



Dec. Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023 • 7–9 pm

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Fireside Room

Virtual Option: [Join on Zoom](#)

Present: Thang Holt, Adam Olson, Bobbie Keller, Kari Krautbauer, Harry Savage, Tim Fontaine, Molly Downey, Glenda Marsh, Lynn Annis, Gary Farland, Brittany Edwards, Tim Gnadt, Amy Reher (Board), Cuyler Dinegan (Staff), Jordan Peacock (Wedge Board)

1. 7:00 pm: Welcome - Thang Holt, President

2. 7:05 pm: Approval of Nov. Minutes

- a. Thang motions to approve, Tim moves, Brittany seconds, all ayes. Approved.

3. 7:10 pm: Reports

a. President's Report: Thang Holt, President

- **Meeting with Metro Transit** on weekly basis to talk about Uptown Transit Station; broad talks about how to keep it safe through Hennepin construction; neighborhoods, MT, CM, YWCA

b. Staff Report: Cuyler Dinegan, Coordinator

- 501c3:
 1. It's been 5+ months since submitting our app, I've reached out to Mission Guardian to contact the IRS for an update. I heard from East Isles that their application took about 8 months, cross your fingers, we can start getting 501c3 discounts and donations soon.
- Branding:
 1. New brochure was revealed at Annual Meeting, well received. Judy Longbottom, who was there as part of Uptown Association and who owns the Hennepin UPS Store, was impressed, and has offered an in-kind donation of free print materials to East Bde Maka Ska. Working out what that looks like now.
 2. Boundary signage can go up in the spring, now that we have new branding. Getting estimates from sign fabricators, and identifying sign locations. East Isles just did this, and had about 24 signs installed.
 3. Trolley Path signage is on hold, Anja said MPRB has some deeper revisions to the planned historical signs, so it's been put on the backburner till further notice.
- Fundraising:
 1. From donation emails sent during Give to the Max Day & Giving Tuesday in November, we raised \$465 on our PayPal account. This is much more than \$0, we will be doing more and raising more in the future with 501c3 status
 2. Collaboration & Shared Resources grant with East Isles neighborhood is underway. This is through NCR - Neighborhood & Community Relations Dept, whom we also get annual funding from, and is a \$15,000 grant to cover specific shared neighborhood expenses.
 - a. A storage unit was written into the grant - we don't currently have one, thanks to Adam and Anja for housing our things till this point, and East Isles is cleaning out space in theirs to share with us in the new year.
 - b. A development consultant will also be covered - we contacted a candidate recommended by the City, who was unfortunately too busy to take us on. Determining whether to post a public RFP for this work.
 3. Business District Support grant application is being reviewed. I submitted this 1 month ago, if selected, we'll get \$10,000 toward advertising that helps lift up area businesses through Hennepin reconstruction. (CPED - Community Planning & Econ Dev Dept).

4. Still plan to apply for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), but waiting on 501c3 status as that gives us a higher ranking. If chosen, we'd receive a paid-for part-time staffer for at least 1 year and up to 5, which would be helpful for tabling at area events, volunteer mgmt and other tasks that give a senior employable skills.
- Comms:
 1. Newsletter will go out Monday, please forward any last minute updates to me asap if you want them included. Please confirm your Committee dates:
 - a. Livability: Monday, Dec. 18, 7pm (OR Monday, Jan. 22 (15th MLK)) *3rd Mon*
 - b. Social & Egmt: Thursday, Dec. 21 (OR Thursday, Jan. 18) *3rd Thurs*
 - c. Fundraising: Tuesday, Dec. 26 (Kwanzaa OR Tuesday, Jan. 23) *4th Tues*
 - d. Safety:
 2. Starting an annual fundraising letter, once 501c3 comes through as it's much cheaper
 - Thanks to everyone who came out for Holiday Caroling on Monday!
 1. Thang/Bobbie:
 - a. ~10 carolers, had a great time! Started to snow
 - b. NextDoor posted how lovely it was to see carolers. Kari responded, said she should join!
 - c. Branch out from just caroling Irving Ave next year
 - Thang is leading [Uptown Holiday Market](#): Next Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 am - 4pm at Seven Points
 1. Thang is leading Pop-up market featuring craft vendors, community art, Santa photo ops, roller skating, neighborhood eateries will have specials
 2. Open Call for Artists on our website, shared out in my networks, please share in yours!
 3. 14 folks volunteered to help decorate Seven Points, Michaela from Lucid Blue helped us with vision and decor
 4. We're holding this because someone needed to. It's *nearly* in our neighborhood, being promoted by all adjacent neighborhoods.
 - Next Board Meeting is Thursday, Jan. 4
 1. Working to have our Ward 10 CM Aisha Chughtai back for some Q&A
 - Beyond that, I sent out the current calendar for a taste of what's being planned for 2024
 - Reminder: I'm part-time staff, currently 13 hrs weekly, largely Mon–Thurs. So if you reach out, please be patient with a response.

c. Treasurer's Report: Adam Olson, Treasurer

- We're 501c4, attaining 501c3 soon, have been completely funded by City of Minneapolis - until now. We have 3 buckets of funds from the City: NNF, EEF (annual), NRP (drying up now).
 1. NRP Phase 2 = Reserves, used to pay Cuyler
 2. Line items we've categorized
 3. Every time we move money, WE must vote, and if \$25,000+, neighborhood-wide vote
 4. 40K org, 20K from the City, rest has been dependent upon NRP (going away, good for 1-2 yrs as is)
 5. 22K in checking, \$16K of our own money
- Tim: If money is sitting available, the City can claw it back. If we make decisions to move money, it becomes more vulnerable. If in a category, it's safer.
- Tim Gnad: Neighborhood vote funded by org? (Yes.)
 1. \$78K - \$58K as of...?
 2. Adam: That's projected, I also hid some columns.
- Jordan: A good rule of thumb is to not move it *until* you have a destination contract in mind.
- Adam: I view it as operating at a deficit currently. Trying to find ways to cover anything spent.
- Thang: Many neighborhoods are going through this. We've just never HAD to fundraise before.

d. Committee Updates

- [Development Committee](#) - Tim/Thang - Meetings: 4th Tuesday monthly, 6pm Zoom
 1. Thang: Goal for next year is \$33K, would love to have that stretch. Would fulfill deficit AND set us up well for 2025. Goal from Annual was to find champions to roll fundraising plan out. There's been consistent energy around it.
 2. Looking at events as fundraising opps too.
 3. Tim: \$30K by the end of 2024, just to survive if not thrive. These ideas do NOT need to be done by Committee. If we find champions who are passionate about having a plant sale, that works for

us. You guys know the neighborhood, have relationships in the neighborhood, so it shouldn't just be the 13 of us executing fundraising.

4. Thang: Spring Gala is the 1st big fundraising event. Will set stage and determine goal for the rest of the year.

■ **Livability Committee** - Kari - Meetings: 3rd Monday monthly, 7pm Zoom

1. Kari: Lee Todd and I Co-Chair currently. Looking at exploring different roles this next term, keep that in mind for elections later.
2. Block Capt. Conversation, issues around crime, Uptown Holiday Market. Got traction the last few weeks - 4 folks walked on a Nov Saturday. Saturday/Monday Walks (ADD INFO)
 - a. Thang: Creating PRESENCE in the neighborhood, you don't have to pick up trash everywhere, it's about building relationships when it fits Walk Lead schedules. If you have a time you'd like to lead, please let us know!
 - b. Brittany: I just like to walk up and down alleys with my dog, feel like it prevents bad actions if people see folks populating them.
3. Capt Info Meeting: Had a great meeting at L&I. Brittany's going to pick up Chairing this effort - will meet next on Dec. 14 at L&I. If you have neighbors interested, let Thang/Brittany know!
4. Kari: Neighbor reported rental homelessness issue 3213 Holmes Ave. Called 311, 911, boarded the house, situation under control, maybe figure out a way to communicate how-to's, what to do in these situations.
5. Possible Mall Walkers coming to next Livability Meeting.
6. Open ask on this meeting: HLP advertising, talk about strategy around how to fund this. Folks bring it up often. They haven't decided to permanently expand to EBMS/WMS

■ **Social & Engagement Committee** - Thang - Meetings: at the call of the Chair

1. Thang: Anja did a TON of event planning/executing. Goal was to slate Monthly Socials (1st Mondays) in advance, to confirm details easily going forward. That leaves space for S&E team to plan/participate in other events (Wine Tasting, Gala, etc)
2. Jan Social: [S. Uptown Luminary Skating Party](#) - Saturday, Jan. 20, 5-7pm at Bryant Sq. Park

4. 7:40 pm: New Business

a. Welcome to the newly elected board members!

- Thang: Thank you to outgoing Board, put a lot of love into figuring out what things can look like coming out of pandemic. Hope you'll continue to participate in any way you can.
- Board intros and intentions for 2024:
 1. Harry: Hope to help with fundraising, fight MPRB.
 2. Amy (Granada): Seeing more normalcy, vibrancy in the area
 3. Kari: Focus on business revitalization, how residents engage
 4. Lynn: Do what I can to support Uptown so people come back! Miss the energy.
 5. Brittany: Was on Board before in Livability work. Want to get 90% Block Capt. Coverage, use that to help revitalize EBMS in a grassroots way. And support vitality in businesses.
 6. Tim F: Get our fundraising up and running, revitalization.
 7. Cuyler (staff): To help support some bigger events/fundraising in the neighborhood
 8. Gary: Vital for us to give feedback to City on their plans.
 9. Glenda: Intend to work in safety arena, particular and big picture across EBMS
 10. Bobbie: Love to get to know people! Continue to promote community.
 11. Adam: Starting to round the corner, excited to contribute to EBMSNA!
 12. Tim G: As new to Mpls as EBMS. I see the potential here, hope to live in a nice neighborhood! Don't want to just think, want to act.
 13. Thang: Continue to build connections and contagious community in our neighborhood! We have such a strong community here.

b. Electing of Officers

■ **Officers, Chairs & Other Roles Overview (PDF)**

1. Thang/Tim: My hope for Board not just to be informed, but to DRIVE work in the neighborhood. Can't just be showing up to hear.
2. Glenda: Treasurer's role? Adam: Reconciling checks, can bookkeep if Cuyler's unavailable. In last year we haven't presented monthly actuals, it would be best practice to do this and is a goal of mine.
3. Thang: Part of our fundraising efforts will be showing high-level spending to donors.

4. Adam: Additional 501c3 reqs will be needed, collaborate with Cuyler on this.
- Tim: Announce position, open nomination, close nomination. If more than 1 nominee, each candidate gets a few minutes to talk. Slips of paper to vote if needed, otherwise verbal affirmation. We have 8 categories to get through - I will go efficiently.
- Adam: If serving Officer, you WILL be joining Exec. Committee, additional meeting each month.
 1. PRES: Adam nominates Thang Holt return as President. Year ago we were in dire state. Between Cuyler's hire and you being elected, we are in great state now. No other noms.
 - a. Affirmation vote: All ayes!
 2. VICE: Thang nominates Kari. Kari accepts. No other noms.
 - a. Affirmation vote: All ayes!
 3. TREASURER: Tim Gnadl nominates himself. No other noms.
 - a. Affirmation vote: All ayes!
 4. SECRETARY: Thang noms Adam. Adam accepts. Bobbie noms self.
 - a. Bobbie: I'm always promoting good comm in orgs. Writing/editing my profession! Not a fan of note-taking. Worked with Monica as Secretary.
 - b. Adam: I'm in contest with an EBMS legend for this position. Happy to fill whatever role I can best help with, can help Bobbie with.
 - c. Votes: Adam wins 7 to 6.

c. Appointment of Committee Chairs

- [Officers, Chairs & Other Roles Overview \(PDF\)](#)
 1. **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR:** (Tim) This role is in charge of strategy, NOT execution. Thang noms Harry. Harry accepts.
 - a. Thang: Harry's been present through a lot of our events/programs, he contributes, voices his opinion, is connected and has resources.
 - b. Affirmation: All ayes!
 - c. **I'd like to accomplish...**
 - i. Grant writing
 - ii. Action speech to shake neighbors/businesses down for money
 - iii. Doorknocking, grass roots fundraising
 1. Glenda: Business + resident dues?
 2. Cuyler: Can't legally do that.
 3. Tim: Sponsorships! Get into relationship with people/businesses, then leverage
 4. Gary: We can/should have events with admission.
 2. **S+E CHAIR:** Brittany: I nominate Lynn bc she's FUN. Lynn accepts.
 - a. Affirmation: All ayes!
 - b. **I'd like to accomplish...**
 - i. I have a very complicated plan. Jk, jk. I'm impressed with what you already have. Also eval on what we have, see what folks are actually looking for, where they're looking for it.
 - ii. Building community (along with safety), people coming INTO the area from broader City/region.
 1. Cuyler: Please delegate, rather than trying to do this all yourself. Find event champions to work with you!
 2. Tim: Coordinate with Fundraising Committee to help us find that money (bake sale, auction, etc)
 3. **LIVABILITY CHAIR:** Harry noms Gary. Gary accepts.
 - a. Affirmation: All ayes!
 - b. **I'd like to accomplish...**
 - i. Concerned with Public Works plans, thoroughfares, zoning issues. City's gone through drastic changes in 2040 Plan, we should get feedback from neighborhood, share our opinions with the City.
 1. Tim: Is it the Board's role to push our opinion? Part of our job should be to inform neighbors so THEY can make their voices known.
 2. Thang: Not our role, other than to share out info for their opinions

3. Gary: We are elected, have a responsibility to be up on the issues and provide advocacy.
 4. Brittany: If it's something that's happened in our neighborhood, like the armed mugging at 34th, I feel like we should be able to advocate.
 5. Glenda: We don't need to send feedback on everything, but we can weigh at these meetings whether to weigh in as a board on this issue.
 6. Kari: A lot of hot topics come up in this Committee, bring these things to the Board.
- ii. Responsibility to the Lake, invasive species, boating without inspections, etc.
1. Jordan (Wedge): We collaborate with East Isles Neighborhood regarding the lake; we would be happy to include you folks as well. Email me (president@thewedge.org) and I'll put you in touch with the folks who are doing that work. We've been running a drain adoption program as well to assist.

c. Thang motions to reinstate the Safety Committee

- i. Glenda moves. Brittany seconds. All ayes! Approved.

4. **SAFETY CHAIR:** Glenda self noms. Brittany self noms.

a. **I'd like to accomplish...**

- i. Glenda: Interested from brainstorming on current and possible activities in the area. Safety issues in business community.
- ii. Glenda: Facilitate all safety concerns brought forward, be proactive with MPD, MPRB, business community.
- iii. Brittany: 90% Block Capt. Coverage, hosting 1 training per year, where the City trains new Block Capt. Coordinating with neighborhoods around us, to help bolster our safety. (Coordinating us, bordering neighborhoods, and the City)
 1. Gary: Gang problem is the crux of our problems. Whatever support we can give to US attorney, who's working on this. Also making folks aware of the problem. Also urge CM to beef up MPD.
 2. Kari: Having run this for a year, folks do NOT know how to use/navigate the City's resources. General data about EBMS is missing for the City, we need to be the people creating these comms.
 3. Tim: I see need/opp, we have \$11K in home security rebates. Get Block Captains to put the word out on this. Maybe they want alley coverage. (Brittany: Also signage, could put up Neighborhood Watch signs).

5. **9:02 pm: Adjourn**