



Summit Hill
ASSOCIATION
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Summit Hill Association District 16 Council

NOVEMBER 2023

Future of Linwood Park looks bright as national partnership announced, residents weigh in



In August, Summit Hill residents filled Linwood Recreation Center to share their visions for an updated and redesigned Linwood Park – from improved athletic fields and pickleball courts to community garden expansion and a splash pad. Ideas generated through this open house event will be paired with online survey responses from Summit Hill residents as part of Reimagine Linwood Park, a joint effort by the SHA and the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department to modernize the park, which has not been updated in over thirty years.

This summer, a national nonprofit (KABOOM!) announced a partnership with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and Saint Paul Parks Conservancy as part of its 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity. This five-year plan to achieve playspace equity in 25 priority places will lead an ambitious plan to invest \$7.5 million through collaborative funding efforts with regional corporate, foundation, and individual donors. Dunning Park in the Rondo neighborhood was the first park targeted by this initiative.

We are incredibly pleased to share the following announcement from KABOOM!: “The City of St. Paul and KABOOM! are excited to prioritize revitalizing Linwood Park as part of their 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity partnership. Contingent on fundraising, the project at Linwood Park will take place in 2024.”

What's next for Reimagine Linwood Park?

The SHA will be working with KABOOM! and our city partners on securing foundation and other philanthropic support. However, grant dollars are often limited in terms of how they can be used. To see our community's vision become reality, SHA will be calling on the talents and resources of our community. In the coming months, you can anticipate a significant capital campaign for Reimagine Linwood Park.



We are asking for our residents to lend their time and talents to this project as we get it launched. To get involved, please email reimaginelinwood@summithillassociation.org.



Summit Hill Association
District 16 Council
501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hi. I'm Simon, and we are your Summit Hill Association.

Surprisingly, there's a good chance that you don't know who we are, why you should care about our work, or just how much we're doing to serve you and everyone who lives, works, visits, or owns a business in Summit Hill. If that's the case, then I and my colleagues on the Summit Hill Association (SHA) Board are here to change that.

We are one of 17 District Councils created by the city of Saint Paul. We act as a liaison between Summit Hill and our city to represent residents and businesses in our neighborhood. But we do far more than that. Our mission is to work with homeowners, renters and business owners to make Summit Hill the best neighborhood in the city.

Our all-volunteer board is made up of residents who live in or own a business in the district. We are also fortunate to have two exceptional staff members who work out of our office at the Linwood Rec Center.

In these pages, you'll read about two current efforts this year. Our **Reimagine Linwood Park** project aims to bring a 30-year old recreation space into the 21st century and make it a resource for our whole community. The **Plan for Grand Ave** project is a collaborative effort to restore our community's Main Street to the walkable, vibrant heart of our neighborhood it deserves to be.

These are just some of the many projects we are focused on this year. If you visit our website or scroll through our Facebook page, you'll see news about community events we are sponsoring, including concerts, puppet shows for the kids, and our record-breaking House Tour this fall. You'll notice the parents' group we have created, providing a resource for parents throughout our community. And you'll see our efforts regarding neighborhood cleanup days, our annual garage sale, and more. Just as important, we provide constituent services, giving you a resource if you have questions or concerns about what's happening in Summit Hill.

Sounds great, right? Thing is, we need your help. As an organization, we are uniquely placed to bring together the community, local businesses, our political representatives, City departments, and other groups to make visible and lasting change in our neighborhood. We can take ideas – like a new park – and make them real. That's powerful. But we can't do it alone.

We want neighbors like you who share our ambition to step up and help us deliver on these exciting projects. We need your ideas and energy. Concerned about vacancies on Grand Avenue? Would you like to see more community events? Here's your chance to get involved and put your thoughts into action. You could serve on our board, volunteer on a specific project you're passionate about, or make a donation to advance our work. If you speak to any of our current board members, they'll tell you serving their local community and having their name on some of our signature projects is some of the most fulfilling work they've ever done.



Summit Hill neighbors, are you interested?
Visit summithillassociation.org/get-involved to see current volunteer opportunities.

Regards,

Simon Taghioff, SHA Board President
president@summithillassociation.org

The New Look of the Summit Hill Association



Summit Hill
ASSOCIATION

live. play. work. connect.

Summit Hill is in the midst of exciting growth and change and the Summit Hill Association (SHA) is here to help guide and reflect that change and growth.

During 2023, we've worked hard to redefine our mission and focus. That includes how we represent ourselves to our community. We love our main street and incredible stock of historic homes. However, what makes Summit Hill special is goes well beyond our built environment.

Our new brand focuses on what Summit Hill means to us as a neighborhood and community. It reflects SHA's mission to make Summit Hill a better place to live, work, play, and connect for residents, workers, business owners, and visitors."



live
More than 7,000 people live in the 75 blocks of the Summit Hill neighborhood. We are home to a dazzling variety of people! Your Summit Hill Association is dedicated to making this Saint Paul's very best neighborhood.



work
Summit Hill is a popular destination to visit in the metro area. We are working with our business partners, city officials, and neighbors to support and grow our businesses and welcome visitors.



play
There's so much to do in our community, and the SHA is at the forefront of offering and supporting activities. You will find everything from green spaces, family play groups, puppet shows, garage sales, and mystery dinners – culminating with our Summit Hill House Tour.



connect

We work with you to make this a vital and vibrant neighborhood; a community and the Summit Hill Association.

SHA Annual Meeting Overview

The SHA held its annual meeting on November 9 at Tavern on Grand. In addition to conducting official association business, the meeting was a great opportunity for neighbors to connect with new and existing people from across our community. Newly-re-elected city council member Rebecca Noecker was unable to join but applauded SHA for its work in the past year and shared her optimism about the future of the Summit Hill community via written comments:

"The year ahead will be a busy one for our community. Our planning staff will be proposing amendments to the East Grand Avenue Overlay District in the coming months, with City Council adoption anticipated for late Winter 2024. Public Works will be reconstructing Grand Avenue from Fairview to Snelling and planning for road work on Pleasant Ave from Victoria to St. Clair in 2025. The newly repaired Cochran Fountain will be turned on in the spring, and our Parks and Rec staff will be working closely with SHA and Summit Hill neighbors on a reimagined play space and park area at Linwood. I'm excited to keep working with you to make our neighborhood safer, expand access to affordable housing and child care, fix our streets, welcome new businesses to Grand Avenue, improve city services, and much more."

Neighbors participated in the official business of electing new SHA board members at the event. Dominic Ciresi was elected to serve a full three year term on the board.

There are currently open board positions available. Our all-volunteer board commits to monthly board meetings and active participation in our committees such as Reimagine Linwood Park, Grand Avenue Working Group, and more!



If you are interested in serving on the SHA board or just have questions about getting more involved, please email us at info@summithillassociation.org.



Summit Hill

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860 St. Clair Ave | St Paul, MN 55105

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The Plan for Grand Ave Project

In many ways, Grand Avenue is the heart of Summit Hill. It's known throughout the metro area as a destination for dining, shopping and entertainment. To the people of Summit Hill, however, Grand Avenue is much more than that: it's part of our daily activities and many of us call it home. That's why the Summit Hill Association (SHA), the City of Saint Paul, and the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) formed a working group to look at the current state of the avenue and discuss ways to help this thoroughfare live up to its potential.

The working group has five primary goals:

1. Find ways to fill existing vacancies along the Avenue.
2. Improve the overall environment, making Grand Avenue a place people are eager to walk along every day.
3. Bring more community-oriented programming and events to Grand Avenue.
4. Promote and support Grand Avenue businesses.
5. Establish partnerships, funding, and regulatory changes to help Grand Avenue businesses grow.

The working group has already taken some steps to perk up the appearance of the avenue. SHA and GABA are partnering with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation to care for the new trees that were recently planted along parts of east Grand Avenue to replace those that had to come down due to the emerald ash borer infestation. Next summer, you will see new hanging flower baskets hung from street lights along Grand.

This is a challenging time for businesses. The retail environment has changed radically over the past few years. Consumer behaviors and shopping styles are forcing businesses to adopt new ways of operating and we continue to see vacancies popping up along our vital business corridor. The Grand Avenue Working Group is helping businesses meet these challenges in a way that is designed to ensure that Grand Avenue remains a vibrant, vital and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.



Learn more about this group and how
you can get involved: summithillassociation.org/grandave



What is a District Council? The district council system in Saint Paul is comprised of 17 autonomous 501(c)(3) non-profit agencies that provide residents in each neighborhood an opportunity to become involved in city planning. The primary focus of most district councils is land use, community development and transportation. Other issues that district councils may focus on include parks and recreation centers, community gardens, environmental action, crime prevention and neighborhood beautification. District councils rely on community building activities and events as the basis for convening residents to become involved in their neighborhood. You can learn more at stpaul.gov