



Tower Hill Park Committee Minutes, August 12th. 2024

Present: Joe Ring (Chair), Steve Barnett, Eric Amel, Phil Anderson, John Wike, Lynn Von Korff, Nancy Hammond, and Gayla Lindt

Guest: Henry Stafford, reporter, Hubbard School of Journalism (see link to Henry's subsequent article, page 2)

Orientation to PPA Committees: Since this is the first meeting of the re-established PPA Tower Hill Park Committee (see PPA Board minutes, June 24th, 2024), copies of PPA's "Orientation to Committees" (see pages 3-4) was distributed. A PPA Tower Hill Committee email account was also created for the Committee.

Roland Park Water Tower: Joe Ring shared information about the historic Roland Park Water Tower in Baltimore Maryland. Roland Park community members worked with their city officials to save and restore their historic water tower, which is now a valued community asset. Their Tower is similar in many ways to our Prospect Park Water Tower. Over a ten-year period, they raised \$1.5 million in public and private funding to completely restore the Roland Park Water Tower. It's currently open to the public. More information about the Roland Park Water Tower is available here:

<https://rolandpark.org/organizationscommittees/roland-park-community-foundation/watertower/>

City of Minneapolis Prospect Park Water Tower Repairs: in 2023 the City of Minneapolis allocated \$350,000 to repair our Tower so it could reopen to visitors. The allocation passed the City Council unanimously much thanks to Ward 2 CM Robin Wonsley who proposed the allocation and worked with PPA and others to advocate for the allocation. The contracting process is underway, but repairs have not begun. The hope is repairs will be completed in time for Doors Open 2025, which takes place 10am-5pm May 17th & 18th 2025 (see <https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org>.) Rethos, the nonprofit that runs Doors Open, has advocated for the Tower to be included in the event again. In 2019, the last time the Tower was open to the public, the Tower was the second most popular Doors Open location. At this point it seems very likely that repairs will not be completed by Fall. The Tower cannot reopen to the public until repairs are complete.

Prospect Park Water Tower Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Prospect Park Association, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Department (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis—and clearing brush from Tower Hill Park:

The attorney for the MPRB has not signed off on the draft MOU and MPRB has provided no updates or comments on the MOU or on plans to clear brush that's obscuring views. Joe has reached out multiple times. The Committee discussed this at length. Joe, Steven and Lynn had attended the MPRB meeting on July 10th, 2024 and Joe spoke at the public hearing section of the July MPRB meeting to ask about the delays in the process. At that meeting, Billy Mentz, Park Commission, and Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning Services were very responsive and subsequently spoke at length with Joe, but action has stalled. Since it's only been a month since the public hearing/Board meeting and the MPRB employee strike has only recently been settled, Joe volunteered to reach out again. The Committee will take further action at our next meeting if there is no response.

There was a lengthy discussion about holding an event at the Tower this Fall even though the Tower will not be open to the public. Joe said an event would need to be organized in collaboration with public works so it will not interfere with construction work at the Tower. Joe agreed to investigate permitting.

The next meeting, scheduled subsequently, will be held at 1-3pm September 21st at Luxton Park .

Note: Henry Stafford, reporter, Hubbard School of Journalism, who attended this meeting, subsequently wrote an article about the Tower. You can read it here:

<https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/hubbard-reporting-experience/latest/prospect-park-neighborhood-still-fighting-for-their-tower>

Minutes recorded by Lynn Von Korff



PPA Committee Orientation

Most major initiatives start in PPA committees—or are sent to a committee by the Board. Committee members research issues, float options, organize projects, seek out individuals for advice and input, evaluate alternatives, and recommend a proposal or action to PPA’s Board. PPA is effective if its committees are effective.

- **Any person who is a member of the Association may participate and vote in a committee meeting.**
- **PPA Members:** PPA members are adult residents in the neighborhood; or owners or business lessees of real property in the neighborhood; or the designated representative of a nonprofit, educational organization, or governmental organization in the neighborhood. No dues or forms are required.
- **Communication:** Encourage members to get their issues on a committee agenda in advance by contacting a Committee Chair or by asking to have an item added to the committee agenda at the start of a meeting. Welcome new attendees and invite them to join the opt-in committee email list and to subscribe to PPA’s online newsletter. The online newsletter subscription link is: <https://www.prospectparkmpls.org/ppa/newsletter/signup.html>
- **Minutes and Board Review:** Committee chairs send minutes of meetings with the date, persons present (full names), and decisions/actions to the Board. The Board reviews, approves, amends, or returns actions back to committees for further action.
- **Meeting Notice:** Written notice, including the date, time, and place of the meeting, will be provided at least 5 calendar days in advance of a meeting. Notice will not be provided more than 60 calendar days in advance of a meeting. Notice will be given through publication to the Association's website, the Association's opt-in email list, or by any other reasonable method.

- **Schedule:** The schedule for meetings of committees and task forces may be determined by a majority of the committee or task force members or by the Board of Directors.
- **Quorum:** The Committee or Task Force Chair and two Association members constitute a quorum for any committee or task force meeting.
- **Bipartisan:** Committee discussion and actions must be bipartisan, as required by PPA's mission and terms of our city contracts.
- Proxy voting is not permitted.

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