



Audubon  
Neighborhood  
Association

## **ANA Executive Director's Report 10/31/2024**

Thanks to everyone who took time to attend our Board meeting on Monday. Thanks also to those of you who filled out the Neighborhood and Community Relations board survey during our most recent board meeting.

### **November Board Meeting**

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:30. We have some options if many of you are unable to attend that evening (Thanksgiving is Thursday, Nov 28th). Another option is Monday, November 18 (a week earlier). Please let me know as soon as possible what your date preference is and we will get a room reserved.

### **Board Training Retreat**

We would like to convene a Board Training Retreat, preferably in November, or early December. My availability is very limited until after November 16th. It's not necessary for me to attend, although I can serve as a facilitator and can share information and "institutional memory" when needed. We need approximately 4 consecutive hours to ensure everyone is on the same page with policies, procedures, expectations, communication and representation of the Audubon Neighborhood Association. This meeting is in-person, at a location nearby (typically at the Audubon Park Recreation Center). And yes, there will be food! I sent everyone a Google Form requesting your availability for the 1/2 day retreat. The survey can be filled out directly in your email. Please let me know if you need me to resend it.

### **December 2, 2024 Community Meeting**

Our next ANA Community Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12/2/2024. We have had low attendance since Covid, so to improve that, I'd like to suggest topics that are interesting, relevant to Audubon, and allow us to plan, well in advance, for experts to attend and present, either individually or on a panel. I'd like to propose that our December 2 meeting revolve around barriers that residents and businesses have regarding reuse, swaps, recycle, repair so we can move forward on essential zero-waste goals. Some members of our coalition of NE Neighborhoods may also be highly interested! Margo Ashmore, former owner of the Northeast Newspaper, is now a GreenCorps member and works with Minnesota Reuse. She has offered to facilitate a listening session on this topic. I'd like to propose that we dedicate 45 minutes of our December meeting for this topic. And, if the board is interested, and to generate more attendance we could promote a pet equipment swap (leashes, brushes, beds, kennels etc) on this day as well (just in time for holiday gift-giving).

Please let me know if this is something the board would like to do and we can make it happen. Additionally, please think of other topics you think would be interesting and let Christian know as he would like to coordinate that.

### **Board Email Addresses**

Last week I sent our newest board members, Jo, Sonja, Tegan and Abraham, invitations from Google to create their own [name@audubonneighborhood.org](mailto:name@audubonneighborhood.org) email address. This is your email

that should be used for any Audubon Neighborhood Association related activities. We want you to keep your personal email private, for obvious reasons. Additionally, you will need this email address to access our ANA Shared Google Drive. If you need me to resend those invitations to you, please send me an email ([deborah@audubonneighborhood.org](mailto:deborah@audubonneighborhood.org)) or text (612-743-5943) and I will do so.

### **Conflict of Interest Form**

The Audubon Neighborhood Association requires that all board members fill out and submit a Conflict of Interest statement. I am attaching that document here. Please feel free to email it back or hold on to it until the next time we meet.

### **Upcoming Funding Opportunities**

After meeting with you all and getting to know your interests a bit better, I'd like to invite you to participate in the joyous activity of writing grant proposals on topics that are of particular interest to you. This is your opportunity to think creatively on projects, programs, community engagement and collaboration. I know that we, as a group of neighbors, have strong interest in environmental issues, seniors, mobility/transportation, Veterans, housing, the Disabled, caregivers, food, communication/news/reporting, human rights, families, immigrants, and other marginalized community members. We have a number of community grants (for example, through Hennepin County, the State and AARP) that we are eligible for, and can direct our City's Equitable Engagement Funds, and Neighborhood Network Funds to better address some of these topics. What can we add to this list? Finally, I know that we have great interest in building relationships with residents and local businesses. Some of our work desperately needs money in the form of sponsorships. While these sponsorships are generally small (from \$100 on) they can add up significantly, particularly from large corporations. As the Target representative told me, in many cases, businesses only give when someone physically asks for donations. But this takes time and energy and a willingness to ask for donations. I have a database of potential local funders to get you started! We currently need to revise our sponsorship applications and information, and I welcome anyone who has story-telling/writing/graphic design interests to help me revise those for our fall donating drives--the most important time of the whole year!