hill and Lake Press ad (\$185) to promote two family engagement events: CIDNA Teens Instagram activity, a Fun Photo scavenger hunt, and purchase of event prizes for both.

Take a Look at CIDNA (TLC) January Facebook theme is Frozen Wonders. The February theme will be Love is in the Air.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

The Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department announced that it will coordinate "a singular Neighborhood Day which promotes neighborhood work while providing a time to vote on neighborhood board membership."

Participation by neighborhood associations is optional. The Board discussed the proposal, and postponed any decision to participate pending further details, including the timing of the election day. Mary urged Board members to fill out the City's city-wide survey of board members about the project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. **The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Send requests to participate to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).**

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org). Please also submit comments, suggestions, or requests to help with activities reported from our meetings.



**KNO from page 8**

- Lunches with Lisa will continue in a virtual environment starting again this month.

- 24th St. Alley paving project will begin the week of January 11.

- The city voted last month to reinstitute the minimum funding to neighborhood associations.

- After intense discussions with the Met Council regarding the next phase on SWLRT construction, which will be massively disruptive, a community-wide informational meeting has been scheduled for January 14.

⇒ Can we embrace this as an opportunity for our community? (e.g. viewing platform for kids?)

- The city will notify the public regarding vaccination sites once the city receives access to vaccines.

Updates from SWLRT Community Outreach Coordinator David Davies

- The Met Council is hosting a community meeting on Thursday, January 14, 6-7:30pm to inform the community regarding 2021 activities and anticipated impacts from those activities. Discussion will be focused on Kenilworth activities, but the discussion will be open to all. The Met Council will make a 40-45 minute presentation, followed by 40-45 minutes of Q&A.

- David Davies will do door knocking and flyering in advance of disruptive activities.

- The Met Council is aware of the noise associated with construction near the channel, but they are within noise restrictions, and are doing the work as efficiently as possible. That work should be completed this week, and will not resume until spring.

- Water displaced by concrete pours will not be discharged into the channel, but via environmental services lines, meaning that the construction should not impact recreational activities in the spring/summer.

KNO Board Roundtable – Personal and Shared goals for 2021

Participants shared their goals for the board's work in 2021:

- Southwest Light Rail construction neighborhood advocacy and communication

- Recruitment of new board members, possibly through specific initiatives / areas of interest

- Racial justice initiatives

- Community response to the development prompted by the SWLRT

- Increased outreach and communication to and with the entire Kenwood community, including youth engagement

- Support of local businesses

- Programming and community building at Cedar Lake Beach

- Response to increased crime in Kenwood and Uptown

- Engagement with Kenwood School and Minneapolis public schools redistricting

- Focus on three sub-committees with specific core functions:

- o Preserving the integrity of our board – fundraising, recruitment, finding executive members

- o Coordinating with other community organizations and efforts.

- o Communications and outreach

Kenwood Business Initiative – Update from Matt

- Matt reached out to all of the business owners in the Kenwood business district and received feedback from three. Key take-aways:

- o Veterinary Clinic: People may notice increased vehicles in the street due to COVID protocols

- o The second round of PPP Funds will provide needed assistance to many businesses in the area

- o Birchbark Books has seen an increase in online business and is looking for additional storage space for inventory.

- Common feedback was that decreased school traffic has meant an increase of cars speeding through the intersection

⇒ Matt will research the feasibility of adding a barrier in the intersection to encourage slow passage (see example here).

Renewal of Amanda's contract

- The board reviewed the finalized contract with Amanda Vallone, which will be reviewed at least semi-

**Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association**

By Chas Scheiderer

**Jennifer Breitinger called meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.**

Board members present include Jennifer Breitinger, Bob Hinck, Toni D'Eramo, Justin Baylor, Kathleen Bottini, Janet Halloway, Lee Switzenberg, John Lillihai, Craig Wilson, Vickie Bennett, Fran Davis, Thomas Regnier, Sue Westerman, Chas Scheiderer.

Also in attendance: Minneapolis Councilwoman Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis Fifth Precinct Inspector Amelia Huffman, Commander Kate Blackwell and Police community liaison Jessica Kawas. Courtney Kiernat representing the Peris Hill Project and Elizabeth Schafer, representing Friends of Thomas Lowry Park were also in attendance, in addition to several Lowry Hill residents.

Lisa Goodman's city council update: City budget will include \$25,000 for each of the neighborhood associations.

If you are not satisfied with snow plowing call 311 and explain your concern. We are advised that the city works budget has been cut by 10% some services may be affected, but snow emergencies have priority.

Lisa expressed kind sentiments for our departing Fifth Precinct Inspector Huffman who has been promoted to Deputy Chief and will be taking over those duties at the end of the month.

Inspector Huffman (soon to be Deputy Chief) introduced Commander Katie Blackwell who is being promoted to Inspector of the fifth Precinct replacing Amelia Huffman. Commander Blackwell was most recently Commander of the Training Unit and oversaw the department's in-service training academy.

The Peris project, according to Courtney Kiernat, is on schedule for a November 2021 completion.

**Committee Updates:**

Representing the Environmental Committee, Craig Wilson has submitted the grant request to the Watershed District for the Hennepin-Lyndale trash pickup and educational event. Our grant request has made it past the first hurdle and is still in consideration.

Lee Switzenberg, zoning and planning, suggested we use the Sarah Janeczek Memorial funds we are holding to honor her by placing a tree in the soon to be renovated Thomas Lowry Park, and also fund maintenance of the Fremont Triangle. Elizabeth Schafer said she expects she could work with the Park Board and install a fair size tree for \$600 which would be larger than the usual saplings installed in parkways. The remaining funds would be able to fund Fremont Triangle maintenance for two years.

**Lee made the motion:**

Whereas Sarah Janeczek resided on Fremont Ave. South and took frequent walks with her beloved dog "Louie" and whereas Sarah had passion for promoting green space and neighborhood beautification, be it resolved in a motion to allocate remaining Sarah Janeczek memorial funds held in LHNA accounts to the Friends of Thomas Lowry Park to fund planting a tree in her honor in Thomas Lowry Park and to use remaining funds to host seasonal arrangements in the Fremont Triangle until funds are depleted.

annually. Amanda's role will include:

- o Facilitation of survey
- o Monthly email newsletters
- o Website redesign
- o Welcome kit design and distribution
- o Quarterly newsletter to residents via mail
- o East Cedar Lake Beach programming
- o Coordination with Hill and Lake Press
- Amanda will present her 2021 comprehensive

communication plan at the Board's February meeting.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm by Chair Mark Brown. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on February 1, 2021, via GoTo Meeting.

Minutes submitted by:

Carissa Brown

Approved by:

The Executive Committee

**Motion was seconded and passed.**

**Sue Westerman provided a Crime and Safety Update.** The newly organized Crime and Safety Committee met three times in the last month with eight committee members. The mission of the Crime and Safety Committee will be to provide advice, consult and serve as a resource on issues of crime prevention for the purpose of increased safety of residents and visitors in the neighborhood.

The committee will increase communication of safety tips so residents can stay safe. The committee will also react to incidents in the neighborhood.

We will continue to use our monthly ad in the Hill and Lake Press to publicize safety tips. In addition, we will help to provide relevant articles for the Hill and Lake Press to publish. This month's safety message is "Know Your Neighbor."

Justin Baylor, Events, explained we don't have any activities currently under way due to the cancellation of this year's skating party due to the virus. We hope to plan an annual meeting this year, but a May meeting at the Walker is doubtful, the annual meeting may be in the fall. We may delay the ice cream social until late in the summer to coincide with the opening of the renovated Thomas Lowry Park. We may use the ice Cream social to help raise needed operating funds for our neighborhood association.

**Board Member Update:**

We currently have 14 board members. Our bylaws allow for 15. Two residents who have gone through the application process were in attendance. Debbie Gold and George Mantague have a great deal to offer the organization. Both residents have agreed to be active on committees regardless if they are on the board. Since we need better representation of renters on the board Craig Wilson nominated Debbie Gold for the board. The motion was appropriately made and seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

**East Isles Residents Association**

By Jenna Egan

**EIRA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 7 pm**

**Online via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Eric Barstad (Secretary), Becky Accettura, Laney Barhaugh, Natasha Dockter, John Erlandson, Rod Lauture

Staff Present:

Jenna Egan, Coordinator

Guests Present:

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council, Ward 7  
Debbie Gold, Farmers Market Committee Co-Chair

Other East Isles Residents

**Welcome**

**President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.**

**Council Member Goodman**

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

Series of public hearings on the city budget started on November 16th. Budget adoption December 9th. Will have more updates at January board meeting. There was an increase (\$12,500.00) in the level of base funding for neighborhoods and will affect East Isles. It was authored by council members Gordon and Johnson. It was an 8 to 5 vote. Goodman did vote for the increase. Believes it will make it through the final budget. Goodman also voted for Neighborhoods 2020.

Monthly Luncheons with Lisa have been put on hold or were virtual this year. Hope to host a tour of the new Dayton's Project in downtown Minneapolis so you could see what was hiding behind the papered windows and the temporary walls on the skyway level. COVID has prevented this from happening in person,

**EIRA to page 10**

# Hill & Lake Press

[www.hillandlakepress.org](http://www.hillandlakepress.org)

## EIRA from page 9

however, in partnership with the ownership and marketing folks we finalized a video tour. Watch here - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm\\_content&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term&v=dm3k0eutqAw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term&v=dm3k0eutqAw&feature=youtu.be)

Adoption fees waived in December at Minneapolis Animal Care Control. Would like to empty shelters before the holidays.

Take a survey by Dec. 18 on Transforming Community Safety - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J86DD7Y?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J86DD7Y?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

Help us plan for equitable vaccine distribution. Take survey by Dec. 31 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDvaccineMPLS>

Tiny indoor village project is about to open, hopefully by the end of the year. Also opened beds for 50 Native American adults and the Salvation Army opened a shelter just for women and that opened Dec. 1 with 30 beds, and another 20 at Simpson Housing. Partnering with organizations, primarily the county to get these shelter options open before it got too cold. City Council is not the primary provider for homelessness services, but because of COVID they are partnering with the county and other agencies. Learn more about the Tiny indoor village project - <https://avivomn.org/about/current-news/avivo-and-indoor-villages/>

**Sign-up for Ward 7 Newsletter** - <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-7/newsletters/>

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting on December 8, 2020. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Barstad. Motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

### President's Report

President Emma Erdahl gave the following report: Open forum discussion from last November meeting update. Jono Cowgill will be invited to January's listening session instead of the Jan. board meeting to give an update on the homeless encampments.

East Isles resident requested that individual names be added to the list of meeting attendees, the Executive Committee will take under advisement.

Seeking board members and in the neighborhood to join the Social Committee. Currently there is no chair.

### Staff Report

Coordinator Jenna Egan gave the following report on what she has been working on:

Potential winter events for the neighborhood

Trivia Mafia in January. Reached out to Walgreens to sponsor.

Photo scavenger hunt. Will help build East Isles Instagram page.

Luminary and Lights in East Isles and other neighborhoods.

Newsletter for January or single e-blast in January that focuses on East Isles Board and Committee accomplishments. Committee Chairs to send Jenna their reports.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the December 2020 Finance Report, highlights include:

\$1,8735.69 in expenses and \$1,000.00 of revenue for the month of November.

\$24,502.25 of funds remaining in NRP Funding Agreement no. 28340 (Phase II Implementation) as of November 30.

\$4,3825.25 of funds remaining in NRP Funding Agreement no. 35039 (Home Security Grants) as of November 30.

\$18,496.06 of funds remaining in NRP Funding Agreement no. 35167 (Sustainable Practices) as of November 30.

\$47,581.12 of funds remaining in NRP Funding



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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-7353 or [hillandlakepress@gmail.com](mailto:hillandlakepress@gmail.com)

Since March 1976, The Hill & Lake Press has served the community as a non-profit newspaper staffed by volunteers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

Agreement no. 42485 (Community Participation Program) as of November 30.

The following action was taken regarding item 6:

Motion to approve the December 2020 Finance Report. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Barstad. Motion carried with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

### Outreach & Nominations Committee

Outreach & Nominations Committee Chair Eric Barstad provided the following report:

Fundraising letter was sent out to neighbors.

First listening session was last month and was very successful, the second session is tomorrow, December 9. Five guests will be speaking. Please attend if you can. Learn more about the listening sessions and registration on the East Isles website - <https://www.eastisles.org/>

### Built Environment & Transportation Committee

Built Environment & Transportation Committee Chair Andrew Degerstrom gave the following report:

Last meeting didn't have a quorum. Becca Hughes from the City of Minneapolis and JoNette Kuhnau from Kimley-Horn presented results from the latest round of engagement on the Hennepin South Reconstruction Project, as well as next steps.

December meeting canceled.

Developers for Seven Points will present at the January meeting.

Open Forum

The following was discussed during Open Forum:

Hennepin South Reconstruction project discussion. East Isles resident asked if the EIRA Board has a stance on the Hennepin South Reconstruction project. BET Committee Chair Degerstrom stated that EIRA believes it can best serve its members by assisting the City of Minneapolis with public engagement. Learn more about the project <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/cip/futureprojects/HennepinSouth>

Accettura recommended the Hennepin South Reconstruction project could be a one of the listening sessions if this was a concern for residents.

Barhaugh updated the Board regarding a food drive in East Isles. Planning for January. No location or date set yet. Will promote at the January listening session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

## Hill Lake Initiative to 'Know Your Neighbor' to Promote Public Safety LHNA Crime & Safety Committee

By Sue Westerman

Hill Lake area residents can support community safety and well-being by participating in an initiative to "Know Your Neighbor." Recent events have proven the power of increasing public safety by people exchanging contact information, communicating directly and supporting each other. Instead of organizing people in a large central database, it is far more effective for people to organize themselves on a grassroots, block-level to respond to hyperlocal events and concerns. For this reason, the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association's (LHNA) Crime & Safety Committee is encouraging residents to activate block communication networks for safety support. The manifestation of these networks is flexible and responsive. They could be as complete as a printed directory of names, phone numbers and emails—or as simple as a text group. Block-level communication networks will allow neighbors to contact one another quickly if needed, such as when an alarm goes off, a package goes missing or a neighbor has some other safety concern. Why? Because neighbors are most likely to notice or quickly respond to these issues. So please consider establishing or supporting a network for your block.

In addition to communicating within your block, LHNA would like to promote a more robust cross-block communication system. This would be used to update neighboring blocks of any actual crime incidents. The LHNA Crime and Safety Committee will be coordinating the communication across blocks. If you are a block captain or you want assistance in setting up the communication, please email Sue Westerman, the committee chair, at [suewesterman@live.com](mailto:suewesterman@live.com).

Let's make this commitment to stay safe together and take this simple step today.....Know Your Neighbor!

## Next Generation of Parks Event Series Presented by Minnesota Public Radio News

Join us via Zoom Saturday, February 6, 3:00pm, for Winter Birding 101, featuring Dudley Edmondson, renowned wildlife photographer and author, and Monica Bryand, founder of Urban Bird Collective.

Co-produced with The Great Northern Festival, this family-friendly inclusive introduction to some of Minnesota's most spot-able "snow birds" aims to open the outdoors to BIPOC and LGBTQ communities

The Minneapolis Parks Foundation's Next Generation of Parks Event Series goes all aflutter on Saturday, February 6, at 3:00PM, with Winter Birding 101. This virtual event will feature Dudley Edmondson, renowned wildlife photographer and author of *The Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*, from

### GREATER TWIN CITIES UNITED WAY LAUNCHES "211 HOPE STARTS HERE FUND" FOCUSED ON HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Donations to Fund Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 Resource Helpline

211 Calls Reflect Housing as No. 1 Need

The harsh economic impact of COVID-19 has made the housing crisis in the Twin Cities region substantially more severe, and during the most frigid months of winter, many people urgently need emergency shelter and help paying bills. Yet, navigating social services is confusing and time consuming, leaving many without help. To support people who need housing assistance, Greater Twin Cities United Way announced today its new 211 Hope Starts Here Fund.

Donations will fund United Way's 211 Resource Helpline which is staffed by resource specialists 24 hours a day who provide callers guidance, information and referrals to statewide housing-related resources such as emergency shelter; rent, mortgage and utilities assistance; legal support and more.

Every dollar donated to the 211 Hope Starts Here Fund will provide housing information and resources and more than \$3.00 worth of services through United Way's 211 Resource Helpline – a 300 percent return on donations. Those interested can donate at [www.gtcuw.org](http://www.gtcuw.org) or by texting HOPE211 to 51555.

"Nearly 60 percent of all calls to United Way's 211 Resource Helpline are related to housing," said John Wilgers, President and CEO of Greater Twin Cities United Way. "When you give to the 211 Hope Starts Here Fund, you're doing more than helping a few people – you're funding a holistic solution that makes the housing system more effective and efficient for everyone."

Many social workers, medical professionals, and nonprofit and faith leaders rely on the 211 Resource Helpline to help them support the people they serve. United Way also collects and analyzes 211 data and shares insights and trends on community needs with state and local policymakers as they consider additional funding options and supportive housing policies.

#### More on Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 Resource Helpline

- 211 data underscored the need for critical housing support when COVID-19 hit the Twin Cities region, helping to secure \$100 million in CARES Act funding for emergency housing assistance. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency selected United Way's 211 Resource Helpline to serve as the point of contact for people seeking these housing resources through Dec. 2020.

- United Way's 211 Resource Helpline specialists guide and refer people to 40,000+ statewide resources based on specific needs, including rental assistance, food programs, childcare, employment resources and more.

- 211 specialists provide nearly 460,000 referrals per year, addressing 52 urgent needs every hour.

About Greater Twin Cities United Way: Greater Twin Cities United Way unites changemakers, advocates for social good and develops solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone to create a community where all people thrive, regardless of income,

his base in Duluth in conversation with Monica Bryand, a St. Paul-based wildlife photographer and founder of Urban Bird Collective. The event is free, family-friendly, and pre-registration is recommended via Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link.

"This winter bird conversation will help people figure out what that bird is outside their kitchen window," says Dudley Edmondson. "We'll talk about the most common birds seen in Minnesota backyards when the snow flies. We'll also discuss binoculars for beginners, ways to attract birds to your feeder, and best field trips for winter birdwatching."

Edmondson first met Monica Bryand when she "invited him to talk to the Urban Bird Collective about what it is like for BIPOC folks to feel safe in nature," she says. "This event will help take away the mystery around birdwatching – one of the most accessible and rewarding activities that get us outdoors and connecting with nature, even in winter."

In addition to learning about the hardy "snow birds" that stick around through our coldest months – including Northern cardinal, Red bellied woodpecker, red-tailed hawk, and white-breasted nuthatch and a visitor in the winter months the dark-eyed junco – audiences will also get a better understanding of what bird watching is, what amenities are available, and where BIPOC and LGBTQ people can find community in the outdoors. The event is coproduced in partnership with The Great Northern Festival.


"Access to nature is one of the most essential ingredients for good physical and mental health, and Minneapolis and our surrounding communities have a lot of greenspace that many consider free and open to everyone," says Tom Evers, Executive Director of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation. "Yet invisible but perceivable barriers exist for people of color. Dudley Edmondson and Monica Bryand are reframing who has access to parks and public spaces and striving to open access for Black, Indigenous, and people of color to the natural places where birding can become a transformative experience."

#### About Our Speakers

Dudley Edmondson is an author, public speaker, and filmmaker whose passion is nature and getting people of color outdoors. He speaks regularly on his books and his career as a wildlife photographer. His clients include educational institutions, state and federal agencies, and environmental non-profits. His photography career spans nearly three decades and his work has been

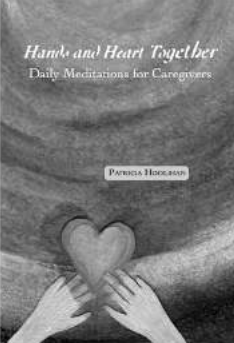
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featured in galleries and in nearly 100 publications around the world, including the state specific flora and fauna field guides by author Stan Tekiela to *Bird: The Definitive Visual Guide*, by Audubon (DK Publishing) London, UK. To see more of his photographic work, follow him on Instagram.

Monica Bryand is a Latina who is passionate about the environment and crazy for birds. She loves capturing their beauty and sharing them with others. She started her photography business just by sharing her pictures with friends and then was asked to put together cards and framed photos as gifts. She is also the Executive Director of Urban Bird Collective, which was founded in 2018 to support birdwatchers of all different skill levels in leading walks in our own neighborhoods. The Urban Bird Collective works to create safe and welcoming spaces for all communities with a focus on Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and the LGBTQ Communities and more – to come out and explore birding and the outdoors.

The 2020-2021 Season Continues in April

The season of the Next Generation of Parks Event Series will continue in April 2021 with

Sean Sherman, founder and CEO, and Dana Thompson, co-owner and COO, of The Sioux Chef, who will close out the season with a talk about their work at the heart of the indigenous food movement. Sherman is the James Beard Award-winning author of *The Sioux Chef* cookbook (with Beth Dooley). Sherman and Thompson's first restaurant – Owamni by The Sioux Chef – is slated to open in the Water Works Pavilion on the Minneapolis Central Riverfront in spring 2021; it will be the first locally-indigenous restaurant in a major US city.

#### About the Minneapolis Parks Foundation

Since 2003, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation has raised more than \$22 million for transformative parks and programming in Minneapolis Parks by aligning philanthropic investment and community vision. Today, the Parks Foundation champions equitable investment in Minneapolis parks through the RiverFirst Initiative and Reimagining the Civic Commons and is responsible for private fundraising and implementation of the Water Works and Great Northern Greenway River Link projects. The Parks Foundation also supports community-based parks projects with the People for Parks Fund, and explores the intersection of parks and key issues of the day by presenting the Next Generation of Parks™ Event Series. Learn more at [MplsParksFoundation.org](http://MplsParksFoundation.org)

**Neighbors, Happy New Year!**

**It is 2021-**

**Let's give a cheer**

**And plan a little more fun!**

**After the Capitol calamity**

**I look forward to spring-**

**We will get over the political insanity And**

**pursue other fun things!**

**I finally got my shutters,**

**But people often ask**

**How I got past the City Fathers?**

**I said my building needed a mask!**

**Next month is Valentines Day,**

**We are ready to be of service**

**In our own loving way-**

**Stop in, don't feel nervous!**

**After 35 years on 38th street**

**There are so many folks**

**We still want to meet -**

**Just call ahead for an appointment!**

**Nic @ (612) 824-4155**

**Quality Coaches Auto Repair, 20 w.38th st.**

**ARTrageous Adventures Celebrates its 12th Birthday!**

This little art studio in the heART of Kenwood turns 12 on January 26th! Due to the pandemic they are choosing to celebrate their birthday a few different ways and are asking for you to pARTicipate by:

1. Dig up any photos you have from your kids celebrating a birthday at the studio or from an ARTrageous event and email it to: ARTrageousAdventures.info@gmail.com Twelve photos will be selected to be framed for a Family Fun photo exhibit this summer.

2. Send a birthday card with your favorite memory or just a birthday wish to: ARTrageous Adventures, 2121 West 21st Street Mpls. MN 55416

3. Stop by the studio on Tuesday, January 26th between 2 and 4pm and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to receive a birthday treat to go and pick up an ARTrageous Scavenger Hunt challenge to enjoy with your family.



*Lovely Luminaries*  
A WALK IN THE WOODS

Saturday, February 13 5:30-7:30pm  
East Cedar Lake Beach (21st & Upton Ave. S.)

Luminary Wooded Trail  
Begin walk at either south (Burnham Blvd before bridge) or north (21st & Upton Ave) trail entrances to Burnham Woods

Fire Dancers    Snow Sculpture

Event Sponsored by

*Enjoy a COVID conscious outdoor event with your loved ones Valentine's weekend!*

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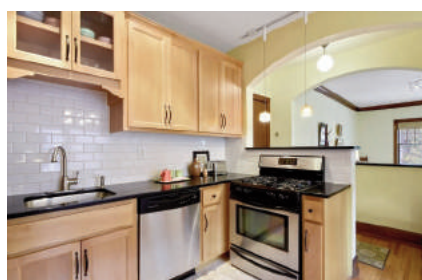
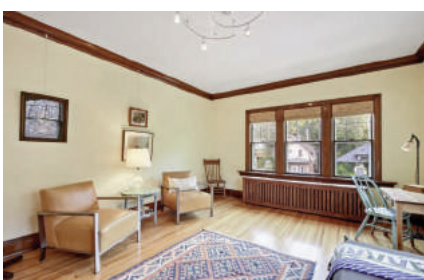
**CITY LAKES EASY LIVING...TOWNHOMES AND CONDOS**

Just park and walk or bike to the Lakes, restaurants, coffee shops and local favorites. Looking for an urban cabin or pied a terre? Want to be in the heart of it all, without the maintenance requirements of a house? We have a variety of choices for your lifestyle and location. Contact us for your private tour or a virtual showing.

**2835 KENWOOD ISLES DRIVE**  
\$469,900 Tucked away in a quiet spot off Hennepin, blocks from the Lakes! Rarely available large 2BR+/2BA end-unit faces the shared greenspace. Dramatic ceiling heights, large windows, updated throughout.



**2500 BLAISDELL AVENUE**  
\$299,900 Previously one connected space, now two completely renovated units. Unit PH-500 is a top floor 2BR unit with potential rooftop deck. Use the 1BR Unit #407 as work from home or guest space, or income-producing rental unit.



**4319 BRYANT AVE S #C201**  
\$157,500 Exceptional charm and character throughout this top-floor corner spacious 1BR unit. Onsite laundry & storage. Pet-friendly, in walkable and bikeable location close to Farmstead Park and Lake Harriet.

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