Neighborhood Plan for Roof Depot

City Says “NO!”

Phillips Aquatic Center

School Board says, “YES!”

COMMENTARY: The City Says “NO!” to our Efforts to Clean Up Air Pollution and to Seek a Better Future for East Phillips

By Carol Pass, Chair, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, EPIC.

In spite of their continuing rhetoric about ‘equity’, the City of Minneapolis is rapidly moving forward with their long-hidden plans to intensify the air pollution and traffic congestion problems of what has become known by area residents as the “Intersection of Death”, 28th St. and Cedar Avenue South, with its dangerous, toxic and foul-smelling air, its numerous massive and unsightly trucks, its impossible traffic congestion and its many nearby families with children and several ethnic day-care centers. The Ways and Means Committee of the City Council voted Monday, June 15th, 4 to 1, with one abstention to approve the intensification of these problems with one abstention to approve the intensification of these problems.

The Back Story: Last November the East Phillips Improvement Coalition, EPIC, voted to begin a final campaign after all our others to remove the existing major polluting industries from East Phillips, i.e. Smith Foundry and the hot asphalt plant, Binominous Roadways, and replace them with light industry and residential housing along the Greenway, changing this area to a place worthy of Highway 55 as the City’s International Gateway from the airport. Residents’ motivation came primarily in response to new science that has shown dramatically that all of this pollution is far worse for children than has been known in the past. ADHD and asthma recently figured far more heavily in the childhood health impacts resulting from these industries. EPIC, to implement our vote, began pressuring these industries to move and start new science that has shown dramatically.

A Historic Decision! COMMENTARY: Mpls. School Board made a Magnanimous Commitment of Money and Intent to Youth and the Phillips Aquatic Center partnering with the MPS. Park Board

By Denny Bennett, Minneapolis Swims. Board of Directors, President.

Tuesday night June 23, was historic! In a most selfless and noble act, the Minneapolis School Board passed a resolution MPS Board giving $1.75M in capital, in addition to their $150K annual operating commitment to the Phillips Aquatic Center.

The 10 lanes are going to change Minneapolis! Another $500K to go! There is a potential “Angel Donor” who may, in the wake of MPS’s selfless gift step up and give us the money we need to get to the 8-lane configuration anyway! Exciting stuff! We’ll know soon!

Historic, Selfless, Noble? Really? Yes, really!

First, let me begin by saying that tonight caps years of efforts by this group to convince Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) of the virtues of swimming, and why Phillips, of all places, was the one neighborhood that most deserved this type of gift from the coffers of the MPS treasury. With MPS firmly entrenched in the philosophy of not investing capital in properties they do not own, and many budget fires of their own to put out, we resigned ourselves to never receiving capital dollars from MPS towards this project.

Of course, once it is built, we need to make sure it is sustainable, so we were quite pleased to get MPS to agree to a 5 year commitment to contribute $150,000 towards operating costs. As our fundraising gained momentum over the past year, and some of the players on the MPS board changed, and the neighborhoods stepped up with significant money, things changed. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) took notice, other donors took notice, and a swimming task force at MPS was set up, and they took notice.

With the MPRB getting close to “picking a final pool”, there were some “what if” conversations with MPS board members along the lines of, “What if you had 50% ownership of the Phillips Aquatic Center, and it was going to be a 2 pool 8-lane/4-lane facility, where you could use the 8-lane pool to host swim meets? In that instance, would you consider a capital contribution?” In a school district that only has 1 competition pool, a 6-lane pool, this was interesting.

In the meantime, MPRB passed their resolution, choosing the pool with the 6/4 configuration, and although still about $2.4M short, saying they would finance the difference.

My conversations with MPS continued. Interim MPS

Aquatic Center
Donations are needed, welcome,
Newspaper and may be chosen for
More people are needed to deliver
papers to neighbors and/or meet-
Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood
Hennepin County Franklin Library
Powderhorn Park Neighborhood,
Jonathan Museum Special Collections, Sue
by these words by Ann Greene
Delivery. Many Phillips homes
village in need of a hero.
delivered by volunteers, Beverly,
village in need of a hero.
delivered by volunteers, Beverly,
village in need of a hero.
delivered by volunteers, Beverly,
village in need of a hero.

We came into this world to give
devils, a missing pig and a
Spanish, English, riddles, silly
All ages. Join us for an
interactive puppet show about a young boy
determined to turn an upside-down world right-side
up. On the way, he encounters
Spanish, English, riddles, silly
devils, a missing pig and a
village in need of a hero.

For children. Bring your own LEGO
creation to feature in an animated
stop motion video or make one at
the library and bring it to life with
the magic of animation! Led
by the library’s Teen Tech Squad.

For children. Watch puppets tell stories about animals, adventures
and overcoming adversity. Be ready for added fun by rhyming,
singing and dramatic play!

For children. Will raise spirits and test kids’ powers of concentration as he manipulates ropes, scarves,
balls and other magic props in a perplexing "now-you-see-it,
now-you-don't!" performance!

For children. All ages and their parent or
caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write
and play together in a format
appropriate for young children.
Share books, stories, rhymes,
music and movement!

Puzzlemania!

Thursday's through Aug 13, 2:3-
pm. Enjoy a variety of educational and fun puzzles and
games! Súper Kinder: Bistro para el
cálido Súper Kinders: A

Adult Programs

Education Alternatives
Mon July 3, 3:00 pm. Join this monthly discussion of
persistent problems in education and possible solutions,
based on the writings in Knowledge Dougherty's blog:
educationspersistentproblems@

Memoir Writing Group
Monday, July 20, 1:00 pm. Would you like to create a
record of your personal history? Bring what you have
written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions.

Phillips Learning Center: 612-534-6934

Out Celebration in Minneapolis!
EVENT AND EVERYTHING
AT IT IS FREE FOR THE
PUBLIC!!!! Event will be
held along 27th Street between
Columbus and Portland Avenues!
A variety of FREE Picnic Food
including Snow Cones, Popcorn,
Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Cookies
& Ice Cream! There will also be
a variety of Entertainment includ-
ing a Mariachi Band, an Open Mic
Rap Contest with opportunity to
win Grand Prizes, Salsa Dancers,
3 Clowns, 2 Bouce Houses, a
Puppet show, Face painters,
Fish Pond, Children's Games,
McGruff the Crime Dog, twinkle
the Mascot, Mickey Mouse, and a
Great Inflated Slide! Information
on dozens of Community Resources will be available! If
you would like an information
table or would like to get involved
Contact Crystal at 612-879-5383
or email pwno2005@yahoo.com

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Albert Emmanuel Nelson

Quarter Century Steward of the Sacred-Grounds, Stones, and Stories

It’s a safe bet that Albert Emmanuel Nelson loved Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery more than anyone else ever has. From 1928 until 1953 he was responsible for overseeing the care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds, for conserving and protecting the cemetery’s records, and for serving as the cemetery’s one-man public relations firm.

That’s what he was paid to do, but it does not begin to capture the reverence with which he approached his work. His interest in the cemetery and the lives of the people buried there—“the builders of Minneapolis,” as he called them—was his passion as well as his day job. He spent his free time assembling a library of more than 100 volumes of local history and gathering information for the book that he intended to write. There was a lot of information and gathering it was a time consuming task until 1953 he was responsible for conserving and protecting the Memorial Cemetery more than anyone else ever has. From 1928 until 1953, standing at the graves of Philander Prescotts’ marker enclosed in stones from the first Central High School in 1926.

Albert Nelson was born in Minneapolis on February 1, 1892, a little more than 30 years after the city was incorporated. He was in poor health for at least a few years before he died. He had already had two heart attacks before the one that ended his life. He died on July 1, 1953 seven months shy of the 100th anniversary of the cemetery that he loved so much. He was only 61 years old.

In 1958, a Canadian named Lela Taylor, wrote a letter addressed to Albert Nelson asking whether he could tell her how much a copy of the book that he had written would cost. Robert O’Reilly, the cemetery’s caretaker at the time, informed her that Albert had died some years earlier and that he had checked Albert’s widow who said that the book had never been completed.

That didn’t mean, however, that he hadn’t started one. The Minnesota Historical Society has a box containing typed pages, a handful of photographs, and two scrapbooks that are cataloged as the “Albert E. Nelson papers.” Most of the typewritten pages are copies of work written by others but several pages are original work by Albert Nelson. Had he lived long enough, they would likely have been incorporated into the book that he hoped to write. Friends of the Cemetery plans to reprint and make his essays available soon.

Albert Nelson was quite a man. In his day he was known as the cemetery’s one-man public relations firm. He spent his free time assembling a library of more than 100 volumes of local history and gathering information for the book that he intended to write. There was a lot of information and gathering it was a time consuming task. Albert Nelson was born in Minneapolis on February 1, 1892, a little more than 30 years after the city was incorporated. He was in poor health for at least a few years before he died. He had already had two heart attacks before the one that ended his life. He died on July 1, 1953 seven months shy of the 100th anniversary of the cemetery that he loved so much. He was only 61 years old.

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New Free Computer Based Classes

Coming to East Phillips Park

Epic, through its Programming Partnership, is working with East Phillips Park and others to bring two new series of computer based classes to our East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center.

1) Computer Literacy class covers:
   a. Mouse, Icons, Keyboard, the Operating System, Navigating the Internet & Google Drive
   b. Future classes will cover the Microsoft Office Suite which is available via the Google Cloud to those who complete the class

2) Financial Literacy class covers:
   a. How money works, All about Checking, Savings and Credit Cards, Needs vs. Wants
   b. How to: Budget, Save for college, a car or a home, Save & invest for your future.

The Computer Literacy Classes are taught to the standards of the Northstar Literacy Project. Those who complete the class and pass the test will receive their “Certificate Of Completion” – a valuable asset when job hunting.

The Financial literacy classes are taught by Wells Fargo and have been valuable and fun for those attending.

For information contact Brad Pass -612-916-8478
Email bpass@usinternet.com

The Little Thunderbirds
Park Talent Show
Open Mike Performers
T J Motley

East Phillips SummerFest 2015 was a huge success. The weather was perfect, the crowds enthusiastic the food superlative and the entertainment could not have been better. The Little Thunderbirds opened, followed by young & old East Phillips Neighbors at the “Open Mike/Karaoke Jam”. The East Phillips Park Youth Talent Show continued to highlight our community’s incredible kids. Former resident Bruce Nygren & his Mumblebugs closed out the entertainment with 2½ magical hours of their original blues.

For your Calendar:

The EPIC Board of Directors NORMALLY meets on the First Saturday of every month.

NOTE THIS CHANGE Because of the 4th of July weekend, The July EPIC Board meeting will be:
Saturday, 7/11/15. At 10:00 AM. The August Board meeting will be 8/1/15 At 10:00 AM as usual.

The EPIC General Membership meets on the Second Thursday of each month Thursday, 7/23/15 & 8/13/15 At 6:30 PM
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and updates on EPIC projects
The EPIC Board Park Programming Partnership meets on the LAST Tuesday of each month Tuesday, 7/28/15 & 8/25/15 At 11:30 AM. Lunch is served

Meeting Location: All the above meetings and events are at the:
East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.
The Center is wheelchair accessible

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. The next meetings are:
Saturday, 7/11/15 & 8/8/15 at 9:00 AM in the Garden located at 2428 17th Ave. S.

SAVE THESE DATES:
Phillips Community Clean Sweep: October 10th 2015 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Garden Fall Harvest Party: October 17th 2015 from 4:00 PM until the fire goes out

Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Re-Introducing Bocce Ball into the Phillips/Cedar-Riverside Communities

Bocce Ball was quite familiar to Somalis living in the southern part of the country once controlled by the Italians. Considered the world’s oldest game, Bocce Ball is popular in Europe and is taking the Americas by storm. It’s a game that elders and youngsters, and those in-between, can all play together. Funded by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ventura Village has purchased two short courts (seen above) and two of the professional long courts. East Phillips old tennis courts became the test site for the first efforts at setting up the portable, inflatable courts for players to try out. Young and older stepped up to try their hands at a game with very simple rules, but requiring greater skills with competitive players. Somali rules made the game more fun to play and watch where you can knock other’s balls away to get yours closer, using the court’s sides and back boundary for more advantage.

Ventura Village has scheduled July 4th at the light rail station of Cedar/Riverside starting at 6:00 PM and will be at MidTown Phillips festival on July 25th and all day at Franklin Avenue Open Streets on August 16th!

Minneapolis Schools will partner with the Park Board on the final buildout of the Phillips Pool

After years of waiting, further action on the Phillips Community Center swimming pool came at the June 23rd Minneapolis School Board meeting. The resolution that passed by a 6-1 margin is to work with Minneapolis Park Board staff and develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would create an agreement addressing a wide variety of sports and activity matters that would benefit from a strong schools/park board partnership. $1.75 million of capital funding and five years of ongoing operating support until 2020 were the numbers contained in the resolution.

One concern voiced by a school board member was that if the pool was designed around competition and drew people from a much wider area of the city, scheduling issues could crowd out chances for Phillips residents to fully access the facilities. This would end up reducing choices for families to go regularly and dilute the focus on water safety aspects that pool proponents kept insisting was the primary purpose for an accessible pool in these neighborhoods. Park Board President Liz Wielenski voiced the concern that was echoed by several School Board members. None of the details related to scheduling and ensuring access by the local residents have been developed or published. The assertion that an eight lane pool would be more costly to maintain than a six lane also remains to be re-examined in the future. Most important for the Phillips Community is that $1.75 million makes this long-awaited pool appear to be more likely to be developed. As Minneapolis Swims’ Denny Bennett, said, “This is something to be very thankful it happened tonight!”

VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN JULY AS FOLLOWS:

2nd Wednesdays: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM
1st Wednesdays: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM
1st Tuesdays: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM
Last Thursdays: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM

2nd Wednesdays: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM
Last Thursdays: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
PARKS COMMITTEE: Call 612-871-7973 for next meeting time
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Call 612-599-1066 for next meeting time

Ventura Village is located upstairs in the Phillips Community Center at 2323 - 11th Avenue South • Minneapolis • 612-874-9070
ed building a movement to de-industrialize this area around the “Intersection of Death.” It was at that point that the City planners and Public Works came out of the woodwork and revealed their nearly completed and never-before-seen plan to add to the polluting industries by buying the Roof Depot site at 1860 East 28th Street and moving the City Public Water Works facil- ity there, bringing to this already congested area 68 more massive trucks, 24 of them diesel, plus numerous other oversized vehi- cles, back hoes, bulldozers, etc., and also all the vehicles needed to bring 100 employees to and from the site for work, none of whom live in Phillips.

This plan would add to the polluting industries, inflicting on us the opposite of the de-industrialization we had hoped to achieve. The City acknowledged to us that they had been planning this behind our backs since 2001. They had completely ignored telling the community about this, ignoring all community engage- ment for more than a decade. Had we not begun an “anti-pollution” protect the neighborhood chil- dren” effort, some of us think we never would have known about this until the giant trucks began rolling through the neighborhood near the completion of the project.

Consider for yourselves num- ber one of the City’s own engagement and especially with regard to one of the poorest and most diverse neighborhoods in the City? We are responding in the only honorable and appropriate way, to fight this travesty of proce- dural and environmental injustice. We have a long and deep tradi- tion of working together to battle industries, businesses or individu- als who wish to locate industries in Phillips, which would harm or disproportionately burden this population of low income, strug- gling immigrants, refugees and people of color, roughly 50% who are children. Recall that the neighborhood stopped the County from locating their Garbage Transfer Station in East Phillips in the late 90s, stopped the wood burning Midtown Eco- Energy plant in East Phillips in 2007 to 2009 when a major increase in asthma was found to be the outcome of this industry; and again stopped Xcel energy’s overhead high- voltage power lines and com- pelled them to be buried underground in 2010 to 11, when we learned of an uptick of childhood leukemia from these lines. Who would have asked these health and justice questions if we had not? Doesn’t the City Council and planning department have some responsibility to ask them? Where have they been in any of this? Protection and seeking to reverse the damage of low incomes and racial prejudice against these families and children has guided the actions of EPIE since its inception.

The Current Situation: East Phillips residents and the East Phillips Improvement Coalition, EPIE, along with Tamales By Reina and Council Member Cano’s office are working to ask the appropriate ques- tions of the project, questions no one else was asking, such as who

We have heard little from the Downtown Government for years. This is the first City involvement in memory and it comes only as something damaging, future destroying, with no community engagement to speak of and a project concealed from us for years in which we have had no say. It is an example which demonstr- ates a complete failure on the part of the City to even acknowled- ge the City’s “Goals, Strategic Plans,” claims to be concerned about racial or economic equity or even a nod toward serious commu- nity engagement as espoused in the documents created by the City itself, ones to which we in East Phillips are trying to adhere.

It is time for the City to put its money where its mouth is and to actually do something to rebuild East Phillips by our- selves as we have so beautifully and with so much hard work done in this quest to undo so much we have done and fought for. We will not back down from insisting on better treatment and respect for the goals, hopes and future plans of East Phillips’ people. This plan included here is what EPIE’s community engage- ment has told us the community wants…This is what the residents voted for…This is what we insist on…a much better future than the grim one the City Council vote received and so have done much on our own. Given the lack of sup- port, we have only been asked to be left alone and, in that setting, have...
Cut Worms And Radishes

“Cut worms” are members of the largest family in the Lepidoptera, i.e., they are larvae of a moth. It was not a rabbit which murdered your tender young tomato, it was the devil incarnate.

Behold the innocent one, plump and curled in the form of a C. Beneath the axes of veins lying role in nature did its ancestors play? What Karmic consequences might ensue should you destroy it?

In this matter, I choose to honor my Christian grandmother. Straighten the “worm” between thumbs and forefingers, meditate, and curled in the form of a C, the devil incarnate.

…from hardening into a despot: only by unintermitted Agitation can a people be kept sufficiently awake to principle not to let liberty be smothered in material prosperity. “ – Wendell Phillips 1811-1884
GREETINGS! Please take a look at our July A-POD calendar because there’s some major changes afoot! We decided to merge our Monday evening A-POD English-speaking group with our Thursday Morning (10:00 AM) English-speaking group, freeing us up to now participate in the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic’s Monday evening schedule. Thus we can Meet-up with local residents who are diabetic but cannot afford regular medical care. We will set up a table there to meet with any patients who are diabetic to help them begin to navigate the sometimes choppy waters faced by those of us with diabetes. We are also beginning to offer a special A-POD Meet-up group at the Downtown YWCA that is specifically for Allina’s East Lake Clinic patients. Those begin at 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM. With support from the University of Minnesota, we are happy to announce that we will be providing additional Somali Language Meet-ups on Fridays targeting residents of Hiawatha Towers, Pentagon Apartments, and Cedar/Riverside high-rises. Recruitment for these programs begins in July. We’re so happy to have the opportunity to grow!

**BYI Definition of Health**

- Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.
- Health is a state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and between many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. It cannot be seen only in an individual context.
- Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. It cannot be achieved by being passive.

**BYI Area**

- Phillips Neighborhood Clinic
  - Foot Care Night: Thursday, July 30
  - Dermatology Night: Thursday, July 9

Additional Information:
- No appointments or insurance necessary.
- Spanish interpreters are available at all times.
- Phillips Neighborhood Clinic is housed in:
  - St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
  - 2742 15th Ave South
  - Mpls 55407
  - PHONE: (612) 724-1690
  - HOURS: 6 TO 9 pm

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