



Prospect Park Board of Directors/Community Meeting: June 22nd, 2026, 7:00pm. This meeting was held in-person & virtually (hybrid) at PPUMC

Board Members Present: Eric Amel, Issac Bandy, Steve Brackett, Luke Connelly, Arthur Herbert, Gabby Metzger, ShugE Mississippi, Stuart Levesque, Max Ostenso, Jerry Stein, Mitchell Toft, and Sofia Valdes.

Community Members: Lynn Von Korff (Volunteer Financial Officer), Susan Larson-Fleming, Anna Scheeser, Joe Ring, and David Frank.

Guests: Celeste Robinson, Ward 2 Policy Aide for Minneapolis City Council Member Robin Wonsley

Staff: Liza Davitch

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

Summary of Actions Taken

- The Board of Directors welcomed and seated the nine newly elected board members.
- The Board conducted organizational business, including:
 - ***Motion to Elect Board Officers:*** ShugE Mississippi presented a motion to approve an officer slate with Eric Amel as President, Max Ostenso as Secretary, and Gabby Metzger as Treasurer, while deferring the Vice President position to discuss with Steve Brackett at the October Board meeting. The Board discussed the requirements and responsibilities of each officer role. Officer roles are open to anyone. The Treasurer can only serve for three years before taking at least a one-year break. Also, no more than 25% of Board members can have served six years or more without taking at least a one-year break. Max Ostenso seconded. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
 - ***Motion to Set Upcoming Board Schedule:*** Lynn Von Korff presented a motion to approve the 2026-27 Board meeting schedule as follows: PPA Board member/Committee Chair potluck September 28th, 2026 (location to be announced). Board/Community meetings at 7pm Mondays at PPUMC on October 26th, 2026, December 7th, 2026, January 25th, 2027 and March 22nd, 2027. PPA's annual meeting and Board member election at 10:30am on Saturday, May 1st 2027. The annual meeting is held on City of Minneapolis "Neighborhood Day." Arthur Herbert seconded. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
 - ***Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:*** Jerry Stein presented a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of PPA Board Minutes from May 17th, 2026 (minutes of the electronic vote to approve May 2nd, 2026 Board and Annual Meeting Minutes). Max Ostenso seconded. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Summary of Proposed Actions

- Lynn Von Korff requested **Board members read the PPA's Conflict of Interest Policy and submit the signed certification form to PPA.** (Access the documents by clicking the link to the Google Drive folder Lynn Von Korff shared by email on June 23rd (see "PPA Board Orientation & Policy Documents 2026.") or simply contact Lynn Von Korff at finance@prospectparkmpls.org.)

- **Luke Connelly** volunteered to connect with the Towerside Innovation District, possibly attending their July 9th annual meeting, and to maintain communication with Towerside regarding green initiatives, stormwater, and district energy.
- **Susan Larson-Fleming and Jerry Stein** of the Jackson Committee will continue planning the next phase of the Jackson Family Project, including a commemorative plaque at the home on Franklin.
- **Eric Amel** of PPA's Land Use Committee will continue to facilitate MPHA/Glendale community discussions as needed.
- **Eric Amel and Issac Bandy** volunteered to help organize an MPHA evictions fact-finding task force and to follow-up with others to initiate contacts and meetings, including reaching out to Kaaha Kaahiye and other affected Glendale residents.
- **Board Officer Election:** the board will elect a Vice President at its October meeting.
- Lynn Von Korff reminded **Board members** they'll need to approve a 2027 Equitable Engagement Plan at the October 26th, 2026 meeting to be submitted to the City of Minneapolis before October 30th. PPA's 2027 city funding and status as a neighborhood organization is contingent on submitting the plan.

Committee Updates

- The ***Environment Committee***, in collaboration with the Prospect Park Garden Club, continues to hold twice monthly volunteer work sessions to remove invasive buckthorn from Tower Hill Park. All are welcome to volunteer.
- **Transportation & Safety Committee** intern, Anna Scheeser, is developing a report on intersection safety in Prospect Park by conducting interviews with residents and stakeholders, including residents of Pillars and Glendale. This project, funded by the University of Minnesota, was approved by PPA's Board at the May meeting (see May 2026 Board Packet for more information).
- **Jackson Family Project:** Susan Larson-Fleming reported that the Jackson Family Project held a community event with over 60 attendees to learn and celebrate the life of Marvell Jackson Cook, including Marvel's contributions to journalism during the Harlem Renaissance. Three generations of Jackson family members traveled from across the country to participate. Susan also described the successful "Jackson Family Day" event at Pratt School.
- **Land Use Committee:** Eric Amel reported on the June 11th Land Use meeting on MPHA's proposed Glendale Townhomes redevelopment. Over 60 community members, including many Glendale residents attended. At the meeting MPHA presented plans for new construction and community members expressed concerns about losing their homes, being displaced, and about ongoing MPHA evictions. The Board also discussed resident efforts to obtain historic designation for Glendale Townhomes. The Board formed a fact-finding task force to investigate multiple evictions at Glendale Townhomes.
- Joe Ring of PPA's **Heritage Committee** will continue to monitor and support the historic designation process for Glendale through the State Preservation Office (SHPO). Joe provided an update on Glendale's historic designation process, which is now at the state level, and discussed ongoing tensions between Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and Glendale residents regarding the proposed redevelopment.
- **Finance & Admin Committee:** Mitchell Toft, ShugE Mississipi and Stuart Levesque volunteered to join the Committee along with ongoing members Gabby Metzger, Susan Larson-Fleming, Jerry Stein and Lynn Von Korff.

Ward 2 Update

Celeste Robinson, Ward 2 policy aide for City Councilmember Robin Wonsley provided updates on local issues including Glendale redevelopment project, where the city is supporting residents through the process while not having direct decision-making authority. MPHA is proposing to replace Glendale Townhomes with all new construction. She also discussed the 2027 city budget priorities, focusing on protecting marginalized community programs and exploring equitable revenue sources, as well as upcoming regulations for data centers and autonomous vehicles.

Rethinking I-94 Highway Project: Celeste Robinson discussed the I-94 highway project, explaining that MnDOT is undergoing a "Rethinking I-94" process. The option to replace the highway with a multimodal boulevard has been rejected by the MN Dept of Transportation. She noted that due to administration changes in federal funding parameters, there's no chance current projects meeting public health and equity goals would receive funding, leading to a proposal to pause the project until more favorable circumstances arise. David Frank raised concerns about opposing ReConnect Rondo's position on the Rondo land bridge proposal, and Celeste acknowledged the organization's valuable contributions while explaining why a broader approach might be needed.

Witch's Hat Water Tower Renovation Update: Celeste Robinson announced that the Witch's Hat Water tower renovation is expected to begin shortly and should be completed later this summer, with plans for city-run public events. The group discussed potential community involvement in future openings, with PPA expressing interest in neighborhood participation.

Eric Amel proposed adjourning the meeting. ShugE seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

PPA's next Board and Community Meeting will be held at 7pm Monday, October 26th at PPUMC (in-person and hybrid). All are welcome!