

**East Bde Maka Ska Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 9, 2021 via video conference.**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Lee Todd, Secretary David Tompkins, Treasurer Judy Shields, Ryan Brown, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Louis Schulz-Welo, Joe Wehri, Eric Wulfsberg.

Board member absent: Vice President Deb Jessen, Sarah Buchlaw, Paul Lussenhop, Kim Urig.

President Lee Todd called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Special welcome to East Bde Maka Ska's new coordinator Andrew Degerstrom.

**Announcements:**

- The Uptown Association is hosting Uptown Open Events the third weekend of the month through December. For more information, [uptownminneapolis.com/uptown-association/events](https://uptownminneapolis.com/uptown-association/events).
- Early voting for the 2021 municipal elections opens on Friday, September 17. For more information, go to [vote.minneapolismn.gov](https://vote.minneapolismn.gov).
- The Minneapolis Redistricting Group is hosting a listening session sponsored by the Office of the City Clerk on Tuesday, September 21, 5:00-6:00 p.m. For details, go to [minneapolismn.gov/redistricting](https://minneapolismn.gov/redistricting).
- The City Council's Budget Committee will begin reviewing Mayor Jacob Frey's proposed 2022 City budget on Monday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- MnDOT is hosting a Street Fair to celebrate the completion of the I35W-I94 project on Sunday, September 12, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on East Lake St between Stevens Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.

**Guest speaker: Charlie Rybak, Southwest Voices**

Southwest Voices will be launching in the next month as a news and information service for Southwest Minneapolis that will fill a void left by the closing of the Southwest Journal.

Stories on the news site will be free but they will also offer a membership program to help support the service. They are working on a system to donate a portion of membership fees back to neighborhood organizations.

Each neighborhood will have its own section on the website and Southwest Voices will partner with neighborhood organizations to publish content free of charge.

### **Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith**

Neighborhoods 2020: The application for 2022 Neighborhood Network Fund is due October 15 for the funding cycle beginning January 1, 2022. Our neighborhood is estimated to receive \$15,000. The board unanimously approved a draft of the application as amended.

See the Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee report for the update on the draft of the Equitable Engagement Plan.

### **Forums for Charter Amendments and Elections, Jane Connelly and Judy Shields**

**Ward 10, City Council:** The Uptown Association and Lake Street Council are hosting two virtual Ward 10 candidate forums: Thursday, September 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (the topic is small business recovery/infrastructure) and Thursday, October 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (the topic is community safety). For more information and the registration link, go to [eastbdemakaska.org](http://eastbdemakaska.org).

**Charter Amendments:** Several southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods are working together to host an educational forum regarding the three Charter Amendments that will be on the ballot this fall. The forum is Saturday, October 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and will offer both live stream and in-person at Mayflower Church, 106 E. Diamond Lake Rd. The amendments will be explained briefly and then one advocacy group will speak for a "yes" vote and another will speak for a "no" vote. For more information and the registration link, go to link [kingfield.org/election-education-2021](http://kingfield.org/election-education-2021). All attendees will be asked to register whether you plan to be in person or watch on-line. Those attending in person will be asked to be vaccinated, wear a mask and social distance. Most advocacy groups will provide a live meet-and-greet after the event, approximately 11:30, at tables outside (weather permitting).

**District 4, Park Board:** A District 4 candidate forum will be held at our annual meeting on Thursday, October 7. Candidates will be asked to respond to questions about park dedication fee, priorities for amenities at Bde Maka Ska and maintenance issues. Residents can submit other questions for the candidates, find the link on our website at [eastbdemakaska.org](http://eastbdemakaska.org).

### **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be a virtual event on Thursday, October 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The board unanimously approved the following:

- A resolution to hold a virtual meeting due to the ongoing pandemic.
- Approval to purchase a one month subscription to Survey Monkey for online voting of board members (up to \$35).

A mailer inviting all residents to the meeting will be going out next week.

The agenda will include:

- District 4 Park Board candidate forum (see above for details)
- Committee chair reports (chairs will submit content for Power Point presentation to Coordinator by September 24)
- President report
- Financial report
- Coordinator report
- Board member election. There are six open seats. Interested candidates are encouraged to go to the website for more information and to find the nomination form at [eastbde.makaska.org](http://eastbde.makaska.org). The new board term begins on the date that the election results are certified.

### **Coordinator Search Committee**

Andrew Degerstrom has been hired as the new East Bde Maka Ska Coordinator. Congratulations! Andrew and Monica are working on a transition plan.

The board unanimously approved obtaining a credit card for the organization's expenses.

Andrew will research securing an official phone number/phone for the organization and submit a recommendation to the board for an electronic vote.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **NRP Committee, Judy Shields and Monica Smith**

The East Bde Maka Ska Board unanimously approved the following recommendations:

- The NRP Committee recommends adding \$3,750 of uncontracted funds to the Home Security Grant contract.
- The NRP Committee recommends streamlining the Radon Grant program to be administered on a first come, first served basis.
- The NRP Committee recommends immediately eliminating the lead testing program because high levels of lead have not been detected. We will pay for any tests that get submitted on or before 12/31/21 by people who currently have supplies from our program.

We have a contract with Propel Nonprofits of approximately \$67,000 to support affordable housing in Minneapolis. The contract is set to end on 12/31/21. We would like to extend the contract by one more year if our funding is sufficient to carry us through 2022. The committee is evaluating our budget for 2022 to see if our current unspent NRP funds and the expected Neighborhood 2021 funds will be sufficient without the loan being repaid this year. The board will revisit at the November 2021 meeting.

#### **Social and Communications Committee, Judy Shields**

No report.

## **Name Implementation Committee, David Tompkins**

- The domain name of [eastbdemakaska.org](http://eastbdemakaska.org) was secured and the new website is now live.
- The Articles of Incorporation reflecting the new name of East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association have been submitted to the state and a notice of the name change was submitted to the IRS (it can take months for the IRS to acknowledge the new name).
- A statement about the new neighborhood name was included in the Annual Meeting mailer.
- Logo: The board unanimously approved the Name Implementation Committee's recommendation to follow the plan from last year's process to solicit volunteer submissions for new logo designs from anyone interested. The designs will be curated by the committee then narrowed to two options for a neighborhood-wide vote.
- The board unanimously approved up to \$200 for a flyer for the neighborhood-wide vote on the logo.

## **Bylaws, Ryan Brown**

The board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the following policies that are required by the City of Minneapolis:

- Audit
- Gift Acceptance
- Record Retention
- Member Hiring Policy upon the expiration of Monica Smith's contract

The Board Development Policy was introduced but is a very detailed policy. Ryan Brown is asking for feedback from board members about the scope of the policy.

Ryan Brown, Jane Connelly and Monica Smith reviewed a draft of the new bylaws. A call is scheduled with the lawyer to ask specific questions about the draft.

The City is requiring the neighborhood organizations allow business owners to become members and board members (we will cap the number at three business owners as board members).

Ryan will give an update on the proposed bylaws at the Annual Meeting and the board will vote to adopt the new bylaws at the November or December meeting.

## **Green Team**

No report.

## **Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri**

The draft of the Equitable Engagement Plan was submitted to Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR). We are waiting for feedback from NCR. The formal application is due by October 15 and the funding cycle will begin on January 1. The application will be electronically approved by the board.

**Public Safety, Paul Lussenhop**

The committee hosted a successful Forum on Community Safety on August 23.

**Livability Committee, Lee Todd and David Tompkins**

Bde Maka Ska Refectory: The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the project design. The Park Board will be finalizing the financial package for the rebuild project this fall which could include the use of some or all of our neighborhood park dedication fee funds.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.