

# UPDC Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

Chair: Yvonne Hundshamer

Committee Attendance: Jerry Clendenin, Barb Deming, Kirsten Fryer, Jenny Keyser, David Tierney, Sande Traudt

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan, Executive Director, Union Park District Council

A quorum was present for the meeting.

## **I. Approval of Minutes**

Leah reported that she reviewed and edited the October, 2024 minutes.

David Tierney moved to approve the October minutes and the November 2024 minutes. Jenny Keyser seconded the motion. The October and November minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

On a related topic, we checked and we determined that NSVC meetings are not recorded by the Zoom software.

## Assign Note Taker

Jerry Clendenin will take notes and type the minutes at the February 18 meeting.

## Dates for No-Mow Events

The Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee (NSVC) set two dates for maintenance events for the No-Mow Area. Volunteers are encouraged come to Merriam Park on June 21, Saturday, and on September 27, Saturday.

Volunteers should bring gloves and possibly other equipment. The principal activity will be removing weeds and brush.

## Creating the 2025 Work Plan

The final 2025 Work Plan will have five columns. The discussion on February 18 focused on getting started on the plan by filling in the two columns for “Activity” and “Anticipated Outcomes.”

| Activity                                                                                                                  | Anticipated Outcomes                                                                                                                    | Time Frame | Person(s) Responsible | Achieved Outcomes (for end of year reporting) |
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| Host 10 committee meetings.                                                                                               | We expect to have 10 meetings or more.                                                                                                  |            |                       |                                               |
| Ensure that the community has proper notifications of meetings, events, and other activities through available resources. | NSVC and Union Park District Council will provide public notifications by electronic means, The Villager newspaper, and other channels. |            |                       |                                               |

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| Manage the Cell Tower Fund in partnership with the City of St. Paul.             | Obtain an annual financial report from the City of Saint Paul to educate committee members to understand how funds are prioritized and accessed.<br>Create a historical ledger documenting and celebrating the work accomplished by the cell tower funds.                  |  |  |  |
| Micro-Grants                                                                     | Document and record how small investments create large differences in neighborhoods.<br>Set April 15 as the deadline for applying for grants with priority funding. The Micro-Grant program will continue to provide small grants for projects that support neighborhoods. |  |  |  |
| Continue engagement with Midway Peace Park and the Friends of Midway Peace Park. | Support residential voices in advocating for the park.<br>Partner with the Friends of Midway Peace Park to accomplish residential engagement by hosting quarterly meetings.                                                                                                |  |  |  |
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| Community park events                                                                      | <p>The events that we continue to support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desnoyer Park summer Picnic</li> <li>• Midway Peace Park Fall Fun Event</li> <li>• Ice Cream Peanut Butter &amp; Jam</li> <li>• Desnoyer Park Winter Fire &amp; Ice</li> <li>• Friends of Merriam Park Event</li> </ul> <p>We need some kind of UPDC presence or activity at Iris Park.</p> |  |  |  |
| Support the formation of Friends of Merriam Park and support improvements to Merriam Park. | <p>Support events in Merriam Park.</p> <p>Support engagement in design work to improve the park.</p> <p>Support improvements that will be funded by the recent increase in the sales tax.</p> <p>Advise members of the Friends of Merriam Park in committee meetings. Learn how to support the Friends of Merriam Park.</p>                                                                 |  |  |  |
| No-Mow Area maintenance/improvements                                                       | <p>Schedule two maintenance events.</p> <p>Educate volunteers who work at the events about the No-Mow Area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |

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| Host speakers to share educational topics at NSVC meetings regarding environmental resilience. | <p>Engage the community to determine specific areas of interest. Possible topic include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound pollution</li> <li>• Non-permeable surfaces</li> <li>• Watershed infrastructure</li> <li>• Tree canopy</li> <li>• Forestry</li> </ul> <p>Add to the UPDC website a page on the environment.</p> |  |  |  |
| Community gardens                                                                              | <p>Invite community garden people to set up tables at UPDC events.</p> <p>Place notices in the UPDC Neighborhood Matters Newsletter to invite people to sign up for plots in the gardens until the gardens are full.</p>                                                                                                                    |  |  |  |
| Meet our newest neighbors                                                                      | <p>Learn about how people have come to Union Park from around the world. What was the journey like? Determine how we can support newcomers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |
| George Floyd 5-year anniversary event                                                          | <p>Consider setting up a panel to reflect about what we have learned and how we grow together to a more humanizing society.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |

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| Renter advocacy | Support the establishment of a renter advocacy process and gather resources. |  |  |  |
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Some items on the 2024 Work Plan were left out of the 2025 Work Plan.

The Annual Work Plan is a document required by the City of Saint Paul.

The official document is called:

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM  
FY2025 Work Plan DRAFT

Leah will send a copy of the 2025 Work Plan to the City of Saint Paul.

## Adjourn

Kirsten Fryer made a motion to adjourn. Yvonne Hundshamer seconded. The members voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.