



Board of Directors Meeting 9/2/2025

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Meggie, Risa, Evan, Zubin, Lori, Denise, Paul Z

Meggie moved to approve [Draft Minutes of the 7/1 25 Board Meeting](#), Risa seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Katherine reminded the Board about the [MDM Business Owner Social Mixer](#), sponsored by Paws & Claws Cat Rescue, September 17.

Katherine and Paul Z advised the Board about the delay in tax levy disbursement from Cook County and shared this month's [Cash Flow Forecast for 12/31/25](#). Paul informed the Board that we may not see our tax levy disbursement until December or later. We will need to access our reserves and/or line of credit very soon. Katherine shared the [2025 Financial Report](#) as of August 30, 2025.

Katherine shared the ED's [2026 Draft Budget Proposal](#). It must be submitted to the City of Evanston asap, first week of September. Evan moved to submit the 2026 budget, Denise seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Meggie's shared that she is still interested to formalize a list of expectations of MDM duties / obligations for constituent businesses and will continue to work on that.

Katherine reminded Board Members that 2025-26 Board Recruitment in high gear for September 30 vote. Jen Stumbaugh has elected to retire from the Board, everyone else is interested in remaining. There are 14 applicants for 4 positions, including many neighbors. Meggie suggested creating a Neighbor Advisory Committee to capture this enthusiasm.

Katherine asked Board members to please conduct interviews as they are able. Hopefully, at least 3 sitting Board Members will have spoken to each applicant.

Reminders that Evan's replacement must be a resident, as our bylaws required that we always need to have one resident on the Board. Treasurer and VP will be open with E & Z's retirement, so those will need to be chosen in the new Board as well.

MARKETING & EVENTS UPDATES

Katherine gave updates on the 10th Anniversary Celebration being held Thursday October 9th at Cora Healthcare.

Katherine gave an update on ticket sales and sponsorships for the 2025 Wine Walk. There are 249 tickets sold (199 paid, the rest are Board, Sponsor and other comps). Books & Breakfast has already recruited 22 volunteers, which is excellent, but we need more raffle donations.

Katherine shared that Spooky Saturday will need to be dialed back for cost cutting. We will still do Trick or Treat same as always, but will move the Pumpkin Carving contest, Kids Costume Parade and Pet Costume Contest to City VW lot to save costs.

Katherine shared that a [request for merchant collaboration](#) on the new “We’re Glad You’re Here” Holidays went out in the past week. Katherine will provide their feedback to the Marketing committee, who will discuss and iterate the idea. We need to cut costs on the event.

Small Business Saturday will happen as usual, which includes a gift bag with \$100 in purchases from MDM businesses.

PLACEMAKING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Katherine shared that the Placemaking Committee voted in their last meeting to use [directory kiosks paid for and maintained by the City of Evanston](#) instead of the less generic, fancy kiosks for cost cutting.

Katherine shared that the Dempster St gateway mural cannot be on the CTA viaduct. She is meeting with EMAP to discuss other options. This mural is funded by Evanston Thrives.

The Placemaking Committee will discuss [bridge lighting proposals](#) at their next meeting. These are funded by Evanston Thrives

Charles Davidson has agreed to be the project manager on the Main St Festoon Lighting project, as the lack of one has stopped the project in its tracks.

The Lighthouse Rotary Club voted in August to organize the Main Street Fair again next year! Katherine has volunteered to be a co-chair again.

Katherine reminded the Board of upcoming Board Meetings

- 9/30/25, 9am by Zoom - SPECIAL BUDGET VOTE
- 11/4/25, 9am by Zoom (Election Day)

[OPENED / CLOSED businesses, Open Storefronts worksheet](#) as of 9/1/25. Of note:

- **COMING SOON:** [Crepe O’Clock](#), 601 Dempster St – Greek pastry & treats shop
- **COMING SOON:** Conveniently Moving, 1239 Chicago Ave - ???
- **NOW OPEN:** Amanda Evanston Studio & Workshop, 809 Chicago Ave. Open House Sept 6
- **NOW OPEN:** Evanston Pet Center, 818 Dempster St – Grand Opening to come soon

- **NOW OPEN:** [Invisible Landscapes](#), 917 Chicago Ave – soft opening weekends only until they have signage and are ready for a grand opening
- **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS PROGRESSING:** 801 Main St building
- **DEMOLITION PROGRESSING:** Dard Factory Apartment Development, 810-383 Custer St (behind the Post Office)
- **PERMA-MYSTERIOUSLY NOT OPENING:** [Peeled Juice Bar](#) 1310 Chicago Ave – met the owner, who said 6/22 but it's not open yet

Meeting adjourned.