

Northside Green Zone Task Force Agenda

Regular Meeting

February 8, 2023 - 05:00 PM

Farview Park Recreation Center

Members Present: Akia Vang, Audua Pugh, Terinda Love, Joanne Goddard, Georgianna Yantos, Roxanne O'Brien, Michelle Shaw, Jayda Pounds, Michael Chaney, LesLee Jackson, Hillary Thomas, Markeeta Keyes, and Jasna Hadzic-Stanek (Quorum - 10)

Members absent: Lars Morris, Andrew Larson, and Anthony Taylor

Guests: Ulla Nilsen, Sydney Schaaf, Alejandra Rodriguez Diaz, José Luis Villaseñor, Tashawna Williams, Erin Bogle, Didier Bolanos Gonzalez, Joe Vital, James Trice, Juli Leerssen

Staff : Kelly Muellman

1. Call To Order / Roll Call / Introductions.

Akia Vang called the meeting to order and asked Kelly Muellman to conduct Roll Call. A quorum of members were present. Akia asked everyone to introduce themselves and answer the ice breaker question "what are you looking forward to summer?"

2. Adopt February Agenda.

There was a motion to adopt the February agenda with one amendment: adding a discussion of Aldi leaving the Northside, between items 8 and 9. There was a second and all voted in favor.

3. Accept January Minutes.

There was a motion to accept the [Jan 11, 2023 Northside Green Zone Task Force](#) minutes. There was a second and all voted in favor.

4. Stolen Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgment

Georgianna Yantos read the Stolen Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgment

As we begin, let's pause for a moment to contemplate an Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples. We have to start with honesty. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live.

The Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgement:

"We invite you to recognize the written histories of United States specifically Midwestern States as fractured. Let us acknowledge then that we are currently on the land of the Indigenous who continue to be systematically erased by policies and

practices that remove their histories from this place. Let us honor the enslaved people who built the wealth and foundation of the United States. Let us recognize the histories of the United States as complicit with the racism of white supremacy. We recognize that these difficult histories persist in present-day racial realities and privileges within our environmental justice movement. We commit to dismantling racism in spaces of our work. We invite you to work beside us to create change.

Adapted from: James Madison University - Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgement (jmu.edu)

5. **City Tree program**

Sydney Schaaf and Alejandra Rodriguez Diaz share about the three tree programs offered by the Minneapolis Health Department.

1. **Spring Tree Lottery:** Minneapolis residents can enter our lottery to buy a low-cost, \$30 tree (~\$150 value). The lottery is open from Feb. 1 - March 31. [Enter the lottery.](#)

2. **Free trees for Green Zone residents:** Green Zone residents can sign up for a free tree while supplies last. The Health Department and Tree Trust will deliver the tree and plant it for the resident.

[Request a free tree in the Northside Green Zone](#)

[Request a free tree in the Southside Green Zone](#)

3. **Trees for businesses:** businesses in Minneapolis can apply for tree(s) anytime during the year. The City partners with Tree Trust to plant trees in the spring and fall. Trees cost \$30 each and includes a free consultation with a landscaper, delivery and planting.

6. **Minneapolis Shared Mobility and Mobility Hubs**

The City's lead mobility planner, Russ Brooks presented on mobility initiatives in Minneapolis, including bike-share, scooter-share, EV car-share, and the expansion of mobility hubs (where all options are within a block of each other with signage / wayfinding, branding, seating and paid Ambassadors). Russ also shared that they are doing an on-road air monitoring project starting this summer. They will attach a custom-made set of air sensors onto an electric bike and hire someone to ride it around the City for 5 hours per day / 365 days straight. This data will be combined with the data the Health Department is collecting from stationary air sensors to create a really good picture of air quality in Minneapolis (and hopefully measure progress as the City implements air pollution mitigation projects over time).

[Mobility presentation slides](#)

7. **2023 Northside Green Zone leadership elections**

Kelly made a call for nominations for Northside Green Zone leadership team (4 members). There were five candidates: Georgianna Yantos self-nominated, Andrew Larson self-nominated (by email, in absentia), Audua Pugh self-nominated, Hillary Thomas accepted the nomination by LesLee Jackson, and Jayda Pounds accepted the nomination by Roxxanne O'Brien. Members were given ballot slips and could vote for their four choices. The results of the election were: Georgianna, Audua, Hillary and Jayda.

Thank you to Andrew Larson, LesLee Jackson and Akia Vang for their service in 2022!

8. **Minneapolis Zoning update**

Roxxanne O'Brien gave an update on the event Community Members for Environmental Justice (CMEJ) hosted on the importance of zoning. She also shared a letter that CMEJ wrote to CPED and Council asking for a 6-month extension of the public comment period and more intentional engagement. After some discussion, the Northside Green Zone Task Force voted to sign on to CMEJ's letter and send it to City Council.

9. **Aldi Leaving North Minneapolis**

Michelle Shaw shared about Aldi leaving North Minneapolis. Members discussed what the Northside Green Zone could do about it. One idea is to invite Wellington (the building owner) to a future Northside Green Zone meeting and talk about how they can get another grocery store into that space.

10. **Event planning**

1. 2023 Green Zone Summit (Saturday, June 10) - In the next couple weeks Kelly will set up recurring (biweekly, most likely) calls to plan the Green Zone Summit program / agenda.
2. Earth Day Summit (Friday, April 21) – interns working with Michael Chaney will be reaching out to staff and members to engage them in the event.

Announcements

11. **Minneapolis Partnership Engagement Fund**

This program funds community organizations for projects that engage under-represented groups in local decision-making. Applications must include a community-based organization and a neighborhood association.

[Applications will be accepted starting in January 2023.](#)

Community reviewers needed - [join the proposal review panel.](#)

12. **Minneapolis Tree Program - Survey and spring Tree Sale**

The Minneapolis Health Department and Tree Trust work together to offer low-cost trees for Minneapolis residents. Below you will find information about our tree programs and resources you can access in your neighborhood. Please fill out [this short survey](#) to let us know how we can get more trees in your neighborhood. We can come to your meeting, bring you flyers, host workshops, and more.

Residents: Minneapolis residents can enter our lottery to buy a low-cost, \$30 tree (~\$150 value). The lottery is open from Feb. 1 - March 31. We'll notify you in April if you're selected to order a tree and pick-up will take place in May. All the information to plant and care for your new tree will be provided.

[Enter the lottery](#)

Green Zones residents: Our main goal is to plant in neighborhoods that have the least number of trees. We want to make sure everyone has equal access to trees, so we are prioritizing the Green Zones and the Northside where the 2011 tornado went through. [Green Zones](#) are areas that have historically had high levels of pollution, a high population of people of color, and people with low income.

We provide free trees in these areas. We'll help you select your free tree(s), decide where you want them to go, and even plant them for you. All you need to do is water them every week.

[Request a free tree in the Northside Green Zone](#)

[Request a free tree in the Southside Green Zone](#)

13. **After Hours networking mixer and community emergency preparedness event** - February 28

Join hosts for a conversation on keeping our communities and families safe and prepared for a natural disaster. Hosted by You Need It, I Got It LLC, Off the Blue Couch and Community Members for Environmental Justice

February 28, 2023, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ward 4 Council Office - 4205 Webber Parkway, Minneapolis MN 55412

[After Hours Event flyer](#)

14. **Become the 2023 Northside Green Zone VISTA**

[Apply now to be the 2023 Northside Green Zone VISTA](#). Deadline to apply is 2/12.

Member Duties: The Northside Green Zone (NSGZ) VISTA will work with staff of the Minneapolis Health Department, members of the NSGZ Task Force, community based organizations, the Southside Green Zone Council, and community members to support the planning and implementation of the second annual Green Zone Summit. They will work with the NSGZ Task force on a Community Air Monitoring Project, grantmaking and project support for community-

led Green Zone funded projects (including communicating with organizations and individuals funded in 2022 to receive final reports, videos or presentations, coordinating with Finance through the funding process, and supporting reporting at the end of 2023.) Finally, they will communicate sustainability activities by reporting on progress to Sustainability network.

Program Benefits: Living Allowance, Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend, Education award upon successful completion of service, Health Coverage, Childcare assistance if eligible, Relocation Allowance, Housing, Housing Allowance.

15. Open enrollment for PV Solar training

Regional Apprenticeship Training Center has open enrollment for PV Solar training. Here are the next couple of dates: Feb. 20th-March 2nd (Cohort 1), April 10th - April 20th (Cohort 2), and May 8th-May 18th (Cohort 3).

<https://renewablenrgpartners.com/training/>

[RATC Training Flyer](#)

16. Minneapolis Edible Boulevards community member survey

Please fill out our [Minneapolis Edible Boulevards' Community Member Survey](#), and you'll have a chance to win one of two prizes. We're seeking input from Minneapolis residents on changing the boulevard ordinance so we can grow food just like St. Paul. [Our soil test results](#) from the last 3 years show that we can grow food safely on boulevards. If you'd like information on the 100 or so soil tests the Minneapolis Health Department conducted on boulevards, please reach out to minneapolisedibleboulevards@gmail.com.

17. Climate Generation Youth Climate Justice Summit - March 30

Climate Generation is planning a [Youth Climate Justice Summit](#) at the State Capitol in March.

Details:

- Date: Thursday, March 30
- Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM CT
- Location: Good Neighbor Center, 441 Rice St. St. Paul, MN 55103
- Legislative meetings: MN State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, St Paul, MN 55155
- Registration: FREE. [Register here](#).

18. Black Indigenous Storytelling - Feb 1, 15 & 22

Mark your calendars! This is a 3-part series dedicated to creating a safe space for Black Indigenous relatives to amplify our voices and experiences in the community and with each other. Come by MIGIZI for snacks, tobacco pouch making, and community building.

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/MIGIZIMN/>

Who: This event is for Black and Indigenous youth, families and community members. Each session will be led by Black Indigenous community members.

When: Wednesday, February 1st, 15th, and 22nd | 4:00 - 6:00 PM |

Where: MIGIZI, 2610 E 32nd St, Minneapolis, MN

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: Call 612-721-6631 or email programs@migizi.org to register.

19. Request free PPE from the Minneapolis Health Department

[PPE Request Form](#) for 2023

Please use this form for request of Personal Protective Equipment, test kits or other supplies from the Minneapolis Health Department related to the COVID-19 response. Please note that not all listed or requested items may be available. Request will be prioritized by the Minneapolis Health Department and may be modified or denied.

20. Energy Bills too High event

Are your energy bills through the roof this winter? Come for a community gathering to learn about programs that offer energy bill assistance and discuss how we can work together to change the system. Dinner included & children welcome!

Thursday, February 16

6 – 8pm

Oak Park Neighborhood Center, 1701 Oak Park Ave N

[RSVP online](#)

Questions? Contact patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org for more info.

Adjournment

Next Northside Green Zone Task Force meeting: Mar 8, 2023

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.