

UPDC

Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

Chair: Yvonne Hundshamer

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

Guests: Brett Bergene; Merle from Eleanor Graham Community Garden

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

Assign Note Taker

Jerry Clendenin will take notes and type the minutes for the November 19 meeting.

Review of Minutes

There was a request to further edit the minutes of the October 15 meeting before approval. There was no motion to approve the October minutes.

Leah volunteered to edit the October Minutes.

We will consider approval of the October 15 Minutes and the November 19 minutes at the December, 2024, Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee (NSVC) minutes.

Open Forum

Safe Space Shelter

Safe Space is moving to the Central Baptist Church at 420 North Roy Street. Safe Space is a shelter for people without regular housing.

Jenny Keyser was one of eight volunteers who helped to set up the shelter. They cleaned the shelter space and helped to install a large washer and dryer.

The shelter will have a paid staff. Jenny is not sure if there will be a role for volunteers when the shelter is operating.

Central Baptist is near Snelling Avenue and near to University Avenue. Safe Space is moving from downtown Saint Paul. The first guests will be accepted on November 12. Safe Space is a partnership between Ramsey County and Model Cities. Model Cities is a non-profit agency that provides housing and family support.

The shelter will provide 25 beds for women. Safe Space will provide shelter between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. The City of Saint Paul, Model Cities, and Central Baptist are working to expand the shelter to 64 beds. The three organizations are also working toward accommodating all gender identities.

The shelter will have a security system.

Eleanor Graham Community Garden Receives Grant

The Eleanor Graham Community Garden as an organization has been a partner of the Union Park District Council for 15 years.

Minutes
Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee
November, 2024

Merle from the Eleanor Graham Community Garden gave a report to update the Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee on Eleanor Graham activities.

The Eleanor Graham Garden has received a grant from Great River Greening. The grant will be used to plant prairie flowers and other prairie species. The prairie plants are important to support pollinators. The plants will take 3 years to grow up and mature.

The grant funds will also help to replace trees that fell.

Merle said that Graham Community Garden has 70 gardeners. Each gardener or gardener family uses one small plot of land.

Merle said that the Community Garden has recently invested in structures that hold raised gardening beds. These raised beds are to help people who have problems bending and stooping.

The Eleanor Graham Garden is near Ayd Mill Road and Hamline Avenue. The Bee hive at Eleanor Graham has been moved to the Merriam Station Garden which is near Prior Avenue and Interstate 94.

Eleanor Graham has a contract with City of Saint Paul. Merle said that the land used by Eleanor Graham is controlled by the Public Works Department and not by Parks and Recreation.

Staff Report

UPDC 2024 Annual Social Meeting on December 4

Leah Timberlake Sullivan previewed the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Annual Social and Board Election. The meeting will elect Board members and introduce Board members who were recently appointed.

The event will be on Wednesday, December 4, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will be held at the Union Park District Council headquarters in Spruce Tree Center, the green building

Minutes
Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee
November, 2024

at 1600 University Ave W. (On the corner of University and Snelling Ave.) The UPDC meeting will be in the conference room on the first floor.

Members can park in the ramp next to the building. Leah can provide parking vouchers. People with bikes or electric bikes can park in the ramp.

Free parking is also available across Spruce Tree Avenue at Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway.

All residents of Union Park are welcome. Use the building entrance on Spruce Tree Avenue.

A Merriam Park Winter Event

Sarah Swisher, a UPDC Board member, has suggested a winter event at Merriam Park. Her idea is to use the hills for sledding with a camp fire for warming.

On Saturday, December 14, there will be a meeting to plan for such an event. The meeting will be at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue (near Fairview Avenue) from 1-2 p.m. in Room A.

All residents of Union Park are invited to attend.

If we get a winter event off the ground, we can request money from the Merriam Park Cell Tower fund.

Leah said that we can also see if people at a winter event are also interested in forming a "Merriam Park Improvement Association." This would be an organization similar to the Desnoyer Park Improvement Association.

City of Saint Paul Amplified Sound Permits

Leah reported on the new City of Saint Paul regulations on amplified sound, such as music at outdoor events. In September, the Committee on Land Use and Economic Development (CLUED) heard a presentation by Eric Hudak, Licensing Manager for the

Department of Safety and Inspections. He agreed that the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has had problems applying and enforcing the sound regulations. He said that DSI wants to hear recommendations to improve how it applies the regulations at future events.

Mitra Jalali, the President of the Saint Paul City Council, would like to receive recommendations by the end of 2024.

NSVC Committee members will need to be aware of and follow the Saint Paul amplified sound regulations when working on Union Park District Council events.

A New UPDC Member

Leah reported that a person has applied to become a member of the UPDC Board. If approved, the new person will be an at large member of the Board.

The prospective member wants to work on tenant advocacy.

Snelling Avenue Task Force

Leah reported on the project to set up a task force for the University and Snelling Area. Every UPDC committee has members who have volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

Preparing for the 2024 Annual Social

There will be reports from all UPDC Committees at the Annual Social and Board Election on Meeting December 4. At the November meeting, we discussed what we will present in the Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee report.

We will discuss many accomplishments in 2024:

- Volunteers worked to maintain the Merriam Park No-Mow Area.
- Micro-Grants were awarded for several small projects.

Minutes
Neighborhood Sustainability & Vitality Committee
November, 2024

- Cell Tower Fund grants were provided for some larger projects.

The NSVC will report on the project to improve Merriam Park. The Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department has begun a major project to upgrade and redesign parts of the park. The NSVC worked with Parks & Rec to set up the Merriam Park Design Advisory Committee. Many people volunteered to serve on the Committee.

The NSVC will present reports on events that we sponsor

- The Midway Peace Park Fall Fun Event
- The Desnoyer Park Winter Event. The report should mention that the Desnoyer Park people had work with difficult weather.

Pictures will be an important part of the NSVC presentation. Yvonne Hundshamer requested pictures from all NSVC members. Yvonne suggests that we upload slides on Google Drive. We can also send photos directly to Yvonne by e-mail.

Report on Saint Paul Police Meeting on November 19

The Saint Paul Police Department holds regular meetings where citizens can hear briefing from police officials. Citizens can also ask questions about police service.

Police encourage citizens to call the Department if they see suspicious activity.

Adjourn

Yvonne Hundshamer made a motion to adjourn. Kirsten Fryer seconded. David Tierney also seconded. The members voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.