

District 1 News

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Eastview, Conway, Battle Creek & Highwood Neighborhood News

A New Newsletter!

by **Phil Fuehrer**

Welcome to the new District 1 News. In October 2005, as President of the District 1 Community Council, and editor of the newspaper, I wrote that, “The District 1 News is not a profit-making adventure; if it were we would have closed shop a long time ago. We are here to provide you with community news and a community voice.”

Those words are as true today as they were then. In 2006, we made a big decision to reduce the number of issues published each year in order to keep the paper “alive” moving to three issues per year in 2007. Today, we do something similar in altering the format and delivery method of the paper. We will now be publishing a single-page newsletter and working to make it available for pick up in our District office, across the community and online. There is, however, a brighter spot - it is our hope to publish no less than 11 issues per year (if not returning to a full monthly schedule).

We would love to hear your feedback regarding the change, distribution locations and anything else you would like to comment on. Please email us at: district1council@gmail.com.

Community Council Hires New Executive Director

It's a time of big changes at the District 1 Community Council. Saint Paul's district councils provide neighborhood residents with the opportunity to become involved in city planning. The system is less visible but also facing many changes. District 1 is pleased to announce that it is moving into the future with a new executive director.

“We are delighted to introduce Betsy Mowry Voss as our new Executive Director,” said District Council President Paul Sawyer. “Ms. Mowry Voss is a longtime St Paul community leader who brings creativity, management, fundraising, marketing, partnerships, and communications experience – and a positive energy that will be a great help in our community building work.”

Mowry Voss has worked in a variety of positions including at COMPAS, a nonprofit arts education organization, where she has worked as the Arts Innovation Director, and in other roles, for the past 15 years. Her experience ranges from working with youth, people of color, parks advocates, and women in jail to schools, government, social service and business. She is a past Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Saint Paul, is vice-chair of the Ramsey County Extension

Committee, and has served as a grant reviewer for organizations. Mowry Voss is a writer and mosaic artist, and a trained social and racial justice facilitator. She replaces executive director Betsy Leach, who resigned December after a 12-year tenure.

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New Director (con't from front page),

Betsy Mowry Voss says, “My family and I moved to District 1 in 2017 after I lived for 16 years in the Rondo neighborhood. We love this area and I want to be involved in the evolution and positive development of District 1. I work at the intersection of community, education and service, so this job aligns well with my experience and allows me to dig more deeply into community engagement.”

“I’m happy to be joining District 1 as the new Executive Director,” says Mowry Voss. “Over the next few weeks, I’ll be slowly transitioning out of my current position as Arts Innovation Director at COMPAS.” Mowry Voss should be in the District office at her full schedule by the end of April.

District 1 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

The annual meeting had a great turnout this year — people had a chance to learn more about the District 1 Community Council, eat some food from local eateries, mingle and vote. About 45 people attended on Saturday, March 24 and over 60 attended on Monday, March 26 — with a total of 121 ballots being cast. At both meetings, outgoing President Paul Sawyer gave an overview of things the board has accomplished in the last 4 years — including the Community Plan, Strategic Plan and the Equity Plan. The re-branding campaign was introduced and examples given to those in attendance and information was posted about the District Council in general, the Youth Council and Land Use Committee.

The new board members are:

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| 1. Hafsa Mohamud | 6. Melissa Wenzel |
| 2. Amina Samatar | 7. Jamillah Shabazz |
| 3. Aisha Mohamud | 8. Matthew Barrett |
| 4. Paul Sawyer | 9. Chai Lee |
| 5. Bonnie Watkins | 10. Lee Vue |

Upcoming Events (See Calendar on our web page for more info)

- **Land Use Comm:** May 7, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Dist. Office
- **Exec/Finance Comm:** April 11 & May 9, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Dist. Office
- **Communications, Outreach & Safety Comm:** April 16 & May 14, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Dist. Office
- **Young Mentors Group:** Thursdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Sunray Library
- **East Side Pride Open Mic:** April 10 & 24, 6:00-8:00 pm, East Side Freedom Library
- **32nd Annual City Wide Clean-Up:** April 21, 9 - 11:30 am, various locations. Register at: [Click HERE https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources/volunteer-resources/events-calendar](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources/volunteer-resources/events-calendar)
- **Harding Band Concert:** April 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Harding High School
- **Harding HS Spring Play:** May 11 & 12, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Harding H.S.

<http://www.district1council.org>

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