

# 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, February 4, 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-OOO

Scott Dickman

Robert Perdriau

Jody Podulke

*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@stevensquare.org](mailto:board@stevensquare.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.*

**Attendees:** Ken Strobel (Chair he/him), Karen Ives (Treasurer she/her), Maureen Wells (NDEC Co-Chair she/her), Ashley (she/her), Anthonette (Community Member she/her), Jody Podulke (At Large Member, she/her), Molly Ellis (NDEC Co-Chair she/her), Shykala Brinkman (Community Member she/they), Adam Schneider (Greening Coordinator he/him)

## 6:00: Minutes & Agenda

- Approve minutes from the [January Board Meeting](#)
  - Karen moves to approve, seconded by Maureen. Unanimous vote to approve.
- Approve today's agenda.
  - Mauren motions to approve, seconded by Jody. Majority vote to approve, 1 abstention.

## 6:10 Executive Director:

- Lydia Millard - Update on tasks/projects/processes
- Political Climate
  - We're going to need each other
  - General discussion of how community will be necessary, shared feelings & experiences
  - There was an MPD meeting at East Bde Mka Ska
    - Mentioned a form for folks to sign in case parents get snatched by ICE, folks could pick up their kids



- Continued weekly status with staff- includes Ashley
- 1/9-MSTAT Meeting
  - Top 5 911 Calls: Unknown Wireless, Unwanted Person, Receive Information, Disturbance, Unknown Trouble
  - Shots fired and a hostile crowd prevented officers from rendering aid to victim, officers risked their safety to get to victim who later succumbed to their injuries
  - Increase in robberies
  - Increase in burglaries- West Calhoun, (36th & Lyndale-Speedway)
  - Assaults decreased over the last 10 weeks precinct wide
  - CLPC Nicollet Safety Meeting

Where does the 230 count come from? There were no more than 30 people at 29th & 14th Ave and friends on Columbus said no more than 40 at that camp.

Both the council and mayor - the City - have allowed these unstaffed camps set up with potential health & safety hazards... Against existing policies for use of city owned property. Community gardens require more to utilize a city owned lot than vulnerable people. Non profit developers have had to go thru plan review to build structures on city-owned lots.

My priority concern is that unhoused neighbors have the housing and resources they need and that they are NOT put into harm's way. We can do better.

We neighbors have been saying we must do better and that we support a coordinated multi-jurisdictional housing first, health led approach not a regulatory services approach.

We are opposed yurts/tents with fires & propane because:

- A camp which burned down by Allina a year ago February - at 10th Ave & 28th St - did we learn nothing? Propane tanks exploded there too. Damn lucky no one is dead.
- Hazardous situations are allowed on city properties which are not allowed on County properties.
- EPA monitors registered 400 parts per million air quality, which is forest fire air and very dangerous to people both short term and long term. This seems ironic in a community fighting back against environmental pollution.
- What are we teaching our children; we must do better.
- September 18 we had 2 murders within 2 different encampments.
- 3 houses burned down on 2800 block of 14th - July 2022
- Property damage, burglaries, robberies, thefts occur statistically 2 blocks around each camp. Not new news, people know there has to be money to finance addictions.
- We have an unaddressed Narcotic Epidemic and need to be addressing root cause challenges.
- Sliding melted off of households next to the fire on 28th and 10th Ave; a camp which burned to the ground February 2024.
- Volunteers organized to stand with parents on school bus routes due to illegal activity happening around the camps and on public sidewalks where tents were allowed. Again city owned property.
- Families, organizations, and businesses stated clearly at recent community meetings and dating back to March 2022 when we held a community meeting where 105 attended and all electeds - Mayor, CMs, State Reps, State Senator, County Commissioner, David Hewitt, State Health & Human Services Commissioner and we left with supported requests for:
  - Outreach/Violence interrupters deployed immediately around camps to keep them safe.
  - American Indian OIC Residential Treatment Facility;
  - Coordinated health drive approach in partnership with Hennepin County;
  - A functioning 911/311 system so calls were answered;
  - A Southside Tiny home project and the Red Road Village was displayed as a holistic model;
  - An Encampment policy which modeled the county & we had a draft printed out in English & Spanish;
  - Accessible and culturally appropriate treatment; and
  - A Commission on homelessness which included people who had been in camps, outreach, adjacent households, businesses, service organizations.

This was March 2022.

July-December 2021 a Task Force was put together by Hennepin County which worked on 130 tents in the Greenway & solutions to needs. The county has had an ever evolving plan based on constant data and input since.

County encampment policy does not allow permanent structures, fires, dried wood or propane on property owned by the city. Because it presents a potential safety hazard. This continues to not be addressed by the City of Minneapolis. Fires should not be a surprise given the proximity of potential hazards next to each other. If this was arson, that would be utterly heartbreaking.

- 1/13- Coordinated Neighborhood Fundraising Campaign Discussion- Ariah Fine (NCR) will attend the next meeting to discuss marketing options for Neighborhood fundraiser
- 1/17- Met with Aileen Johnson- Neighborhood Safety Walks
  - Discussed Ken attending monthly meetings for safety association
  - Will combine safety walks starting in the Spring
    - Question: Many people are interested in participating, but there is the issue of background checks. There isn't a way for them to apply currently to be part of the Safety Team
      - There is an updated app on the website with the background check removed.
    - We used to have whistles for the walkers
    - Ashley: What time are the Safety Walks?
      - Times are set every 2 weeks. Typically Friday 7-9, sometimes Tues/Wed 3-5. Kemi does some on Sundays 1-3
  - CEF (Cooperative Energy Fund)- Adam and I talked with Kyle to outline better advertising/flyers and launch.
    - This is a point from last month's meeting
  - Robert Skafte Memorial- Women's Club
    - News coverage from KSTP- 5 ABC on 12/8
    - <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/true-man-of-community-remembering-loring-parks-robert-skafe-one-year-after-slain/>
- 1/22- Ella Deutchman- Discussed climate initiative to incorporate gas stoves for all apt properties
  - They have a fund to help property managers convert from gas to electric
    - Looking for more funding to scale this effort
  - Goal to do this by 2040
  - They have an application process- an outreach person is reaching out to property managers to get them on the list.
  - Lydia asked them: what happens if the big companies say no to an additional tax for their pollution as a way of funding this, and will they provide backup generators in case the power goes out and everything is electric. No answers yet.
- 1/24- Bush Foundation Application Feedback Webinar
  - Feedback webinar was more helpful than the one prepping applicants
- 1/27 - SW Coordinator Chat- NCR Annual Report, Attending other neighborhood events
  - 1-94/394 Elbow Stakeholder Gathering
    - Lowry Hill tunnel restructuring- they haven't landed on a solution. They are getting community feedback and learning from past projects
    - Talked to the manager of the project about what is a creative solution
    - Lowry Hill tunnel exists because Lowry Hill had money & power to keep them from going through and breaking up the neighborhood - Maureen
    - They are 10+ years out from actually breaking ground on any restructure
  - repairing/maintenance of bridges



- 
- 1/28- NCR City Support Staff Meeting
  - Started doing quarterly meetings with neighborhood orgs last year, which has been good so far

## 6:30 New Business

- Sam- Property Manager Abbott Apartments (resign)
  - On the point of property owners/developers in the neighborhood- can we get Yellowtree to send a rep to NDEC or a Board meeting?
- Cuyler Dinegan- Executive Director Bde Maka Ska (resign)
  - Folks in many neighborhood orgs in different areas are feeling low on capacity
- Grant Writer Hire- Selected Ashely Coleman for the position  
Ashley provide an introduction: Why you choose to work for SSCO, experience and what you would like to see in this position.
  - Born & raised S. MPLS
  - Recently had a local pop-up shop supported by the city to support local arts and businesses
  - We need hope, to create unity in the community
  - Wants to help underserved populations, enhance quality of life for everyone
  - 7+ years experience w/ grant writing
- Vote for new board member: Anthonette Sims- secretary
  - Maureen moves to vote, Karen seconds.
  - Any questions?
    - Interest in being on the board? Has been wondering how to get involved. Has personal complaints and would like to participate in the community like cleanups or national night out. Wants to feel more part of the space.
  - Vote: Unanimous vote in favor.
  - Anthonette voted in as SSCO Secretary
  - **NOTE: During the course of the meeting, it was discovered that Anthonette lives in Whittier and not Stevens Square so cannot serve right now. She can be eligible to be on the Board if she works or volunteers in the neighborhood, so she can come back and reapply once she qualifies.**
- Maureen: can we do a vote for Frank Perez's app for At-Large membership next meeting?
  - Karen moves to vote now- Maureen seconds
    - Vote: unanimous vote to approve
    - Frank Perez is a new At-Large Board member
  -
- CPED for establishing a cultural district for Nicollet ave, does not equate to more funds but there is a high increase of grant opportunities
  - Nicollet officially approved as a cultural district, needs to go through City Council
  - this gives us opportunity to apply for more grants

- Collecting feedback from businesses who have difficulties obtaining a liquor license-timeframe it takes to get an approval, same requirements for businesses that close at 9pm as those whom close at 2am
- Tabling Loring Park Quarterly Meeting- March 17th (Music Box Theater)
  - Adam, Khrys, Lydia to table
  - 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- NCR Calendar for 2025

## 2025 Citywide Neighborhood Meetings Calendar



Topics covered

### All about organizational sustainability

- **January: Welcome to NCR**
  - Who we are, what we do, key resources, and how to connect with city departments.
- **February: Funding 101**
  - Understand organizational funding, city updates, grant deadlines, and additional funding sources.
- **March: Shared Vision**
  - Organizational structures, branding, and strategies for aligning missions and visions.
- **April: Avoid Burnout**
  - Volunteer recruitment, sustainability, and managing the "super volunteer" challenge.
- **May-June: Engagement Practices**
  - Build people power, leverage neighborhood connections, and create meaningful events.
- **July: Community BBQ**
  - Connect and relax with neighbors at a local park.
- **August: Monthly Check-In**
  - Networking and applying insights from past sessions.
- **September: Emergency Response**
  - Prepare for fires, storms, and other crises with insights from LaVina Brown and Erick Gustafson.
- **October: TBD**

All Citywide meetings are held every fourth Tuesday virtually on Zoom at noon

Topics subject to change



Scan the QR code above to see the NCR Neighborhood Calendar or visit: [minneapolismn.gov/neighborhood-resources](https://minneapolismn.gov/neighborhood-resources)

NCR will also be hosting some evening events throughout the year that will be shared on the calendar above and on the newsletter.

Please note that there is no Citywide meeting in Nov-Dec.



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Neighborhood and Community Relations at [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@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, llame al 311. Rau kev pab 311. Hadli aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 311

- - this comes from neighborhood orgs asking for more NCR presence and guidance
  - Question: [Community Connections Conference](#)
    - Everyone should attend (if you can)
    - It's interesting- there's entertainment, classes, etc
    - There was discussion yesterday about getting updated lit to the community about getting involved with the City and information on joining the
- NCR 2025 Deadline



# 2025 Deadlines

## Dates and Deadlines for Neighborhood Organizations



### January - March

- Amending your contract to add 2025 funds will require:
  - 2025 Budget
  - Updated Organization information and neighborhood info form
- Partnership Engagement Fund partnering opportunities
- March 1 - 2024 Annual Report will ask:
  - Outreach data: volunteer hours, doorknocking, flyering, contacts, activities
  - 2025 Organizational Budget
  - Updated insurance certificate
  - Policy updates and guideline compliance
  - Neighborhood Day plans for your neighborhood
  - Ensure website is up to date

### April - July

- May 3 - Neighborhood Day: An annual citywide event to engage new neighbors, including hosting neighborhood elections. Examples include ice cream socials, garden tool swaps, kickball tournaments
- Mandatory Midpoint Check-in with your Neighborhood Specialist - NCR provides summer check-ins for neighborhood organizations to support equitable engagement plans

### August - December

- Application for 2026-2028 Funding
  - Application and Equitable Engagement Plan
  - Updated policies and procedures
  - Updated insurance documentation
- Make a plan to spend down all of your funds, there will be no roll over

As 501c3 non-profits, you have several annual documents to be aware of:

#### Annual Deadlines

- January: Issue 1099s (Contractors) and W2s (Employees)
  - If your organization has an annual income of over \$750,000, you need a single source audit. Contact NCR with questions
- Renew Liability and Directors & Officers Insurance
- File with Secretary of State report
- Host a required annual meeting (MN law)
- IRS 990\*
- General Attorney Report form\*
- Random documentation checks will be conducted by NCR staff throughout the year

\*NCR offers a third-party CPA service for completing the IRS 990 and other relevant documents

## 6:50 Greening Coordinator Update

- [January Greening Report](#)

## 7:00 Communication & Outreach Manager Update

- [January Communication & Outreach Report](#)
- Contracting with Loft Writing workshop coordinator for March quarterly meeting
- [Community Mailer Draft](#)
  - Copy of poster





## 7:10 Committees:

- **Finance:** [Finance Report](#) Feb 2025
  - Treasurer Update
  - Give to the Max- additional funds update. All funds raised totaled \$947. We were misled by the website. The \$4,700 raised is based on the total since SSCO has been apart of the platform, not based on Give to the Max day. Budget will remain based on fundraising goals set for Ashley.
    - We have spent a good amount of the Robert Skafte fund (about half), though folks are still giving to it. This is a continuing fund.
    - Funds are different than anticipated with new staff hires, hoping we will get grants to maintain

## ● Grants waiting in review

- **Applied in 2024**
- RFP Community Engagement Pool- City of Minneapolis Public Works- \$300K (Jan 2025-80 applications to review)
- MRAC Flexible Art Grant- \$25K (Apr 2025)
- **Applied in 2025**

Date of Grant Deadline	Date of Grant Awarded	Potential Amount Rewarded	Actual Amount Rewarded	Name of Grant
1/30/25		\$160,000, paid over 3 years		IDEAS Grant
1/31/25		1000 - 5000		Community Support: Family Wellbeing
2/12/25-3/24/25	5/13/25	unspecified		People for Parks Fund Grants
2/19/25		Contract awards for up to \$25,000 will be available for organ		Minneapolis Partnership Engagement Fund

- Next Grant Application

- Contacted Timberwolves and Lynx for donations
    - Timberwolves said they have nothing
    - Shared a greenspace grant with Adam
    - Bestbuy and Bush have grants coming up
  - Centerpoint Energy Foundation: Mid June-mid July
- **NDC/EEC:** [NDC/EEC January Report](#)
- **Safety:** [Safety January Report](#)
  - Had a meeting last week, but neighbors did not show up
  - Looking for more ways to get people to join
    - Question: Is our neighborhood included in Nicollet Safety Meeting discussions? Not really

## 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

Neighborhood Development & Events <a href="#">Committee</a>	Thursday, February 20, 2025 6-7pm Usually third Thursday of every month
<a href="#">Safety Committee</a>	Thursday, February 27, 2025 6pm-7:30pm Usually fourth Thursday of every month, adjusted for winter holidays
<a href="#">Executive Committee</a>	Monday, February 24, 2025 6-7pm Usually fourth Monday of every month
<a href="#">Board of Directors</a>	Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6-8pm Usually first Tuesday of every month

---

### 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*