

SENA Board of Directors Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 14, 2025 | 6:30pm | Lake Hiawatha Rec Center (in-person)

Attachments [LINK TO FOLDER](#)

- July 2025 Agenda (this document)
- June 2025 Minutes
- SENA June Management Report

Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS (Quorum = 6)

Ash Tifa, Bonnie Smith, Brynn Kasper, Cherylyne Vaz (President), Carol Dungan (Vice President), David Thebus, Frederick Desjarlait, Josh Adrian, Madelyn Sundberg (Secretary), Sheila Cracraft Fehler (Treasurer), Tina Lahti

Present: Ash Tifa, Brynn Kasper, Cherylyne Vaz (President), Carol Dungan (Vice President), David Thebus, Josh Adrian, Madelyn Sundberg (Secretary), Sheila Cracraft Fehler (Treasurer), Tina Lahti

Absent, excused: Bonnie Smith, Frederick Desjarlait

Absent, unexcused:

STAFF: Amanda Nicklaus

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Amy Johnson, Inspector Gomez, Jennifer Neale, Aurin Chowdhury, Jason Chavez, Andrew Degerstrom, approximately 18 additional neighbors for safety topic

6:30 Call to Order & Roll Call (5 min)

6:35 Public Safety (60 min)

- Crime update from Inspector Gomez and Jennifer Neale
- 46th Street Light Rail Station (Amy Johnson)
- Recommended response for neighbors hearing domestic disputes
- Discussion on flag stealing in the neighborhood

7:35 Approval of consent agenda items (5 min) - [Board Motion #1](#)

- July 2025 Agenda (this document)
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- SENA June Management Report

7:40 Announcements, Guests, and Elected Officials (20 min)

- Aurin Chowdhury

- Ward 12 Public Safety Townhall - July 16 from 6-7:30PM at Longfellow Community Center
- Cedar Inn application for new liquor license and location change
 - Thank you everyone for submitting complaints
 - Aurin met with the Owner to start building a dialogue
 - They shot fireworks off the roof on 4th of July
 - A petition would be useful

8:00 38th St Vision Zero Improvements (15 min)

- Andrew Degerstrom
 - Separate from the traffic calming program, vision zero capital program focuses on high injury streets
 - Map was updated in 2022: 38th, 42nd, Cedar, and Hiawatha are included
 - Options: bumpouts, hardened centerlines, medians, marked crosswalks, bike conflict striping, 4 to 3 lane conversions
 - 39th Pleasant Ave to 29th Ave, raised crossing pilot at 32nd Street / 19th Ave S, speed cushion pilot outside the neighborhood
 - Won't impact all intersections, skipping 19th, 21st, and 26th Avenues but might change during construction
 - Will be modifying median at Longfellow based on feedback from neighbors that more is needed
 - Starting later this summer, finalizing plan in July and late summer installation, will let SENA know
 - Will send SENA presentation
 - Metrotransit is planning 2027 project for 38th and Hiawatha intersection
 - No additional parking removal from that removed in the fall from Longfellow
 - Residents can send Andrew feedback directly and we can share project page and pdf one page document through social media
 - Can connect with the 42nd

8:15 Operations and Financials (20 min)

- Open House scheduled Thursday, Aug. 14, 6:30-8 pm at Lake Nokomis Community Center
- 15 min - Shelia - treasurer updates
 - 6 month budget report and progress on spending out the contract amount, progress of the events spending
 - Minnesota Community Network check refunded?
 - Marathon award
 - Shelia purchased additional tables
 - Could work with a graphic designer or a grant writer for a reallocation
 - Use Amanda's time to update the tabling materials
- 5 min - Madelyn - secretary updates

- E-Motion to launch the new website passed on Jun 24, 2025
- 5 min - Amanda Nicklaus - updates on work
 - LWV co-sponsorship updates
 - New website updates will be coming via email

8:40 Committee Updates (20 min)

- Community Engagement Committee
 - July street clean up
 - Focus on the weed pulling of the medians, managed to pull 2 of the medians
 - Start of the 42nd Street Median Beautification Initiative, George would like to meet and maybe create a working group
 - Amanda developed a flyer distribution list
 - August NNO
 - Board members shift sign up, August 5th
 - Sign ups have begun, 11 so far
 - Want swag for event
 - Shelia might be able to provide a support vehicle
 - Lake Hiawatha Summer Neighborhood Fest August 8th
 - Hennepin County Stop Food Waste Challenge (August) - **Board Motion #2**
 - Neighborhood challenge to give residents - don't have capacity
- Communications Committee
 - Request to promote The Black Radish land fund - **Board Motion #3**
 - Have sent sign up for block leaders NNO
- Housing & Community Development Committee: Housing, Transportation, Business, and Infrastructure
 - Community garden sponsorship request - Shelia is following up
 - 44th Street and 35th Avenue
 - SENA is rider on liability insurance for the current Southside Community Garden and then the members sign a liability document, doesn't add to our bottom line
 - Want to clarify if they are looking for fiscal assistance or something similar and they would need a committee to run it
 - Facade Improvement Grant Application from Hair Creative - Shelia will look into it
 - Sidewalk Cafe at SunBean Coffee application in progress

9:00 Adjourn

Board Actions & Decisions:

1. Motion to approve consent items:

- a. June 2025 Agenda
- b. June 2025 Minutes
- c. SENA June Management Report

Forwarded: Shelia

Second: Brynn

Passed: **YES**

- 2. Motion to become a partner in the Stop Food Waste Challenge at the **Silver** Level and check if they have connected with Anne for Lake Hiawatha celebration:

Forwarded: Tina

Second: Josh

Passed: **YES**

- 3. Motion to make an exception and post a link to The Black Radish land fund in our social media and newsletter:

Forwarded: Tina

Second: Ash

Passed: **YES**