

# Tab 1



# STEVENS SQUARE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Serving the Stevens Square-Loring Heights Neighborhood

1900 Nicollet Avenue #216, Minneapolis, MN 55403 ♦ Phone: (612) 440-0247 ♦ [www.stevenssquare.org](http://www.stevenssquare.org)

## Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda for Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6 PM

Plymouth Church room 215, and on Zoom

Join [meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 865 7062 5115

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,86570625115#

Dial-in: +1 312 626 6799

## Staff

Lydia Millard- Executive Director

Khrys Wetzel- Communication & Outreach Manager

Adam Schneider- Greening Coordinator

Ashley Coleman- Grant Writer

## The Board of Directors

Ken Strobel

*Chair*

Open

*Vice Chair*

Karen Ives

*Treasurer*

Anthonette Sims

*Secretary*

## Members at Large

Maureen Wells

Jody Podulke

Scott Dickman

Robert Perdriau

Jody Podulke

Frank Perez



*The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the business of the SSCO Board, which makes its decisions based upon the work of the committees, and to have committee chairs make their reports to the Board. Only Board members can vote on motions and when appropriate, motions can be opened to the floor for discussion. Discussions will follow parliamentary procedure.*

*Any person who wishes to be on the agenda for a Board meeting should contact the Board Chair in writing at [board@stevenssquare.org](mailto:board@stevenssquare.org) ten (10) days in advance of the next scheduled Board Meeting. The Executive Committee reviews all requests and prepares the agenda.*

*SSCO recognizes that name and gender identity are central to most individuals' sense of self and well-being, and that it is important for SSCO to establish mechanisms to acknowledge and support individuals' self-identification. One way we can support identity is by honoring the name and pronouns that each of us go by.*

*Many people might go by a name in daily life that is different from their legal name. In our gatherings, we seek to refer to people by the names that they go by.*

*Pronouns can be a way to affirm someone's gender identity, but they can also be unrelated to a person's identity. They are simply a public way in which people are referred to in place of their name (e.g. "he" or "she" or "they" or "ze" or something else). At all SSCO Board and committee meetings, you are invited (if you want to) to share what pronouns you go by, and we seek to refer to people using the pronouns that they share. The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity.*

**City of Minneapolis Land Acknowledgement:** *As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, and today is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all of its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in SSCO, and we honor it as we begin our meeting.*

**Attended:** Ken Strobel (Board Chair), Karen Ives, Maureen Wells, Scott Dickman, Robert Perdriau, Frank Perez, Lydia Millard, Khrys Wetzel, Jody Podulke, Uma (Centerpoint Energy), Neal (Centerpoint), Adam Schneider, Anthonette Sims, Anne Ludlow (Plymouth Church + Neighbor), Cara (Neighbor), Ashley Coleman (Grantwriter), Shykala Brinkman (Neighbor), Jose Herrera (Neighbor), Molly Ellis (Events & Engagement Committee), Kat Knudson (Centerpoint), Redwan Adem (CityWorks)

**6:00: Minutes & Agenda**

- Approve minutes from the [April Board Meeting](#)
  - Frank moves to approve, Robert Seconds. Unanimous vote to approve minutes.
- Approve today's agenda.
  - Maureen moves to approve, seconded by Scott. Unanimous vote to approve.

**6:10 Executive Director:**

- [Equitable Engagement Tracking 2025](#)- committee and staff allocation
- 2025 SSCO Yearly Calendar

# 2025

## SSCO Yearly

### January

- NCR Annual Report
- Review 2025 Goals
- Review 2025 Financial Budget
- Sign Amendment Form

### February

- **2/15 Event: Board Retreat**
- Annual Review for ED
- Board Evaluation

### March

- **3/22 Event: Spring into Community**
- 3/15 Neighborhood Cleanup

### April

- Approve 990 tax
- 4/19 Earth Day Event- Neighborhood Cleanup
- Adopt a Drain Launch

### May

- **5/3: Event Neighborhood Day Fundraiser**
- 5/17 Neighborhood Cleanup
- 5/19 Overlook Garden

### June

- **6/21 Event: 50th Celebration/ Red Hot Arts Festival/ Juneteenth**
- 6/21 Neighborhood Cleanup
- Cooperative Energy Future
- 6/30 Overlook Garden

### July

- 7/19 Neighborhood Cleanup
- 7/28 Overlook Garden

### August

- **8/7 Event: Annual Board Meeting & Election**
- Review current board terms/ Vote in new board members
- Conflict of Interest Form
- Cooperative Energy Future
- 8/16 Neighborhood Cleanup
- 8/25 Overlook Garden

### September

- **9/27 Event: Pups & Pumpkins**
- Cooperative Energy Future
- 9/20 Neighborhood Cleanup
- 9/29 Overlook Garden

### October

- 10/18 Neighborhood Cleanup
- Google Drive Cleanup

### November

- Review Financial Budget
- Review Board Calendar
- Survey of Demographics
- Rent Rebate Review

### December

- **12/13 Event: Final Quarterly Meeting**
- By-Laws Review
- Financial Budget 2026 Approval
- Board Calendar for 2026 Approval

We have a few plots left at LaSalle garden if folks want to garden!  
Contact Adam ([greening@stevenssquare.org](mailto:greening@stevenssquare.org)) for information and to reserve.

### 6:15 New Business

- On 4/29- SSCO will collaborate with Group Raise to fundraise in conjunction with Cajun Boiling. This will be our event contribution for Neighborhood Day.
  - Cajun Boiling gives 15% of proceeds.
  - **Total Spent:\$107, Fundraiser Total: \$16.09**
    - Check will be mailed
  - Logo chosen!



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- Capital Planning Session on 5/1: Discussed feedback from neighborhood regarding 1st Ave road closure and reopening of Nicollet Ave.
  - Not a lot of great communication right now about road closures in advance, and no concrete timeline for when 1st Ave will be finished. Previous timelines have not been adhered to
- “We Push For Peace”- violence interrupter group will be in the neighborhood from May 1-July 1. May continue based on results.
  - Paid for not by the city/state/county- Mint Properties
  - Questions:
    - We were told we would have Mad Dads from the city council?
      - This is still in contract negotiation at the city level
- [Re-thinking I-94 Presentation](#)- Letter of support submitted: confirmation from NDC.
  - Signed onto letter, Adam let Ethan know that we approved signing onto it
  - Any next steps? Adam will follow up to see if there is anything else.
- Bryn Mawr- asking if SSCO will support a Ward 7 Candidate Forum or Meet and Greet sometime in late August early September, location TBD
  - Unanimous vote in favor to collab on this
- Women League of Voters: SSCO contribution will be to produce the flyer ([link here](#))
  - **Date:** Thursday, September 11, 2025
  - **Time:** Forum – 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Meet and Greet with Candidates; 7:00 – 7:30 p.m
  - **Location:** 2 Options
    - Brian Coyle Center – available at no charge
    - American Indian Center – checking on availability and cost
- Letter of Support for Electric Fetus and Franklin Ave construction-Letter of Support was submitted and confirmed by Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. She confirmed a follow up meeting including the letter on 4/10. Waiting on another update.

Dear Ken and Lydia,

We wanted to send you a huge thank you for your support of our intersection at 4<sup>th</sup> and Franklin regarding the addition of a median during the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project. As you are aware, we are not against the project as a whole but have many concerns regarding the addition of a median as we feel this will be detrimental for our neighborhood. With thanks to folks like yourself, we have been able to have more communications within Hennepin County and The City of Minneapolis in hopes to get our concerns heard by as many people as possible. Thank you sincerely from us for the letter you wrote to Commissioner Marion Greene.

Also, at the beginning of March we received an email to our general email address regarding your big upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> and Red-Hot Art Festival. Our apologies, it became buried during our prep for our big event of the year Record Store Day. We'd love to hear more about donation options....should we reach back to Ashley Coleman?

Thank you again for your support and we hope to be in touch soon. Lydia if Ken has an email address, please feel free to forward along. I didn't see any contact info for Ken on the website but could have missed it.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie and Aaron Meyerring  
Co-Owners The Electric Fetus

*Stephanie Covart Meyerring*  
The Electric Fetus  
2000 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Store: 612.870.9300  
Direct: 612.238.3411  
[scovart@electricfetus.com](mailto:scovart@electricfetus.com)

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- Traffic Signal Improvement Project: Beginning this spring (estimated May 12, 2025), this project will be reconstructing traffic signal and curb ramp infrastructure at 8 intersections in its phase 1. These locations will be at LaSalle Ave at Grant St, Nicollet Ave at 15<sup>th</sup> St, Willow St at 15<sup>th</sup> St, Nicollet Ave at Grant St, Nicollet Ave at 18<sup>th</sup> St, LaSalle Ave at Groveland Ave, LaSalle Ave at 15<sup>th</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave at 18<sup>th</sup> St. Some highlights of the improvements within the project:
  - Aging traffic signals will be replaced by new traffic signals with improved signal visibility
  - ADA-compliant curb ramps at all corners
  - Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)
  - Curb extensions to expand the pedestrian space
  - Ped Refuge Medians
  - LED intersection lighting
  - Timeline: June 30th start date
  - Scheduled to be completed by September 8th



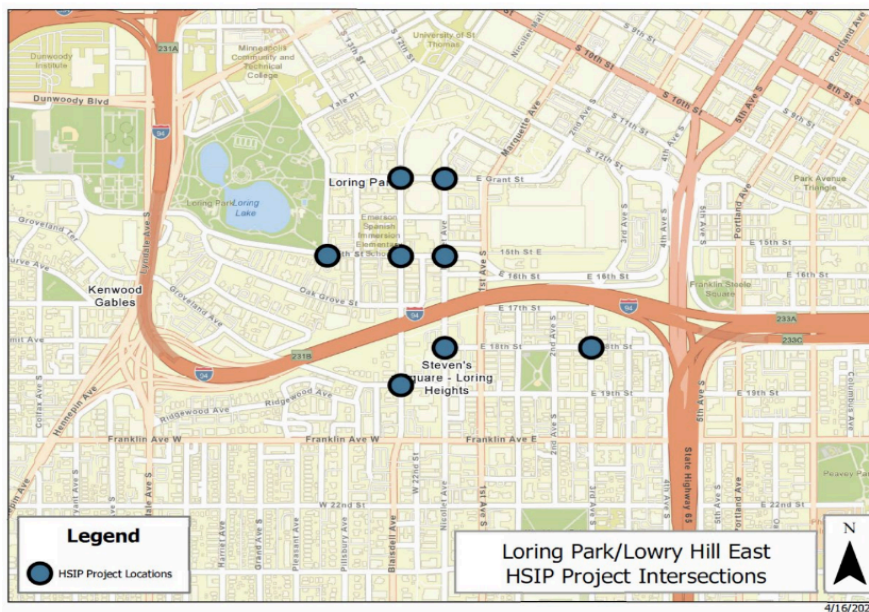
# 2025 Traffic Signal Improvements

Dear Neighbor,



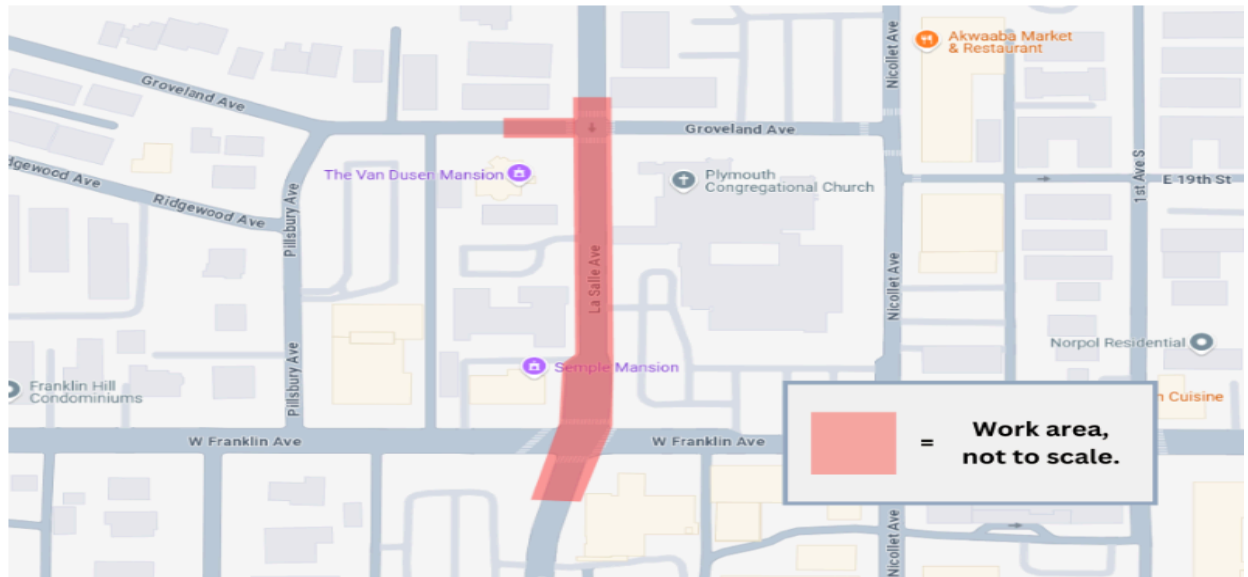
The City of Minneapolis is leading a project which will deliver Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Improvements to 8 intersections in Loring Park, Lowry Hill East, and Stevens Square neighborhoods. Work will occur at the following locations in Ward 6 and Ward 7.

- Nicollet Ave at Grant St
- Nicollet Ave at 15<sup>th</sup> St
- Nicollet Ave at 18<sup>th</sup> St
- LaSalle Ave at 15<sup>th</sup> St
- LaSalle Ave at Grant St
- LaSalle Ave at Groveland Ave
- Willow St at 15<sup>th</sup> St
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave at 18<sup>th</sup> St



Currently, City crews have installed temporary signals for operations during construction. Other construction impacts will include lane shifts/closures and some temporary access closures on the side streets at the project intersections. Pedestrian access will be always maintained throughout the project.

- Centerpoint Energy Upcoming Construction: Starting as early as Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> (Estimated 1 month). Upgrades to natural gas distribution in coordination with pavement project completed by Public Works.



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- Centerpoint Powerpoint Presentation
  - Where is traffic getting diverted?
    - Looking at a lane closure, so parking will be limited
    - Sidewalk closures
  - If you go to centerpoint's website, you can find updates in the Stevens Square area for text and email notifications. This is linked in the powerpoint

## 6:45 Board Member Training

- Ariah Fine- will provide an refresher on board member
  - Review the basics of what a board is and their roles/responsibilities?
  - What role do they play in the neighborhood? What can the residents, property managers and business owners expect from them?
  - How does the board help/assist staff and ED?
  - What tools and resources are available for board members?
  - Helpful tips to keep the board engaged and organized?

## 7:15 Greening Coordinator Update

- [April Greening Report](#)

## 7:25 Communication & Outreach Manager Update

- [April Communication & Outreach Report](#)

## 7:35 Committees:

- **Finance:** [Finance Report](#) March Expenses
- DBA- RedHot Art Festival- application will be re-submitted
- Purchased updated insurance for general liability
- SSCO Financial Reports for 2024 990 and AGO [report](#)
  - **Vote Needed**

- Annette moves to approve, seconded by Maureen. Unanimous vote to approve.
- Karen requests May special board meeting (closed to the public) to discuss budget cuts going forward. An email will be sent out to schedule this by the end of the week.
- **Grants:** [Grant April Report](#)
  - Spreadsheet to [track donations to 50th Celebration](#)
- **NDC/EEC:** [NDC/EEC April Report](#) -
  - Determine budget for 50th/Red Hot Art
  - Permits timeline
    - Emailed Travis and Marion Greene about 143 E 19th
      - They will be applying for variances to get the building ADA compliant
    - Heard from Khalid (CM Osman's office) about lighting, hoping for this to be resolved soon.
- **Safety:** [Safety April Report](#)
  - Had a meeting about plainclothes police in the area
  - Crime is down, but picking up
- Shykala has a question about Red Hot Art- are tables provided?
  - Yes, as they are available!
  - SSCO, Plymouth Church and a fellow artist are providing for folks who don't have one.
- Maureen motions to adjourn, seconded by Robert.

## 7:55 2025 SSCO Goals

- **Safety**  
Goal:
  1. Non-emergency assistance and MPD alternatives to mitigate drug dealers/crime and unhoused residents
  2. Partner/Collaborate with other Safety Walk Coalitions
  3. Provide training and educational opportunities for Safety committee members (ie. Narcan training, Housing Inspection...etc.)
- **Increase Participation in SSCO Events**  
Goal:
  1. Send out mailers to every resident in SS-LH area. Provide door hangers for select apt complex. Provide window flyers for businesses in SS-LH. Advertise events via radio (off-air & on-air), website, partnerships
  2. Increase traffic to newsletter and social media channels with targeted advertising.
  3. Continue to build relationships with businesses and residents in the neighborhood.
  4. Continue landlord monthly meetings

- **Funding**

**Goal:**

1. Create additional streams of income via grants
2. Use the additional income for:
  - maintain current staff
  - staff hire: event coordinator
  - general hire: safety non emergency assistance
  - provide additional security for property managers (ie. exterior/interior cameras, key fob/tenant only access to packages- smartphone package locker)
  - host more community events
  - provide raises for current staff

**8:00 Wrap up and vote to adjourn**

- **Honorary Mention: Rent Rebate Program/Landlord Integration**

**Goal:**

1. Will revamp with more process, routines and accountability/
2. Include each property in the rent rebate program.
3. Create a survey to send to landlords that will help update our demographic, provide creative solutions for rent rebate revamp and create a better story for grant proposals.
4. Send out SSCO Monthly Newsletter to Landlords to provide to tenants.
5. Create a recurring monthly meeting with landlords

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Visit [stevenssquare.org](https://www.stevenssquare.org) to view additional events and volunteer opportunities

### Events and Engagement Committee

*Combined with NDC Committee for winter*  
Usually third Monday of every month

### Neighborhood Development Committee

Thursday, April 17, 2025 6-7:30pm  
Usually third Thursday of every month

### Safety Committee

Thursday, April 24, 2024 6-7:30pm  
Usually fourth Thursday of every month, adjusted for winter holidays

### Board of Directors

Tuesday, May 6, 2024 6-8pm  
Usually first Tuesday of every month

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## Stevens Square Community Organization Mission Statement

*SSCO provides a respectful forum for community involvement and leadership that builds on neighborhood strengths to promote and improve Stevens Square-Loring Heights as a fun place to live, work, and play. SSCO works to strengthen Stevens Square-Loring Heights by initiating, integrating, and implementing key priorities:*

- *Economic development (housing and commercial development)*
- *Community safety*
- *Clean green environment*
- *Building community through the arts*
- *Community involvement*