

# East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association

## Board Meeting

Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, 7-9 pm  
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Fireside Room / Zoom Option

### 1. Welcome - Zoom Ground Rules, Ice Breaker: Thang Holt, President 7:00pm

- a. "Mute" yourself when not speaking
- b. Wait to be called on before speaking, until open forum
- c. Zoom meeting will be recorded for the purpose of writing the minutes

### 2. Ward 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai, Update & Q/A - 7:05pm

### 3. Approve Last Month's Minutes 7:40pm

### 4. Reports 7:45pm

- a. President's Report: Thang Holt, President
- b. Staff Report: Cuyler Dinegan, Coordinator
- c. Treasurer's Report: Adam Olson, Treasurer
- d. Committee Updates
  - NRP Committee → Development Committee
    1. Results of Neighborhood Vote - Motion Passes!
    2. Park Project Update
    3. Next Meeting Date(s)
  - Livability Committee
    1. Committee Update
    2. Block Captains - Duties & Responsibilities / Plans for Recruitment
    3. Next Meeting Dates
  - Social & Engagement Committee
    1. Anja will be back officially end of August
    2. August Social Event: ??
    3. Next Meeting Date

### 4. New Business - 8:15pm a. Official Branding & Logo Announcement - \*\* DRUM ROLL \*\*

- b. Annual Meeting - 11/09 Secured at The Granada Theater
  - Silent Auction Donations
  - Next: Secure Music/DJ, Photographer/Videographer
- c. Opening Up Submissions for 2023-2024 Board - Options for Current Board Members

### 6. Adjourn - 9:00pm

*We invite and encourage participation by all. If you require an accommodation to participate or access documents, please contact us at least 5 days in advance by email or 612-584-9260. Or contact MN Relay Services at 1-800-627-3529, or contact 7-1-1.*

## Submitted Questions for Council Member Aisha Chughtai

1. Coming out of the meeting in May re: our neighborhood safety concerns, there was some discussion about engaging in a police buy-back program to increase the amount of law enforcement in our neighborhood. At the time, you voiced support for this plan. In speaking with other surrounding neighborhoods and council members, it's been mentioned several times that you would not support future police buy-back programs. Can you please provide insights to these conflicting responses and would you support our neighborhood proceeding with a police buy-back program?
2. On the evening of July 4th, there was a tremendous amount of noise and some deemed "riots" in our streets through the late hours of the evening. There was elevated violence, noise, and disturbances in the neighborhood which affected residents' ability to rest - especially given the violence and arson issues leading up to that. All of that resulted in over 3 hours of painful experiences for many of our neighbors.

One Account from A Resident:

"About 200 youth gathered the night of July 4th along the east shores of Bde Maka Ska and alongside the building where I live, located at 3540 James Ave. S. A number of them detonated countless mortar-style fireworks, some at the cars of police officers. It took police about 35 mins. to arrive and, when they did, the youth scattered into the neighborhood, resulting in a game of "whack a mole," a MPD lieutenant later said. How will you prevent this type of activity from repeating itself in the future? What do you recommend that my neighbors and I do to help?"

Understanding that the Minikahda CC annually does their fireworks that evening and recognizing the sheer length of time that these riots were taking place on our streets - what did you, the MPD, and the Mayor do to address this issue? Leading up to and in preparation for the event, during the riots, and now after it's ended?

3. MPD - Recognizing from past and current conversations with MPD, they are severely understaffed. Can you please speak to us about your position on "defunding" the police and how do you, in your role as councilmember, position yourself to hold the police accountable to protect and serve your constituents more effectively? How do you do so while also providing the resources and support that the MPD needs to continue to serve and protect our community?
4. Rent Control - Can you talk to us about your stance on rent control and how do you see Minneapolis different from Saint Paul in how that program is rolled out? Do you see it having the same consequences?
5. Hennepin Avenue Redevelopment - Can you talk to us about your position and feelings about tearing up Hennepin Avenue and how it will help/hinder our community in the coming years?
6. Pedestrian Safety at East Bde Maka Ska Parkway cross-walks with blind entrances off the lake - under the new City/MPRB redesign, the City is in charge of parkway maintenance. How do we increase those crosswalks and pedestrian walkways to be safer, better lit, and more effective as pedestrian traffic increases?
7. Uptown Businesses - What is your (and the city's) plan to address the vacant storefronts in Uptown? Is there a plan to revitalize the businesses in Uptown?
8. We know you represent a very diverse and a range of different neighborhoods as constituents in Ward 10. Can you please tell us how the East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood fits in amongst those neighborhoods (similarities and differences), what do you understand are our specific needs, and what specific actions have you taken to address those needs?