

# Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA)

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**Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA)  
CPNA Relaunch Community-Wide Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, August 24, 2024  
(In-Person at Eastside Food Co-op, 2551 Central Avenue NE)  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Columbia Park Neighborhood Residents Attending:** Shane O’Leary (resident), Tom Grotting (resident), Patty O’Connell (resident), Amy Draeger (Resident), Debra Matchingsky (Resident), Shannon Guerisoli (resident), Eva Ichkhanian (resident), Joshua Mades (resident), Robert A Wielinski (resident), Betsy Born (resident), Karla Grotting (resident), Genevieve Johnsen (resident), Paul Bernhardt (resident), Lotte Melman (resident), William Sherman (resident), Donald McMillan (resident), Daniel G. Eittereim (resident), Frances Schmitz (resident), Brittany Bradley (resident), Manuel Gutierrez (visitor), Daniel Bembeneck (resident), Kim Hutchinson (resident), Annette Miller (resident), David Campbell (resident), Alison Cole (resident), Grant Lutttinen (resident), Princess Cramer (resident), Shawn Pomeray (resident), Conor Casey (resident), Mike Stanton (resident), Justin Martin (resident), Molly Adams (resident), Johanna Guevara (resident), Dayra Vega (resident).

**Guests:** Steven Gallagher (City of Minneapolis: NCR Program Manager), Aryca Myers (City of Minneapolis: NCR Neighborhood Specialist), Tate Nguyen (City of Minneapolis: NCR Neighborhood Specialist), Lydia Hinojosa (Socios Consulting Inc), Mario Vargas (Socios Consulting Inc), Mark Petersen (Photographer & Writer Northeast).

**Welcome/Introductions:** Steven called the CPNA Relaunch Community-Wide meeting to order 1:10 pm.

## **Introductions & Purpose of Neighborhood Organizations:**

- Steven welcomed Columbia Park neighborhood attendees. Columbia Park residents introduced themselves, how long they have lived in the neighborhood and what brought them to the meeting.
- Steven gave a short presentation on the importance of neighborhood organizations and the pivotal role they play within their neighborhoods and in liaising resident issues outside their neighborhoods to stakeholder entities including the Minneapolis City Council, City of Minneapolis Departments, the Park & Recreation Board, and others.
- Steven spoke to the purpose of this meeting being relaunching the Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA), which closed when the COVID Pandemic started in 2020. The City of Minneapolis contracted with Mario Vargas (Socios Consulting Inc) to bring residents to this meeting who will then relaunch and lead the neighborhood’s new CPNA.

## **Nominations to Board of Directors:**

- Mario spoke to the typical process that neighborhoods use for elections. For the purposes of this meeting, Columbia Park residents have the choice to either ‘slate’ vote-in 7 or 9 new Board Members all at once or they can elect candidates via ballot voting.

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Continued...

- There was discussion about the total number of Board Members needed to meet the old CPNA By-laws requirements. The old CPNA By-laws called for a Board of 10 residents, business owners, and/or individuals working in the neighborhood. Attendees agreed to a total of 10 Board Members.
  
- **Nominations:** Residents (all self-nominated), who were interested in serving on the Board, gave speeches as to why they each were interested in serving, their contributions to the future Board, and what they would like to see in a new CPNA for the benefit of the community.
- The group present proceeded to elections.

**Membership Voting & Elections:**

- A quorum was met, positively affirming the attendance of at least 25 Columbia Park neighborhood residents present to officially restart the CPNA.
- Columbia Park neighborhood residents in attendance discussed and agreed, after listening to the candidates' individual speeches, to vote-in the slate of candidates all at once with a group vote.
- **Nominees/Candidates** include [Columbia Park neighborhood residents] Shannon Guerisoli, Joshua Mades, Justin Martin, Robert (Bob) Wielinski, Manuel Gutierrez, Kim Hutchingson, Shane O'Leary, Brittany Bradley, Frances Schmitz, Donald (Donnie) McMillan.
- **Final Vote.**
  - The official motion went as follows:
    - Motion: Move to elect by slate voting the 10 self-nominated candidates to the new CPNA Board of Directors.
      - ✓ Motion: Annette Miller (resident)
      - ✓ Second: Molly Adams (resident)
      - ✓ All in favor: Unanimous
      - ✓ All against: None
      - ✓ Motion passed: Mario
- **Newly Elected Board Members**
  - Shannon Guerisoli, Joshua Mades, Justin Martin, Robert (Bob) Wielinski, Kim Hutchingson, Shane O'Leary, Brittany Bradley, Frances Schmitz, Donald (Donnie) McMillan.
- Voted-in candidate Manuel Gutiérrez is a resident of Columbia Heights and therefore does not qualify for CPNA Board Membership.

**Next Steps**

- The new Board will meet to plan their first monthly meeting and begin the process of reestablishing itself formally/legally and financially and applying for neighborhood funding.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM