

# Northside Green Zone Task Force Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 8, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Farview Park Recreation Center

**Members Present:** Leslee Jackson, Markeeta Keyes, Jayda Pounds, Anthony Taylor, Hillary Thomas, Akia Vang, and Georgianna Yantos (Quorum: 10)

**Youth on Boards Present:** Jackie (member), Lizbeth (member)

**Members Absent:** Michael Chaney, Joanne Goddard, Andrew Larson, and Terinda Love

**Guests:** Council President Jenkins, Caryn Scheel, Rachel Oberg-Hauser, April Mendez, Ulla Nilsen, Marcus Mills, Aaron Paul Keith, Tashawna Williams, Aaron Abran, Gisell A

**Online:** Lars Morris, Roxxanne O'Brien, Audua Pugh and Michelle Shaw

**Staff :** Kelly Muellman

## Introductions

1. Introductions: Jayda opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The icebreaker was "What is your favorite sound?"
2. Adoption of the agenda and acceptance of [Feb 8, 2023 Northside Green Zone Task Force](#) minutes. There was not a quorum of members present, so the meeting agenda and Februarys notes were not adopted and accepted.

## Stolen Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgment

3. Hillary 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.

## **Youth on Boards**

4. Georgianna introduced guests from Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Rachel Oberg-Hauser and Caryn Scheel to give an orientation to the Youth on Boards pilot project.

Rachel and Caryn shared background on the Minneapolis Youth Congress (MYC) and their mission of youth representation (motto “No decision about us, without us”). MYC has existed since 2007 and is made up of 30 to 60 youth in 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Minneapolis schools. Past issues that MYC has worked on include:

- Banning flavored tobacco
- Air quality (HERC, asthma)
- Drinking tap water
- Mental health
- Creating a podcast

Rachel and Caryn shared resources on effectively working with youth members, including:

- Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board [Tips for Working with Youth](#)  
Tips for adults in working effectively with youth as colleagues
- Search Institute [Developmental Relationships Framework](#)  
Concrete tips for adults in what it means to be in a developmental relationship with youth

Council President Jenkins shared how excited she was about the Youth on Boards pilot and seeing the two youth members, Jackie and Lizbeth, join the Northside Green Zone Task Force. Council President Jenkins is on the Board of the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board which has existed since 1985 to coordinate across the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to develop cross-jurisdictional goals, strategies, policies and action for the well-being of Minneapolis children and young people.

5. Connecting in small groups. Jayda helped break up the room into two smaller groups (each with one youth member) to connect with each other. Participants were asked to introduce themselves, share something they are passionate about and something that challenges them, and then answer the following two questions.
  1. Where do your interests align with the Northside Green Zone Work Plan?
  2. What other health concerns are you hearing about in your neighborhood or ward?

## Peoples Climate Equity Plan

6. Ulla Nilsen and Marcus Mills presented an update on the People’s Climate Equity Plan funding and process proposal. They shared that MN350 and coalition partners started this effort after the 2020 election, expecting funding to come down from Federal government. Federal funds are not accessible to most (must pay for projects upfront, then get reimbursed). The Coalition wants to see a Just Transition to clean energy for buildings, transportation, climate resilience, reducing pollution, etc. This is an opportunity to build wealth through family-sustaining, living wage jobs that are accessible to BIPOC, immigrants.

Members of the coalition have put together a funding proposal and process. Marcus shared the [People’s Climate Equity Plan 2-pager](#). People should have a say where funding goes. The idea is to create a body that would have jurisdiction over the funding. The decision-making body could include members of the Northside Green Zone, Southside Green Zone, Community Environmental Advisory Commission, Energy Vision Advisory Committee and more.

The presenters ask for feedback on community decision-making body.

Question: Do you have examples of similar decision-making bodies being effective?

Answer: [Portland Clean Energy Fund](#)

Question: How long would people serve?

Answer: This is open for input. Please offer suggestions.

Question: How would this compare to Northern Metals Settlement Advisory Committee? This committee doesn’t meet any longer but there are still funds to spend.

Answer: While the Northern Metals Settlement Advisory Committee is no longer active, the other committees named – including the Green Zones – have been active for years and demonstrate successful examples of advisory bodies

Ulla asked if any Northside Green Zone members were interested in participating in further conversation. Jayda and Akia volunteered.

## Northside Green Zone support of East Phillips / Roof Depot

7. Audua asked how Northside Green Zone had been supportive of Southside Green Zone and the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm. Kelly shared that the Southside Green Zone Council had submitted letters and requests to the City Council on this issue in past years but hadn’t made quorum in a while, so they didn’t have anything recent. Kelly offered to share these letters with Northside Green Zone.

Ulla shared that MN350 has organizers working on this and would follow up for more information. She knows that coalition partners are asking for Communications support.

April's meeting will be a joint meeting with Southside Green Zone and folks agreed to bring this topic back up then so Northside can ask how to support Southside members directly.

### **Justice40 and federal funding opportunities**

8. Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the April 12 joint Northside-Southside Green Zone meeting

### **Zoning study**

9. Kelly shared a recap of the special meeting on Monday to discuss the City's proposed zoning update.

Michelle shared a draft letter that she had been working on with input from Markeeta and Roxanne. Comments are due March 26, 2023. Because the Task Force didn't make quorum, they couldn't adopt the letter as a body but individuals and organizations could sign on.

Roxanne offered to work on edits and send around a copy for sign-ons.

### **Green Zone Summit planning**

10. Kelly will put out a call for volunteers for the Green Zone Summit planning. Watch your email.

### **Expanded scope of Green Zone Evaluation**

11. Kelly shared that GreenPrint Partner's scope for the Green Zone evaluation had been expanded to include a survey to capture more quantitative data that would inform the creation of a City dashboard. April Mendez requested to present to the Northside and Southside Green Zone together on May 24

### **Announcements**

12. **North Minneapolis Ash Tree Removal listening sessions**

Yo Mama's House will host 2 listening sessions next week for North Minneapolis residents who have been impacted by Ash Tree required removals and expensive related costs.

Cub Foods Community Room  
701 W Broadway, Minneapolis

Session 1: Wednesday, March 8 from 5-7 pm  
Session 2: Saturday, March 11 from 1-3:30 pm

Stipends and food provided

RSVP to Amoke at 612-403-0522 or [kubatamoke@gmail.com](mailto:kubatamoke@gmail.com)

[North Minneapolis Ash Tree Removal Listening Session flyer](#)

**Action Taken: Continued to meeting of Apr 12, 2023**

**13. Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) - MJ Jams Kick-off on March 3.**

Join Jordan Area Community Council (JACC), Metro Blooms, and Rusty & The Crew, Friday March 3 for our garden planning session.

March 3, 2023

1 p.m.

JACC Community Garden

26th Avenue N and Knox Avenue N

[See latest information on JACC's Facebook page](#)

[JACC Community Garden March 3 flyer](#)

**Action Taken: Continued to meeting of Apr 12, 2023**

**14. Minneapolis Edible Boulevards**

Free Online Zoom Class March 25: [Sowing Seeds for Summer with Tomia MacQueen](#) (Event Details and Registration Link in Description: those who need resources from Michelle will need to pick up by 3/22.)

For those not on social media: "Sowing Seeds for Summer with Tomia MacQueen": March 25, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CST- [Registration Link](#)

If you live in Minneapolis, please take our [Community Member Survey](#) by April 10, and be entered in a prize drawing!

We will be sending out Edible Boulevard applications in the next few weeks for participating neighborhoods, and we would greatly appreciate it if you could share those when available.

[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](mailto:minneapolisedibleboulevards@gmail.com).

**Action Taken: Continued to meeting of Apr 12, 2023**

**15. 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](#).

**Action Taken: Continued to meeting of Apr 12, 2023**

16. **Earth Day UMN Green Summit and Community Environmental Justice Expo – Friday, April 21**  
Network, learn, and co-create for a greener future while sharing your experiences working on environmental justice in the community with undergrad students!

Date: Friday, April 21

Time: 12 - 3 p.m.

Location: The Commons area at Humphrey School for Public Affairs

Direct questions to Lily Dodge - [dodge149@umn.edu](mailto:dodge149@umn.edu) or Britt Howell - [urbanfarmdirect@gmail.com](mailto:urbanfarmdirect@gmail.com)

[Community EJ Expo Poster](#)

**Action Taken: Continued to meeting of Apr 12, 2023**

**Adjournment**