

Annual Meeting - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Mary Merrill Minneapolis
Park and Recreation Board
Headquarters - Board Room
Minneapolis, MN 55411
www.minneapolisparcs.org

~ Agenda ~

Thursday, January 2, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Commissioners

Commissioner District 6 Cathy Abene
Commissioner District 3 Becky Alper
Commissioner At Large Meg Forney
Commissioner District 1 Billy Menz
Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich
Commissioner At Large Tom Olsen
Commissioner At Large Charles Rucker
Commissioner District 4 Elizabeth Shaffer
Commissioner District 2 Becka Thompson

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

III.1.

PRESIDENT - ONE-YEAR TERM

III.2.

VICE PRESIDENT - ONE-YEAR TERM

III.3.

SECRETARY - ONE-YEAR TERM

IV. SELECTION OF BOARD ATTORNEY

IV.1.

GENERAL COUNSEL - ONE-YEAR TERM

V. ELECTION OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVE(S)

V.1.

PLANNING COMMISSION – YEAR TWO OF TWO YEAR TERM

V.2.

BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI. PRESIDENT’S APPOINTMENT OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

VI.1.

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION LRT CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE –
ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.2.

CEDAR RIVERSIDE PARTNERSHIP - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.3.

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.4.

LAKE STREET GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.5.

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS BOARD - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.6.

MINNEAPOLIS PARKS FOUNDATION - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.7.

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.8.

MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.9.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM BOARD - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.10

ST. ANTHONY FALLS HERITAGE BOARD - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.11

YOUTH COORDINATING BOARD - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.12

HOMEGROWN MINNEAPOLIS FOOD COUNCIL - TWO-YEAR TERM

VI.13

MINNEAPOLIS BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - TWO-YEAR TERM

VI.14

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT COMMUNITY PROSPERITY PROGRAM BOARD - ONE-YEAR TERM

VI.15

MCWD/MPRB/CITY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT - POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE -
ONE YEAR TERM

VII. PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

VII.1.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

VII.2.

RECREATION

VII.3.

PLANNING

VII.4.

OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT

VII.5.

LEGISLATION & INTERGOVERNMENTAL

VII.6.

STANDARDS & CONDUCT

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Advisory Board Commission Appointment Applications

**(The Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee and the Saint Anthony
Heritage Board)**

January 2025

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Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee

The Minneapolis Tree Advisory was created in March 2004 by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to enhance the Minneapolis urban forest and improve its long-term health. MTAC initial goals: to coordinate issues related to trees across city jurisdictions; to evaluate issues related to trees and report annually to the MPRB and City Council and to coordinate fiscal resources and explore new ways to acquire funds to increase support for urban forest establishment and management.

Term – January 2, 2025 through December 31, 2026 (2 year term)

Applicants

- Barbara Schlaefer (District 6)
- Mary Bolla (District 4)
- Tim Keane (District 5)
- Carol Sersland (District 5)
- Giuseppe Marrari (District 2)
- Gretchen Hansen (St. Paul Resident)
- Jane Bolla (District 5)
- Erika Commers (District 6)
- Louis Raymond (District 4)
- Karl Kussow (District 3)
- Drew Peterson (District 1)
- Gudrun Lock (District 1)
- Daniel Schulz (District 2)

Currently Serving

- Barbara Schlaefer
- John Kruse
- Mary Bolla
- Tim Keane
- Christopher Lund
- Giuseppe Marrari
- Carol Sersland

Applicant Name	Barbara Schlaefer
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Retired
Park District	6
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	I served on the board of YMCA Camp du Nord for 11 years, including as chair. Initiatives included buildings and land stewardship projects, strategic planning, fundraising, land acquisition, ecological surveying, tree planting and environmental stewardship. Received the Y's Skip Wilke Distinguished Leader Award. Served on the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council Board for six years and led its strategic planning committee. Volunteer regularly with a MPRB park steward removing invasive species from the city's regional parks. I worked as press secretary for Governor Carlson in the 1990s and served as strategic communications director for three state agencies including the Dept of Education, Office of Higher Education and Minnesota State.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>Drought, strong winds, floods, poverty are all negatively impacting the city's tree canopy. Trees are the heart and lungs of the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trees in the Park Board's 1,200 acres of 'natural areas' are threatened by invasive species and neglect. -We must advocate for a base budget for annual tree purchasing that supports the MPRB's stated goals (8,000-10,000 trees annually). -Collaboration with other agencies to preserve trees during construction is needed. -By growing existing programs and working with

property owners, we must enhance the tree canopy in in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Equity.

Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party: none

Applicant Name	Mary Bolla
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	retired
Park District	4
Employer	retired
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	I have served for 2 years and I would like to continue to be involved and have an impact on this commission.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>I continue to want to focus improving the city's natural areas. To me, this does not mean planting trees. It means removing invasive species to restore the natural areas and opening up understory and seeding to allow native forbs and grasses to flourish.</p> <p>And to add to the above issue, I am interested in hearing more about maintenance of trees and natural areas and not just the planting of. 10,00 trees. I believe human nature leans toward planting and creating, but the weeding and watering and months/years of maintenance and stewardship required to maintain a healthy tree, boulevard, forest, prairie, savannah is overlooked and not planned and budgeted for.</p> <p>I have also appreciated learning about the problems EAB has caused to private home owners in under-served areas and I've really appreciated hearing from residents in these areas and advocates of residents of these areas. As a result, there was a pause in condemnations of ash trees and now funds are available for past and future removal expenses.</p>
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:	My husband and I hold a conservation easement with MPRB called Firefly Woods - next to South Wirth.

Applicant Name	Tim Keane
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Attorney
Park District	5- current apptmt at-large
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<p>Currently serving as co-chair of the MTAC with Giuseppe Marrari in my second one-year term. My commitment to the urban tree canopy has only been enhanced with my service on MTAC.</p> <p>I have served as counsel and special counsel to public bodies (cities, CDAs, counties, special districts) throughout my career providing me a foundation of experience with public processes- including MN Open Meeting Law, meeting procedures, MGDPA laws. Member Audubon Society, LAI Land Institute, MN City Attorneys Ass'n, recipient of a 2023 Attorneys of the Year Award.</p>
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	<p>My commitment and dedication to our urban tree canopy to improve the lives of all living things.</p> <p>.</p>
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>Top 3 MTAC issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Properly funding and expanding annual forestry budget for tree planting; 2. Work with all other public agenices (Henn Co, City, MNDOT, U of M, watersheds) to more aggressively undertake to preserve and replant the urban forest in ALL public projects; 3. Encourage residents and MPRB forestry to commit to maintaining and hydrating our newly-established trees beyond the threat of drought and neglect.
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease	None

or contract to which
the Minneapolis Park
& Recreation Board is
a party:

Applicant Name	Carol Sersland
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Dance Instructor
Park District	5
Employer	Self
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<p>I have served as the MTAC Secretary for 4 years (starting in 2021) and have enjoyed the experience and the knowledge gained and shared.</p> <p>Worked on the Emerald Ash Borer and Private Property Sub-Committee for the MTAC.</p> <p>I am a Volunteer Conservation Easement Monitor for the Minnesota Land Trust.</p> <p>I am volunteering with the Racial Justice group at my church, Nokomis Heights Lutheran.</p> <p>I volunteer and am a paid dance instructor with Tapestry Folk Dance Center.</p>
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	<p>After working with citizens and an MPRB Commissioner on EAB issues, I think that there are other sub-committees or task forces that could be developed to create a more effective advisory commission role. I did quite a bit of background research and meetings for the subcommittee and feel like this is a good template going forward - would like to serve.</p>
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>Continue to address EAB and property owners and replacement of diseased and pest infected trees.</p> <p>Have MTAC work more collaboratively with the Health Dept's Trees Program as well as with other department's which address natural area's health.</p> <p>Work on cultivating a stronger volunteer presence for environmental /forest care taking: watering, pruning, planting, etc.</p>

Applicant Name	Giuseppe Marrari
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Product Manager
Park District	2
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<p>I'd like to continue the work I've been doing as the co-chair for this group.</p> <p>My experience is related to being in this commission for several years now, engaging with neighbors in North Minneapolis about their trees and the trees the park board is responsible for.</p> <p>I gave this year's annual report, and made recommendations based on input from the entire group.</p> <p>My goal is to continue this work, and ensure that the urban canopy continues to thrive and grow, while respecting the desires and needs of the park board and it's residents.</p>
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	I want to continue the work I've previously done on this commission and keep balancing the goals of the residents and park board.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	Tree equity, canopy degradation, invasive species, and tree education.
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:	None

Applicant Name	Gretchen Hansen
City of Residence	Saint Paul
Current Occupation	Change Manager
Park District	N/A
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	I have long desired to contribute to my community by serving on a board. I have previously served on the boards of two churches as well as the Trademark theater board, so am familiar with bylaws and other details of how boards function. However, I have specifically desired to be involved in decision-making concerning the green spaces that distinguish our metro area in the nation. With the changes in climate fueled by global warming, it is essential to make wise choices that safeguard and protect these spaces through fact-based management. I am a Change Manager by profession with additional certifications in project management and business process analysis. I can lend insight and expertise on how to bring together relevant stakeholders to clarify the problem, access options, select a desired course of action and plan for the execution of that plan considering both the tactical and human side of the effort. It would be a pleasure and an honor to apply my skills and experience in service of the Tree Advisory Commission.
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	The green spaces of the Twin Cities are unique for a metropolitan area in the nation. It is a legacy and a reality that contributes significantly to the quality of life we enjoy. I desire to be a part of the decision-making that contributes to the care, vitality and longevity of these green spaces so they can continue to add value far into the future.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	Proactively managing the vitality of tree species impacted by warming temperatures Tree biodiversity to reduce pest impact/damage Addressing tree (shade) loss and its impact on urban heat index

Applicant Name	Jane Bolla
City of Residence	Minneapolis
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	<p>I love trees, being outside, working in the dirt, and planting trees.</p> <p>I am very interested in learning about the environment and the impact climate change has on it and hope to be a steward of our beautiful park system. I'm so proud to show, and spend time with friends and visitors in our beautiful park system.</p>
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>How do we maintain all of the trees in our parks?</p> <p>How do we decide how many and what types of trees should be planted in our parks?</p> <p>How do we better prepare for climate change in terms of the trees we plant?</p>
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:	N/a

Applicant Name	Erika Commers
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Municipal Forester
Park District	Six
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	BS- Natural Resource Mgmt 6 years' experience in Municipal Forestry 2.5 years state government 6 years in arboriculture consultancy Served 4 years on New Zealand Arboriculture Executive Committee.
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	I am a proud resident of Minneapolis. I love living in this beautiful city and would like to contribute my professional knowledge and experience in any useful way the to the commission and for the residents of Minneapolis.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	1. Urban trees face many challenges to their longevity and survival; public outreach can assist with their enhancement and care. 2. Improve tree protection protocols near construction/disturbance. 3. Provide more public facing tree info on a map interface.
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park &	N/A

Recreation Board is
a party:

Applicant Name Louis Raymond

City of Residence Minneapolis

Current Occupation Landscape Designer

Park District 4

Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.

I've been a landscape designer for climate zones 5 - 7 for several decades, relocating to MN in 2023. I'm on the Board of the North Loop Neighborhood Association as well as elected to the CAC for the North Mississippi Regional Park. At the NLNA, I'm on the Parks & Public Art Committee, with a focus on the North Loop Park on 3rd Sg between 7th & 8th Aves that Michael Schroeder of the MPRB is designing. Learn more about me at LouisRaymond.Design, [@louisraymondMPLS](https://twitter.com/louisraymondMPLS), & at my [Louis Raymond wiki page](#).

List the reasons you want to serve on this body:

Being more involved in the analysis of & recommendations for the MPLS tree canopy will enhance my ability to advise on the North Loop Park project, the North Mississippi Regional Park master plan, and upgrades to James Rice Park. Knowledge gained from this position will also inform & benefit decisions I make in my design practice.

List the issues that you believe the committee should address:

Because the Metro is now rated climate zone 5, there are numerous advantageous trees to add to the possibilities for streets, parks, & private projects. And there are also trees best suited to zones 4 & colder that may now need more cautious use, as well as more intentioned handling. In any location, having the most diverse canopy possible enhances resilience. Depending on the quality of design choices made, & quality of marketing & outreach efforts, it can also generate advantageous press & social-media presence that can strengthen tree advocacy & budgeting.

Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park &

None

Recreation Board is a party:

Typing your name into the box below will satisfy the requirements for a legal signature.

Louis Raymond AKA Dale Louis McKinley

Applicant Name	Karl Kussow
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Vice President & Owner
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<p>I bring a unique combination of professional experience, personal passion, and deep local knowledge to the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC). As a Minneapolis resident for over 25 years, I have a strong connection to the city’s urban environment and a vested interest in its long-term sustainability. As a business owner and general contractor in Minneapolis since 2016, I have extensive experience in project management, community collaboration, and resource coordination—skills that are essential for serving on this board. My work in wireless and solar infrastructure has also given me insight into sustainable, long-term planning, which aligns well with MTAC’s goal of improving the long-term health of the urban forest.</p> <p>In addition to my professional work, I currently serve on the Board of the Minnesota State Wireless Association, where I contribute to discussions and decision-making around industry standards, technology, and sustainability. I also successfully participated in the 2018 cohort of the Minnesota Small Business Association’s Emerging Leaders Program, where I gained valuable skills in leadership, financial management, and strategic growth—tools that would help me contribute to MTAC’s efforts to coordinate fiscal resources and explore new funding opportunities for the urban forest.</p> <p>Growing up in the carpentry field and now as a general contractor, I have honed my skills in craftsmanship and environmental stewardship. As a hobby, I operate a sawmill and have actively participated in harvesting local lumber in collaboration with local tree trimmers, which has</p>

deepened my understanding of the value and sustainability of native trees. Additionally, I've personally planted over 2,500 trees across the state, fostering a lifelong connection with Minnesotan forests and gaining a thorough understanding of native species and their unique needs.

Beyond my professional and personal work, I am committed to the health of the urban environment. I have served on several local volunteer committees and am passionate about sustainable land management. My expertise in tree care, particularly native species, would be beneficial in evaluating and reporting on issues related to the city's tree canopy.

I would be honored to leverage my skills and experience to contribute meaningfully to MTAC and help further its mission to enhance and protect Minneapolis's urban forest for future generations.

List the reasons you want to serve on this body:

1. Personal Experience with Urban Forest Changes: As a 25+ year resident of Minneapolis, I have seen the era of Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer and witnessed how it dramatically changed our landscape. I also saw the efforts the city made to restore and rebuild the urban forest, and I am motivated to continue that work for the future.

2. Commitment to Environmental Stewardship: I have always been passionate about trees and nature. Over my lifetime, I have planted over 2,500 trees across Minnesota, giving me a deep appreciation for the importance of urban forests in supporting local ecosystems and enhancing quality of life.

3. Desire to Contribute to Long-Term Solutions: The city faces new challenges such as invasive species and climate change, which require proactive and innovative solutions. I want to help develop strategies to address these issues and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of Minneapolis'

urban forest.

4. Experience in Resource Coordination and Collaboration: As a business owner and general contractor, I understand the value of collaboration and coordinating resources effectively. I want to contribute to MTAC's work in securing funding and supporting tree management initiatives, ensuring the city's urban forest thrives for years to come.

5. A Strong Connection to Minneapolis: Having lived in Minneapolis for over 25 years and raised my family here, I am deeply connected to the city and its environment. Serving on MTAC would allow me to give back to the city that has been my home for more than two decades, ensuring that its urban forest remains vibrant and healthy for future generations.

List the issues that you believe the committee should address:

1) Boulevard Tree Replacement Planning:
Develop a consistent city-wide process for replacing boulevard trees when they die, ensuring timely replacements with diverse and appropriate species, while addressing canopy gaps.

2) Promoting Hardy, Native Tree Species:
Prioritize the planting of native, climate-resilient tree species that are well-suited to our urban environment and can withstand pests like the Emerald Ash Borer and the challenges of climate change.

3) Tree Canopy Equity:
Focus on equitable distribution of trees across all neighborhoods, particularly in underserved areas, to ensure the benefits of a healthy canopy are shared citywide.

4) Public Education and Engagement:
Enhance outreach and education efforts to engage residents in tree care, promote urban forestry awareness, and encourage community participation in local tree initiatives.

Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party: N/A

Applicant Name	Drew Peterson
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Warehouse Associate
Park District	One
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Resources Major with a Minor in Urban Forestry, University of Minnesota 2009 - Minnesota Conservation Corps, 2010 - Wildland Firefighter, State and Federal 2011 – 2015 - Seasonal Crew Member, Hennepin County Roads and Bridges - Above the Falls Community Advisory Committee, 2017-2018
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	<p>I have had a lifelong interest in the outdoors, and would love to bring both to the Advisory board. Having previously worked in the forestry occupations in various levels of the government, I am aware of the importance engagement from citizen, business and professional organizations can help come to the best conclusions and policy for a community. I also am raising a family in Minneapolis and we frequently use Minneapolis Park's and enjoy the tree's on our streets. A place on the board would give me a chance to help maintain and improve a valuable resource that my family, neighbors and visitors enjoy.</p>
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	<p>Right now, our urban forest sits on the precipice. Due to climate change causing longer droughts and increasing variety of devastating pests, one can observe the stress this is placing on our park and boulevard trees. Minneapolis has done laudable actions to adapt to this, but it is only going to get worse before it gets better. My main interest is in developing a resilient canopy for the city.</p>

Another interest would be in community education. My child has benefited from park programs and the Atwatian-Bryn Mawr School Forest, and has fostered an interest in our urban landscape. I believe these opportunities can help our trees. Other interests include wildlife habitat and uses for trees beyond shade.

Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:

None

Applicant Name	Gudrun Lock
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Artist
Park District	NE
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	I am a socially engaged artist who works with industry, institutions and community on issues related to the environment.
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	I want to support tree health and public education in the city.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	Long term maintenance of urban tree canopy.
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:	None

Applicant Name	Daniel Schulz
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	IT Project Manager
Park District	2
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	I was born and raised in Minneapolis graduating from Washburn HS. I've coached soccer and served on the board of the St Louis Park Soccer Association as Treasurer and Secretary. In my professional life I've served in the role of IT Project Manager at UnitedHealth Group.
List the reasons you want to serve on this body:	I'm passionate about contributing to helping Minneapolis become an even better place to both live and visit. I grew up in the '70s as the chain of lakes and particularly Minnehaha Parkway experienced that period's reimagining. As a Boy Scout, I participated in service projects helping sustain that vision. I'd love the opportunity to contribute again, albeit in a slightly different capacity.
List the issues that you believe the committee should address:	Continue using a system approach to urban forestry management and communicating decisions and approaches to the city's varied stakeholders.
Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:	None

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board

The story of Minneapolis begins at the Falls of St. Anthony, the only true waterfall on the Mississippi River. This waterfall was transformed from a beautiful and sacred site to an engine that powered the city and the region. Today St. Anthony Falls is the center of a thriving Minneapolis Riverfront District, where past and present combine to create a new destination for recreation and commerce.

The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board has been a key part of making this latest transformation possible. Created in 1988, the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board is a diverse group of public and private individuals charged with promoting interpretation and preservation of the historic Minneapolis central riverfront. The story of this remarkable waterfall and its city is still unfolding, and the Board is dedicated to telling that story for generations to come.

The Heritage Board consists of 22 members including representatives from the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, Minnesota Historical Society, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota State Legislature, and Hennepin Historic Museum.

One person is to be appointed by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for a one-year term (Jan 2, 2025 – December 31, 2025).

Applicants

- Sally Grans Korsh (District 1)

Currently Serving

- Sally Gran Korsh

Applicant Name	Sally Grans Korsh
City of Residence	Minneapolis
Current Occupation	Active Volunteer
Park District	1
Employer	Self
Describe your background related to any required or desirable qualification listed in the Appointment Notice. Include applicable experience with civic, professional or volunteer organizations and other city boards or commissions. List any awards or special recognition.	<p>Respectfully requesting to continue advancing the MPRB goals of equity and inclusion of diversity in our magnificent parks within the SAFHB zone, as well as receiving funding for the hidden history of the first peoples of this area and other diversity stories. Urge my willingness to seek alternate funding sources for this activity.</p> <p>I actively participated in all meetings this past year and was successful in garnering two grants that documented BIPOC history in 2021 and 2022. Further honored to write and get secured funding that now NACDI (Native American Community Development Institute) along with MPRB staff is implementing to address the controversial racist Pioneers Monument at B F Nelson Park (</p> <p>The first research paper (by a BIPOC consultant) is completed and adds rich stories that were not known until now. The second research paper involved a diverse Guide team and held five community meetings to gather input on behalf of this SAFHB grant.</p> <p>I worked with MPRB staff to address concerns on vandalism related to racism at the Pioneers Monument, and brought to light the racist nature and problems of this monument.</p> <p>My personal background as a volunteer understands the need for respect of staff, understanding the role of a board member, community member, and partners, and to advocate for optimum results. I served multi-decades as a board member of the St Anthony West</p>

Neighborhood Organization (STAWNO), actively participated in the BF Nelson/Boom Island MPRB, one of four cofounders of Central Community Housing Trust (now AEON) , and one of six cofounders of Mpls Groundworks – “Turning Brown Fields to Green Fields” (organization no longer active). I was elected to the STAWNO Board in Feb 2021.

Additionally, my advocacy for climate and inclusion issues is indicated by my three year appointed term on the national board for AASHE – Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, and when I lived in the Whittier community was awarded a MPRB award for work in cofounding the Whittier Counter Racism Taskforce, and many years as volunteer on the city of Mpls WMBE – Women Minority Business Enterprise evaluation committee. 2013-2018 I worked at a national nonprofit in Washington DC and then tele-commuted until June 2020. In 2021 was appointed by Governor to the Board of Architectural and Engineering Registration Board, and Board of Perpich Center for the Arts. In both organizations I am striving to impact equity and increase diversity to reflect our changing population. None of my volunteer activities conflicts with my participation on the SAFHB.

My professional background in serving for a national nonprofit organization on advancing good facilities and environmental stewardship, my experience as director of planning at the 54-campus system in Minnesota, and project management with the Dept of Administration all yield me as a respectful candidate. In 2008 I was elevated to Fellowship in American Institute of Architects as the first public architect chosen in Minnesota for “leadership in the development of civic improvements....” Since I am no longer practicing, the AIA has granted me Emeritus status, AND I am not connected to any firms, so I pose no conflict of interests.

I previously submitted my vitae and would be glad to resubmit to note the number of presentations done advancing the built

environment, respecting history, and improving our societal diversity.

List the reasons you want to serve on this body:

1. At the Nov 2024 SAFHB meeting strategic plans were discussed that I would like to see materialize: 1) embrace the river as key, 2) honor the growing work of Owámmniyomni Okhódayapi 3) connect with the five community organizations that are bordering SAFHB that could add funding components and advocacy, and MOST CRITICAL to 4) advance the unknown BIPOC stories of our diverse history of the official SAFHB zone.

2. Advocate environmental and historical sensitivity, as well as cultural diversity in SAFHB's actions – something I was successful in getting funding for in 2021, 2022 and 2024 and hope to continue. This area is the watershed of the North American continent!

3. Respecting MPRB priorities, board, and staff.

4. Significant increased uses in the parks in the Heritage Zone (Boom Island, B F Nelson) by regional community, city-wide and state constituents - so want to continue to advance that participation and potential funding sources.

5. Maintain vibrant access to the river and its historic development of the city, as well as carry forth the positive values of the past and overlaying with our positive values of the present positioning for the future.

6. I walk, kayak, bike, observe, adore this area and thrilled it will continue to grow as a local and regional resource, as well as an educational historic tool on the values of our diverse beginnings.

List the issues that you believe the committee should address:

1. Our parks are a gem within this SAFHB Boundary – suggest improved connection to the history of diversity that share the common connection to this critical water source: indigenous first people, enslaved people freeing and moving north, various

immigrant groups that worked and moved to this area.

Highlight this already documented rich historic diversity of these many different groups of people – to carry forth the positive values of the past and overlaying with our positive values for the present positioning for the future.

2. Environmental protection of the largest watershed in the north American continent.

3. Seeking funding from various sources that can augment the robust work of both MPRB and SAFHB.

Please list any interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is a party:

None

2025 Exhibit B - Applicants for Community Boards and Commissions

MinneapolisTree Advisory Commission - 7 appointments (2 year term) - January 2, 2025 - December 31,

First Name	Last Name	District	Status
Jane	Bolla	5	applicant
Mary	Bolla	4	applicant and incumbent
Erika	Commers	6	applicant
Gretchen	Hansen	St. Paul Resident	applicant
Tim	Keane	5	applicant and incumbent
Karl	Kussow	3	applicant
Gudrun	Lock	4	applicant
Giuseppe	Marrari	2	applicant and incumbent
Louis	Raymond	4	applicant and incumbent
Drew	Peterson	1	applicant
Barbara	Schlaefter	6	applicant and incumbent
Daniel	Schulz	2	applicant
Carol	Sersland	5	applicant and incumbent

Saint Anthony Falls Heritage Board - 1 appointment (1 year term) - Jan 2, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025

First Name	Last Name	District	Status
Sally	Grans Korsh	1	applicant and incumbent

Commissioner - Elect Appointment Preferences

1/2/2025

Committee/Role	Abene Preference	Alper Preference	Forney Preference	Menz Preference	Musich Preference	Olsen Preference	Rucker Preference	Shaffer Preference	Thompson Preference
President	X								
Vice President					X				
Chair - Administration & Finance Committee				X			X	X	X
Member - Administration & Finance Committee (4 Positions)		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Chair - Recreation Committee					X		X		
Member - Recreation Committee (4 Positions)				X			X		X
Chair - Planning Committee			X					X	X
Member - Planning Committee (4 Positions)		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Chair - Operations & Environment Committee					X				
Member - Operations & Environment Committee (4 Positions)			X					X	
Chair - Legislation & Inter-Governmental Committee				X		X			
Member - Legislation & Inter-Governmental Committee (4 Positions)		X		X			X		X
Chair - Standards & Conduct Committee				X					
Member - Standards & Conduct Committee (4 Positions)			X					X	
Planning Commission (Minneapolis) - 2 year term (Com Thompson serves through 2025)									X
Board of Estimate & Taxation	X								
METRO Blue Line Extension LRT Corridor Management Committee			X				X		X
Cedar Riverside Partnership									
John H Stevens House Organization									
Internal Audit Committee									X
Lake Street Greenway Partnership									
Minneapolis Institute of Arts			X		X				
Minneapolis Parks Foundation (2 positions)					X		X	X	X
Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission			X	X					
MCWD/MPRB/City Policy Steering Committee (up to 3 positions)	X				X			X	X
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization			X	X					
Neighborhood Revitalization Program Board				X			X		
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board			X	X				X	
Youth Coordinating Board				X			X		