

# Northside Green Zone Task Force Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting

December 6, 2022 - 05:00 PM

Farview Park Recreation Center

**Members Present:** Michael Chaney, Joanne Goddard, LesLee Jackson, Markeeta Keyes, Andrew Larson, Julianne Leerssen, Lars Morris, Linnae Nelsen-Seys, Roxanne O'Brien, Michelle Shaw, Akia Vang, and Georgianna Yantos (Quorum - 10)

**Members absent:** Yolonde Adams-Lee, Chavez Bronson, Anthony Taylor, Jim Voll, and Vanessa Willis

**Guests:** Hillary Thomas, Terinda Love, Tashawna Williams, Sam Hegreth, Jacob Rapp, April Mendez, Nicole Laumer

**Staff :** Kelly Muellman

## Introductions

Members and attendees were invited to introduce themselves. The ice breaker prompt was "what is your favorite children's book".

## Stolen Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgment

Kelly 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:

1. "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.

## Call To Order

At 5:30 the Northside Green Zone Task Force made quorum. Kelly called roll.

There was a motion and a second to adopt the agenda and accept the [minutes from Nov 1, 2022 Northside Green Zone Task Force](#). Motion was approved by acclamation.

## Green Zone Evaluation: Momentum and Successes

April Mendez with GreenPrint Partners led an activity to review the achievements of the Northside Green Zone Task Force over the past few years. Kelly read a list of accomplishments and guests from Northside Green Zone meetings in 2020 and 2021 (since the adoption of the Northside Green Zone Work Plan). April asked Kelly to call out and categorize the accomplishments that were done with primarily *internal* initiative (Green Zone members led it without City support) and ones that were done with *external* partnership (City or other agencies were key to achieving the accomplishment).

The Northside Green Zone Task Force members were asked to brainstorm accomplishments from 2022, and also note whether these were *internal* or *external*-driven efforts. They were also asked to note why or how an achievement was accomplished. Some examples that drove success included: relationships; staff with shared values / objectives; use of disruption vs. decorum (a.k.a., messy democracy); and more.

April shared that she and Nicole Laumer were closing in on half of interviews being completed or scheduled. They will come back in January and February with brief updates, and then present on evaluation findings in March or April.

## Northside ash tree removals

Roxanne shared that since the last Northside Green Zone meeting, she attended the Minneapolis Park Board meeting and spoke during the public hearing. She spoke with the Attorney General's office and filed a Civil Rights complaint. She also spoke with Park Board Commissioners and City Council members.

Kelly shared that staff internally elevated the issue to the Mayor's office; his staff promised to connect with the Park Board Superintendent. She heard some Council members were asking about whether a budget allocation would be helpful.

## Announcements

1. **Northside Green Zone AmeriCorps VISTA position** – open for application in a couple days. Please spread the word for recruitment. Also, Northside Green Zone members can offer suggestions for interview questions and participate in the interviews. Kelly will follow-up with next steps and timing for interviews.
2. **Minneapolis Edible Boulevard cooking class**

Join MEB for their next [Minneapolis Edible Boulevards cooking class](#) with Harmonious World and Wellness' Kelly Shay on Saturday, January 21.

**Who?** You and everyone you want to invite!

**What?** Cook along with MEB by picking up the ingredients ahead of time (they'll have those in the Facebook event description by December 20 OR you can email [mississippiriversourrelative@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiriversourrelative@gmail.com)).

**Where?** [Zoom Registration](#) (you can participate from anywhere!)

**When?** January 21, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Why?** To be in community, learn to cook healthy delicious foods, & have fun!

**Cost:** The cooking classes are free, and MEB wants everyone to have access to them. If you want to make a donation to keep the classes going beyond February in 2023, you can donate on MEB's [GiveMN page](#) (or send a check to their address on that page).

Stay tuned to MEB's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for what they'll be cooking.

### **3. Minneapolis Edible Boulevards – internship opportunity**

See the [Job description](#) for the youth grant position that's open through the end of February. Depending on other grant funding, there's a possibility that part of the job could go longer than Feb. if they'd be interested. The former intern's last day was yesterday, so please have them reach out to Michelle Shaw ASAP if they are interested: 507-363-1183 or [mississippiriversourrelative@gmail.com](mailto:mississippiriversourrelative@gmail.com)

### **4. Upper Harbor Open House – Dec 13**

Upper Harbor project partners are hosting a community open house on December 13 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Attend the event for an informational session to learn more about the transformative project. Hear the latest development updates and next steps for the redevelopment.

Tuesday, December 13 | 4 – 6 p.m.

The Glass House - 145 Holden St. N., Minneapolis

Participating organizations include the City, the development team (United Properties, George Group North, First Avenue), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

### **5. Northside Santa Toy & Food Giveaway**

Free for kids 16 & under

December 17<sup>th</sup>  
12 PM to 5 PM (or until toys are gone)  
328 W. Broadway Ave, North Minneapolis

[Northside Santa](https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/4270/Northside%20Santa.jpg/76701/3607/Northside%20Santa) flyer: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/4270/Northside Santa.jpg/76701/3607/Northside Santa>

## **Adjournment**

**Next Northside Green Zone Task Force meeting:** Jan 11, 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](mailto: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.