

UPDC Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee Agenda

Tuesday, January 21 2025 || 7:00-8:30 pm

- 7:00 I. Introductions / Approval of minutes (5 min)
- 7:05 II. Open Forum (5 min)
- 7:10 III. Review 2024 Work Plan (*see pages 2-5 below) (20 min)
- 7:30 IV. Discussion of 2025 Work Plan (*see page 6 below) (30 min)
- 8:00 V. Confirm Calendar of 2025 Meeting Dates (5 mins)
- 8:05 VI. Discussion of a Committee Co-Chair (10 mins)
- 8:15 VII. Staff Report (10 mins)
- 8:20 VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 7:00-8:30 pm

Activity	Comments on the Activity
Host 10 committee meetings	Accepted without discussion.
Ensure community has proper notifications of meetings, events, and other activities through available resources	Accepted without discussion.
Manage the Cell Tower Fund in partnership with the City of St. Paul.	We discussed a chronic problem. We vote to provide funds for projects, but the projects often do not get completed! For 2024, we discussed how we can work with the City of Saint Paul to create better ways to request grants.
Micro-Grants	The 2024 Micro-Grant program is up and running! It is similar to the 2023 program.
United Village development	There was no discussion about this new activity.
Continue engagement with Midway Peace Park	Committee members support continued engagement with Midway Peace Park. • We also discussed following up with the project to make water available in the park. • We see a need to monitor trees so that the recently planted trees survive.

Park events	The events that we continue to support include: • Desnoyer Park summer Picnic • Midway Peace Park Fall Fun Event • Ice Cream Peanut Butter & Jam • Desnoyer Park Winter Fire & Ice Kirsten Fryer suggested some kind of UPDC presence or activity at Iris Park.
No-Mow Area maintenance/improvements	Jerry Clendenin will suggest dates for three maintenance events. Volunteers will work at the events.
Survey of residents near Merriam Park	The survey will determine if nearby residents want to set up a Merriam Park Association similar to the Desnoyer Park Improvement Association.
Addressing climate change and climate resilience efforts locally	Ellen Fee said that we should: • Send one letter about climate change to an appropriate official. • We should also have one expert give a relevant talk at an NSVC meeting. Jerry Clendenin links climate change to the loss of Ash trees. We are seeing heat record after heat record. Loss of trees make Union Park neighborhoods hotter and hotter. He suggests a program to education residents on how to work the City of Saint Paul on replacing the lost trees as fast as possible.

Inclusive civic engagement	Continue to improve relationships with people at Skyline Tower.
Host or participate in community engagement events	Make Midway Peace Park Fall Fun event an annual event. Continue to support Ice Cream Peanut Butter & Jam.
Maintain relationship with Union Park	Ellen Fee and Kirsten Fryer are members of the UPDC Board of Directors.
Community gardens	The two community gardens are doing well. They can ask for help when they need help.
Connect residents with neighborhood resources and assets	Ellen Fee talked about creating an updated Union Park map. The map will show the locations of services. She said that this is an appropriate project for an intern.
Placemaking	Leah is looking at ways to acquire bicycle racks that identify that they are located in "Union Park." She is in contact with Saint Paul Public Works. We discussed how to create the "Union Park Brand." The brand needs to show that Merriam Park and 6 other neighborhoods are parts of Union Park. We discussed ideas for a new Union Park map or diagram. We discussed the Union Park logo.

Advocate for improvements to Merriam Park	A major issue is the playground equipment for children. Alice Messer, Design & Construction Manager for Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, visited the NSVC meeting for October, 2023. She said there is a priority list of parks that are due to get new playground equipment. Merriam Park has a lower priority than some other parks. We discussed how to lobby to move Merriam Park to a higher up position on the list. Another issue is the need to repair the Merriam Park Rec Center building.
Engage with and advocate for Merriam Park renters	We discussed the idea of providing welcome packages for renters that are moving in to Union Park. Joseph Hughes is a UPDC Board member and a landlord. We will ask him for ideas on how to engage with renters.

2025 Calendar of Meeting Dates

Tuesday, February 18; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 18; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 15; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 20; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 17; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 15; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 19; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 16; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 21; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, November 18; 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 16; 7:00 pm