



October 2026 Newsletter

MEETINGS	Committee Meetings <i>virtual until further notice</i>	Community Meetings <i>22 Orlin Ave SE, PPUMC</i>
<i>For the most up-to-date list of meetings please check the PPA Calendar. All committee meetings are taking place virtually unless otherwise noted.</i> ABOUT PPA Prospect Park Association is the official neighborhood association for the Prospect Park Area of the city of Minneapolis. Donate to PPA  Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.	Environment Committee Wednesday November 11. 6:00pm (click to receive meeting notices) Jackson Family Project Thursday November 5, 4:30pm (click to receive meeting notices) Land Use and Planning Committee Thursday, November 12, 2026, 7:00pm (click to receive meeting notices) Transportation & Safety Committee Wednesday November 11. 6:30pm (click to receive meeting notices)	PPA Board Meeting & Community Meeting Monday October 26th 6:50pm (in-person meeting only) <i>(enter at far-left, east-side of building up ramp)</i> <i>All Community Members are welcome!</i> <u>Agenda</u> Management Council Monday October 12th <i>Sets Community & Board Meeting Agendas</i>

GET INVOLVED!

[PPA Event Calendar for Updated Meeting Information](#)

Jackson Family Project Film Wins 2026 Upper Midwest Emmy Award!

The award-winning film tells the story of Madison and Amy Jackson who built their home in Prospect Park in 1908 and were subjected to protests because they were Black.

The Jacksons lived in the neighborhood for 20 years and became important members of the community. The three Jackson daughters were the first Black students to attend Pratt school over 100 years ago. Their story offers a beacon of resilience and hope. The Pratt playground was recently dedicated the “Jackson Family Playground.” The story is told by Madison and Amy’s granddaughters, Sharon Claytor Peters and Judith Claytor, and was filmed during their first visit to Prospect Park as part of Jackson Family Project events. The Jackson Family Project is a partnership of Jackson family members, Prospect Park Association, Pratt PTO, and Pratt school faculty.

Visit www.jacksonfamilyproject.org to watch the award-winning film and learn about the lives and legacy of Jackson family members and the Jackson Family Project.

Congratulations to Katie G. Nelson, Producer, and Joshua Carlon, editor, Far on Foot Productions and Rachel Lauren Mueller, Director of Photography, for creating an outstanding film!

The Jackson Family Project is funded by the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund, City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Relations, Prospect Park Association, Prospect Park Co-op Legacy Fund, Pratt PTO and the residents of Prospect Park.

Please support the Jackson Family Project at <https://www.givemn.org/story/Jacksonmemorial>

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## PPA Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports Approved at the June, 2026 Board/Committee

[PPA Board Minutes May 17th, 2026 \(electronic vote\) Approving March 23rd, 2026 PPA Board Minutes and May 2nd, 2026 Annual Meeting & Board Minutes](#)

## "25% by 25" Update

Hi, all - back in 2020, when I chaired the Environment Committee, we set a goal of reducing residential natural gas (aka mixed methane gas) usage in Prospect Park by 25% by the end of 2025. (From a 2019 baseline.) I knew at the time that this was both too high of a goal, given the amount of work needed, and too low of a goal, given the dire consequences of climate change.

When all is said and done, **our residential natural gas usage went down 6% from 2019 to 2025.** The good news is that is the equivalent of roughly 53 houses electrifying completely and I want to give a big shout out to everyone who has contributed to that progress. Thank you so much! Your efforts show what is possible!

The bad news is that by the end of 2024, we were down 11.4%. **So, how did we lose ground?**

- 1) Measuring energy use from one year to the next is complicated by the weather. A warmer or colder winter makes it difficult to determine exactly how much energy is being saved. The calculations I use mitigate this a bit by using heating degree days (HDD), but it is not an exact science.
- 2) Minneapolis as a whole went down slightly in 2025, while our usage increased. I measure our usage against the city as a whole, so this may be impacting our performance.
- 3) Prospect Park has a large population that turns over year to year, which again, makes measuring energy use complicated.
- 4) I cut back on how much I was publicizing the "25% by '25" initiative to just a few reminders in the ppelist. While I advocate for foundational changes to homes (such as insulation or upgrading to a heat pump), it may be that folks were more conscious of their energy use with more constant reminders.

### What's next?

I'm going to continue neighborhood outreach to encourage folks to decrease how much CO2 their house is producing through insulation and energy upgrades. Please keep an eye out for information in the ppelist and the PPA newsletter regarding free home energy audits, rebates and home energy workshops that will help you plan and save the most money. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me at [britton.mary@gmail.com](mailto:britton.mary@gmail.com).

In 2027, I will start working with other neighborhoods in Minneapolis who would like to use the same model that we did. I am hoping to eventually take the model to other cities.

### Why is this important?

All of us are running out of time. **At our current rate, it will take Minneapolis over 200 years to become carbon neutral.** Keep in mind that Minneapolis is one of the better cities when it comes to the fight against climate change. I'm asking folks to mitigate and reduce their own home's carbon footprint

as soon as possible, while still taking care of yourself financially and mentally.

**Keep in mind:**

- The average house in Minneapolis produces more CO2 annually than the average American car.
- 1 in 4 homes in Prospect Park have no wall insulation. Over half need more attic insulation.
- There is always a positive Return on Investment for insulation projects.
- Heat pumps cost more to install, but their annual operating costs are lower, and over 10–15 years they typically break even or save money compared with gas furnaces and gas water heaters.
- This is a marathon, not a sprint. You do not need to get everything done immediately. Plan on one project every 6 - 12 months. For the moment, start with an energy audit. (Free at [City of Minneapolis Residential Programs | Center for Energy and Environment](#) .)
- While these actions will not stop climate change by themselves, they are absolutely needed for climate change to be stopped.

Thanks, everyone! Mary Britton, Prospect Park's "25% by '25" Initiative

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OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS

Folk dancing for all at Luxton Park



Please join us for an afternoon of American traditional folk dancing with live music by Contratopia on Saturday, November 7 from 1 to 3pm. All dances will be taught by Robin Nelson. Come join neighbors and friends for dancing and an afternoon of fun - no partner or experience needed as all dances will be taught. We'll provide light refreshments at the break with an opportunity to meet the band, teacher, and talk to neighbors. All ages are invited. The event is co-sponsored by Luxton Recreation Center and Tapestry Folkdance Center. Gym shoes or socks are required. FMI - lydiaormac@gmail.com .!

Events at Prospect Park United Methodist Church



The event features:

- artisans selling wares such as pottery, quilts, fabric art, jewelry, cards & more
- breakfast and lunch for dine in or to-go
- silent auction of food items & art
- fresh, homemade baked goods
- Free Kids' Makers Room for grades Pre-K to middle school

The annual Prospect Park Fall Market will be Saturday, November 7, 9 am-3 pm at [Prospect Park UMC](http://www.prospectparkchurch.org), [22 Orlin Ave](http://www.prospectparkchurch.org) SE. We hope to see you there for this great neighborhood tradition where you can find unique, locally made items! Bring your appetite and your holiday shopping list!

[Andy Ulseth](#) & Friends will play a free concert on Saturday, November 14 at 7 pm at [Prospect Park UMC](#) in support of [Southeast Seniors](#).



The concert is free to attend, with 100% of donations going to Southeast Seniors, which helps seniors stay safe and connected living at home.

A craftsman songwriter from Minnesota, Ulseth's folk songs highlight the vivid and visceral minutiae of the modern world rather than focus on the past. His shows incorporate stories and a wit not common in the ever-so-earnest world of folk music, along with a voice that can fill the room with a sweet falsetto.

You're invited to Free Community Meals every third Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 pm at [Prospect Park UMC](#), [22 Orlin Ave SE](#).

You can dine in or get take-out. Free meals are available every third Wednesday of the month (same time and place) in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes and volunteers. Food is always hot, delicious and nutritious, with vegetarian and vegan options and no pork. Bring your family and friends! Free parking is available on the street and in the Pratt School parking lot across the street.





FREE

COMMUNITY MEALS

DINE-IN & TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE!

WHERE: Prospect Park United Methodist Church
22 Orin Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55414

WHEN: Third Wednesday of each month
5:30 - 6:30 pm

2026 DATES: Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

Food served will be a nutritious, healthy and balanced meal with no pork.

ALL are welcome!







GRATUITAS

COMIDAS COMUNITARIAS

¡TENEMOS COMIDA PARA LLEVAR!

DÓNDE: Prospect Park United Methodist Church
22 Orin Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55414

GUÁNDO: El tercer miércoles de cada mes
5:30 - 6:30 pm

2026 FECHAS: 21 de enero, 18 de febrero, 18 de marzo, 15 de abril, 20 de mayo, 17 de junio, 15 de julio, 19 de agosto, 16 de septiembre, 21 de octubre, 18 de noviembre, 16 de diciembre

La comida que serviremos será una comida nutritiva, saludable y equilibrada sin carne de cerdo. ¡Todos están bienvenidos!




☎ 612-376-2260 🌐 www.prospectparkchurch.org ✉ office@prospectparkchurch.org

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Founded in 1901, PPA's mission is to promote, in a non-partisan, educational and cooperative manner, the health, safety and general welfare of the neighborhood and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the aesthetic, residential and physical qualities of the neighborhood environment.

Please support PPA so we can continue serving our neighborhood.

Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; donations are tax-deductible.



Simply click for online GiveMN or mail checks to: PPA
P.O. Box 141095,
Minneapolis 55414.



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**Council Member Wonsley:**

***Contact or Share Your Opinion or Address an Issue Any Time***

E-mail Council Member Wonsley and her staff at [ward2@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ward2@minneapolismn.gov)

Or contact staff directly: [Policy Aide Celeste Robinson](#) | [Policy Aide Qannani Omar](#)

[Sign up for Council Member Robin Wonsley's Ward 2 newsletters and get updates on the ward and the city.](#)

[Subscribe to MN Representative Mohamud Noor's newsletter. \(District 60B\)](#)

[Subscribe to MN Senator Doron Clark's newsletter. \(District 60\)](#)



[Follow the Off-Campus Living Facebook Page](#) and [sign up here](#) for their newsletter to receive updates on safety, business, and more in the University of Minnesota Campus area. Non-students are also encouraged to participate!



[Go to our Website / Like us on Facebook / Follow us on Instagram](#)

The Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Our mailing address is: PO Box 141095 Minneapolis, MN 55414

Contact us: [staff@prospectparkmpls.org](mailto:staff@prospectparkmpls.org) 612-767-6531

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