

Southside Green Zone Council

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting

May 4, 2022 - 06:30 PM

Phillips Community Center, "South" Meeting Room

Members Present: Samara Adam, Karen Clark, Megan Kuhl-Stennes, Joel McReynolds (Quorum - 9)

Members absent: Cassandra Holmes, Kowsar Mohamed, Muhubo Mohamed, Viviana Rodriguez, and José Luis Villaseñor

Guests: Rob Hendrickson, Spencer Polk, Jennifer Davis, Elizabeth Michael Davis, Soren Jensen, Tim Springer, Chad Hebert, Michelle Shaw, Josh Hansen-Connell, Steven Kutz

Staff : Kelly Muellman

Minutes from last two meetings:

1. [Feb 2, 2022 Southside Green Zone Council](#)
2. [Apr 6, 2022 Southside Green Zone Council](#)

Introductions

Samara opened the meeting. There were not enough members present to make quorum. Members and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

New development in Ventura Village

Steven Kutz with Common Good Investments was present to present on a new housing development he is working on in partnership with [The Link](#). The property is at 2121 13th Ave South. The current structure would be torn down and replaced with 10 units of housing for young adults coming out of homelessness. The building will have a combination of studios, one-bedrooms and offices for The Link. This development will be part of The Link's [Project Live Out Loud \(PLOL\)](#) which is a rapid rehousing program for youth who identify anywhere on the LGBTQ spectrum. It will be a two-year program, starting with a housing-first approach. For questions, please contact stevenkutz6@gmail.com.

Presentations from SSGZ funding recipients

In fall 2021, \$50,000 was made available to fund community-led projects advancing environmental justice in the Northside and Southside Green Zones. Ten recipients each received \$5,000 to start a new project or advance a project in progress. Six of those projects were located in the Southside Green Zone and four presenters shared their work.

Soren Jensen and Tim Springer with Midtown Greenway Coalition – The \$5,000 from the Green Zones funding paid for the **design of a light-emitting sculpture** at the 18th Ave entrance to the Midtown Greenway. There was a call for artists and the winning sculpture was selected by votes from community members, with weight placed on votes coming from Southside Green Zone residents. The sculptor is [Heather Doyle, Artistic Director for the Fire Arts Studio](#) at Chicago and 38th. [The piece of art is called “New Dawn”](#). The sculpture will be solar-powered. Midtown Greenway Coalition hopes to repeat this up and down the Greenway at different on- and off-ramps. The light-emitting sculptures will help with safety and wayfinding while supporting the culture of the Southside community. The sculpture is primarily stainless steel, coated with enamel. It will put out enough lumens to replace a city streetlight.

Chad Hebert with Little Earth Residents Association – The \$5,000 from the Green Zones funding paid for a **Native Cooking Workforce Development program** from six- to seventeen-year-olds. It was a nine-week culinary program with seven youth and three chefs. The only requirement was to cook from scratch. This was the greatest level of engagement they have had. They did topics of food safety and kitchen safety and were able to purchase some equipment which will live on. They still get together once a week to cook a meal (beyond the program). One highlight: they kids were asked to do an event for the Native Youth Worker Circle and made a meal for 70+ attendees. They demonstrated the youth could take time-sensitive produce and turn it into something.

Chad also mentioned that Little Earth is working on a 20,000 sq ft greenhouse and aquaponics project that will also be a workforce development program while providing fresh fish and produce for Little Earth residents.

Karen Clark with Women’s Environmental Institute and East Phillips Neighborhood Institute – Karen shared that EPNI used the \$5,000 Green Zones funding for two parts of a project: 1) help the EPNI organizer have another month of employment and hiring translators for community meetings, and 2) create signage for the Southside Green Zone - so people knew what the Green Zones were and when they were entering. They hired [Sandy Speiler \(led Heart of the Beast May Day Parade\)](#) to be the artist and instructor. There will be 120 signs - each sign will have the map of the Green Zone boundary on one side and an arrow and heart to show where each sign’s location is on the map. They will produce 80 small signs (lawn signs), 80 large signs (2' x 4'), and four extra-large signs (4' x 8') which will be placed at Roof Depot, Little Earth, Cedar Riverside, and one undecided location. The signs were translated into four additional languages (Ojibwe, Spanish, Somali and Dakota). The Native translators were really excited about having translated signs. EPNI is working with a union printer. They are still recruiting people to work with Sandy on the installation of signs and have stipends for participants. WEI added \$3,400 on top of the Green Zones funds. Signs should start going up in two weeks. Call Karen or Cassie to volunteer to install signs.

Michelle Shaw with Minneapolis Edible Boulevards – Minneapolis Edible Boulevards used the \$5,000 Green Zones funding to 1) host virtual cooking classes over the winter with cook Kelly Shay – the most popular class was cauliflower wings, 2) create a “Budding Plant-Based Directory” and 3) create maps of edible boulevards and community gardens.

- [Budding Plant-Based Directory](#) (online version)
- [Minneapolis Edible Boulevards Map](#)
- Green Zones' [community garden map](#)

[Minneapolis Edible Boulevards application](#). The applications are available for participants at a single home, multi-family home, business, school, place of worship, nonprofit, or even on the boulevard at a community garden!

Michelle is also working with a couple community leaders to organize an urban foraging event on June 4th. Spots are limited, so she can't share the sign-up publicly, but she will invite Green Zone members.

Check out the [Minneapolis Edible Boulevards Facebook page](#) for updates on all their events.

KJ Starr with West Bank Business Association was unable to attend. Kelly showed images of the clean-up, planting and beautification of Edna's Park Food Forest Demonstration Project.

Kowsar Mohamed with EcosystemX (and the Southside Green Zone Council!) was unable to attend. Kowsar will be able to present on tools for storytelling, marketing, and engagement for the Southside Green Zone at a future meeting.

Southside Green Zone member recruitment

Three applications have been received in the last six months – Rob, Spencer and Jennifer. Kelly will move forward their applications for City Council approval in June so that they will be voting members by July. There are still at least seven vacant seats, including three youth ambassadors. Please help spread the word. [Applications can be submitted at any time](#). Kelly will have applications available at the Green Zone Summit on May 21, too.

Funding request: MCAD scholarships for Green Zones billboard design competition participants

While there weren't enough members to meet quorum and take an official vote, Kelly let members and guests know that LesLee Jackson on the Northside Green Zone had connected with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design to secure scholarships for the top 10 designs for the youth billboard contest. However, each scholarship still required a \$50 co-pay. LesLee was requesting to use \$500 of the 2022 Green Zones funds to ensure scholarships were 100% covered. None of the Southside Green Zone members raised any concerns about using Green Zones funds for this purpose.

Attend and volunteer at the Green Zone Summit

Join us at the Green Zones Summit & Minneapolis Community Connections Conference
Saturday May 21, 2022 10am to 3pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center
This event is free.

[Pre-Register to attend](#).

Green Zone members are **highly** encouraged to attend and also consider signing up for a volunteer shift. Kelly will circulate a sign-up.

You can ride the bus or light rail for free to the Green Zone Summit / Community Connections Conference on May 21 courtesy of conference sponsor, Metro Transit.

[Download your pass](#).

Attend and volunteer for Indian Health Board tabling

May is Native American / American Indian Month. Join the Southside Green Zone, East Phillips Improvement Coalition and East Phillips Neighborhood Institute at the Indian Health Board on Friday, May 27 from 1-3pm. Contact Kelly if you are available to volunteer at the table!

Friday, May 27, 2022

1 - 3 pm

Indian Health Board: 1315 East 24th Street

Additional Native American / American Indian Month Events:

- May 2 - March (Indian Month, unknown time and direction)
- May 6 - DIW Resource Fair 11am - 3pm
- May 7 - LERA (Mother's Day Powwow & Clyde's Birthday)
- May 11 - Franklin Library (Giving out Clyde's book)
- May 14 - Brooklyn Park's First Native American Heritage Event 10am - 2pm
- May 18 - Event held at South High - (Collaboration of 3 orgs, Indian Ed, ? & ?)
- May 24 - NACDI Event 11am - 3pm

Adjournment

Next Southside Green Zone Council meeting: Jul 6, 2022 – IN PERSON, location tbd. This will be a joint meeting with the Northside Green Zone Task Force.

Announcements

Youth Billboard Design Competition for Green Zones

The Green-Zones invites all 2D artists living in the Green Zones ages 15 to 18 in the city of Minneapolis and regardless of their experience or education in the art field to send us your best interpretation of the theme “Environmental Justice” by depicting climate change, water pollution and air pollution, inadequate food and any related subjects for inclusion the Green Zones 2022 art exhibition.

[Submit your artwork.](#)

Contact: environmentaljusticeartcontest@gmail.com

The deadline to enter is May 15, 2022.

Winners will be announced at the Minneapolis Green Zones Summit on May 21 at the Convention Center.

Youth engagement in Hennepin County Natural Resources Plan

Hennepin County is seeking input from high school students and young people to inform the content, themes, and priorities of the county's Natural Resources Strategic Plan.

1. [Take the survey for youth](#) on Hennepin County natural resources by May 20.
2. Youth can join Hennepin County for a virtual meeting to voice their opinions on May 10 and May 19 at 7 p.m.
 1. [Register for May 10 at 7 p.m.](#)
 2. [Register for May 19 at 7 p.m.](#)

Learn how to have your water tested for lead

It's #DrinkingWaterWeek. To learn more about your water, consider having it tested for lead. Testing is simple and free. The City of Minneapolis delivers lead-free water to its customers. However, if your service line or home plumbing contains lead, the lead can get into your drinking water. There is no safe level of lead and it can cause serious health problems.

[You can request a lead testing kit to check for lead levels in your water.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Emerald Cities Collaborative

\$25,000-\$50,000 for general operating support/planning grant for community-based organizations to design and implement a local Energy Democracy / Energy Justice policy agenda.

Applications due: Jun 1, 2022

[Apply now.](#)

City Council's Budget Committee to review Mayor Frey's funding recommendations for remaining American Rescue Plan Act dollars

The City Council's Budget Committee has begun reviewing Mayor Jacob Frey's proposed spending plan for the City's remaining \$43 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

Mayor Frey outlined the [spending plan](#) for the remaining ARPA dollars during his [State of the City Address](#) on April 26. It includes investments in affordable housing, the City's response to homelessness, community safety, inclusive economic recovery initiatives and climate and public health funding. The City has been awarded \$271 million in ARPA funding.

City Council timeline for ARPA phase two

- **10 a.m. Friday, May 6:** The City Council Budget Committee held another presentation on the mayor's recommendation for the remaining ARPA funding.
- **6:05 p.m. Thursday, May 12:** The Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on the spending plan in Room 317, City Hall, 350 Fifth St. S. [Learn how to participate in a public hearing.](#)

- **10 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, and if necessary 10 a.m. Friday, May 20:** The City Council Budget Committee will hold markup meetings on the mayor’s recommendation for the remaining ARPA funding.
- **9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 26:** The City Council will vote on the ARPA spending plan.

The City of Minneapolis gets a total of \$271 million through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – a section of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The first installment of funding came in May 2021 and the second installment comes in May 2022.

[Learn more about how the City is spending American Rescue Plan Act dollars.](#)

State will soon offer help with COVID-related housing debts

If you’ve fallen behind on your mortgage or other housing expenses because of COVID, get ready now to apply for the State’s HomeHelpMN program.

- **Overdue mortgage payments:** If you’re behind on your house payments, you may qualify for financial help to reinstate your mortgage.
- **Other past-due expenses:** HomeHelpMN might be able to help with housing-related expenses such as property taxes, insurance, association fees or lot rent.
- **Resources to avoid foreclosure:** To find other resources, talk to a trusted mortgage advisor. Visit the Resources page to learn more.

Visit the [HomeHelpMN website](#) to learn more about the program and access "Get Ready" checklists. The HomeHelpMN website and materials are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#) and [Somali](#) by selecting the drop-down bar on the top left of the webpage.

WEBINAR: Insights to Better Serve BIPOC, low-income, and Renter Communities with Energy Efficiency Programs in the Twin Cities

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CT

[Register](#)

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-3014 or e-mail kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.