



EPIC Community Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2022, 6:30 – 7:30

East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center, 2307 17th Ave S.

EPIC web address: eastphillips.org

Email: sarah@eastphillips.org

Office: 2433 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 354-6802

Board Roster: Laura Dale, Mary Gonsior, Cassandra Holmes, David Ingold, Shontal Lajeunesse, Steve Sandberg, Earl Simms, Karen Townsend, Nikolas Winter-Simat

Board Members Present: Steve Sandberg, David Ingold, Nikolas Winter-Simat, Cassandra Holmes, Shontal Lajeunesse, Karen Townsend

Board Members Not Present: Laura Dale, Earl Simms, Mary Gonsior

Members: Brad and Carol Pass, Sonya Ewert, Jamal

Guests: Kelsey Fogt, Cody Olson, Jason Staebell, Lisa Austin, Aaron Tag

6:30 Welcome

- Vision and Mission
- Intros
- Agenda Approval, **NWS, StS, Approved**
[Minutes Approval](#), **NWS, StS, Approved**
- Group Agreements
 - Respect each other; aim for kindness
 - Respect each other's time; aim for brevity
 - Respect the agenda; aim for unity
 - Own your words, actions, and reactions; aim for peace
- How to become a member
 - Chat Sarah or email sarah@eastphillips.org with your email address and physical address (to verify you live in East Phillips)
 - All members are allowed to vote on EPIC decisions and motions
- Announcements
 - EPIC's Annual Meeting is **Saturday, March 26 from 10am to 11am** online and at East Phillips Park
 - Join us to hear what EPIC has been up to over the last year, learn about EPIC's financial position and participate in the board's election!
 - Call for nominations to join the EPIC board of directors! Go to eastphillips.org to learn more about board member responsibilities and expectations and to fill out the quick nomination form
 - Nomination forms are due March 1st
 - Can also be nominated on the floor of the Annual Meeting
 - Next Board Meeting will be: **Saturday, March 5 from 10am-11am** online (link to join is at eastphillips.org)
 - Board Meetings are open to the public

- Next Community Meeting will be: **Thursday, March 10 from 6:30-7:30** online (link to join is at eastphillips.org) and at East Phillips Park
- EPIC has a housing program! 0% interest! Fix up your home or buy a new home in East Phillips – Check your email for the brochure or go to: mncee.org/east-phillips: [Programs for East Phillips Residents | Center for Energy and Environment \(mncee.org\)](#)
- If you smell a foul odor around Smith foundry or Bituminous Roadways call 311 to report
 - Write down your incident number
- Join your neighbors in cleaning up trash on your block for 20 minutes every Saturday anytime between 9am and 11am!
- Are you a Native Artist? Apply for this [Lift Program for Early Career Support for Native Artists](#) that includes \$10,000; professional development; communications and marketing support; and more
- Take [EPIC's survey](#) to share how you would like your neighborhood organization to approach safety.
- The EPIC board reviewed and approved [year-end financial reports](#)
- The EPIC board reviewed and approved [quarterly financial reports](#)

6:40 Feature Presentation//Community Discussion topic: New public space opportunity at Hi Lake: Stephanie Devitt and Jason Staebell

- Project between Hennepin County, MNDOT, Metro Transit, City of Minneapolis
- Priorities of project (informed by public engagement from 2016-2019)
 - Safety
 - Support climate friendly transportation
 - More connected space
- Construction begins in 2024
 - Simplify vehicle crossings
 - Reduce number of pedestrian crossings
 - Increase public space (70 feet wide on Northside and 50 feet wide on Southside)
- One of the busiest transit areas in the metro
- Designing the space under the bridge
 - Guidelines for using space under bridges
 - Public priorities and values reflected
 - Community partner committed to the space for any non transportation use
- Some ideas they have heard or seen in other cities:
 - Recreation space (skate park, basketball court)
 - Mobility hub
 - Pop up shops
 - Public art
- Input from East Phillips neighbors on what we'd like to see under the bridge:
 - Idea to connect to bici Xicas
 - Connect Light Rail station to rest of community
 - Idea to have a youth pedi cab service
 - Connected bike route is important

- Neighbor likes idea of basketball court
- Neighbor shared that she avoids biking under large bridges - darker etc.
 - Would like something bright, welcoming, better acoustics
- How to encourage ownership of the space
 - Idea to have room for businesses - good food
 - Food trucks
 - Idea to hold events there
 - Neighbor has had history of public art being destroyed
- Needs to be multi layered - different things happening (can't just do art)
 - Work seasonally in Minnesota
 - Warming houses that are used for a Farmer's Market
- Public art Lighting pictures; safety
- Neighbor wants to avoid criminalizing unhoused neighbors for using the space
- Work with the acoustics
- Artwork (George Floyd art), lighting for safety
- Idea to close the street for events i.e. Open Streets
- Space to share resources - space where people can pop up
- Something installed in the space
 - I.e. space to store tables, chairs
- Neighbor shared that in the past they wanted to put Hiawatha under ground but ground water was too polluted
- Public instruments
- Questions:
 - How connected to Greenway?
- Next steps:
 - Process of listening now
 - Advisory Committee will look at feedback
 - Bring ideas they have heard back to community
 - Finalize design

7:45 Adjourn