



Payne-Phalen
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Payne-Phalen Community Council?

The Community Council's mission is to improve neighborhoods in Payne-Phalen by engaging, educating, and empowering all residents and businesses in our diverse community. Serving on the Board of Directors is an opportunity for you to represent your neighbors and other members of the community by sharing your voice, your talent, your ideas, and your perspective on the part of the city where you live or work.

About the Board, the organization, and the district council system:

The Payne-Phalen Community Council is one of 17 community councils established by the City of St. Paul in 1975 to engage residents and to collaborate with city government. The purpose of each district council is to create opportunities for residents to learn about what is happening in their neighborhood and to collaborate with one another to maintain and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Like all seventeen of St. Paul's district councils, the Payne-Phalen Community Council is registered as a Minnesota 501(C)3 non-profit, charitable organization with a voluntary, unpaid board of directors. The Board is composed of members elected by their neighbors and other members of the community where they serve. The Payne-Phalen Community Council has an office and paid staff that serve the Board. The organization receives basic funding based on the size and characteristics of our local population relative to the City of St. Paul. Amongst all 17, Payne-Phalen is the district with the highest levels of poverty and economic challenge in the city. Our district also has the most culturally diverse and vibrant population of St. Paul's 17 districts.

Opportunities for those elected to serve on the Board:

Each district council is involved in work to improve the physical, social and economic structures in their neighborhood. As part of that work, each district council is responsible for the development and creation of a district plan (sometimes referred to as a neighborhood plan). Currently, Payne-Phalen is making a concerted effort to update our district plan for the first time since it was originally adopted, in 1979! Updating this plan to meet the vision, aspirations and needs of today's population is especially critical work for Payne-Phalen since the population in this part of the city has changed dramatically in the four decades since the original district plan was created. Board Members who are elected to the coming term will be integrally involved in engaging the community in shaping the policies, principles and vision set out in the updated plan. And because district plans are eventually adopted by the St. Paul City Council, working on the update to the Payne Phalen plan is a unique opportunity for residents to influence how local policies, regulations and budgets could have a positive influence on the district for years to come.

Using your voice and sharing your talents to represent the Community:

The organization's primary responsibility is to engage and represent the people living and working in this part of St. Paul. By serving on the Board of Directors, you are in a position to represent your own neighborhood and others in the Payne-Phalen community on issues and matters that come before the Board each month. The City and the Board support a commitment to equity as being the foundation to successful community engagement going forward:

- The District Council Board should accurately reflect the diverse communities we serve.
- District councils are responsible to pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents and business owners who have been historically under-represented.
- District councils are responsible to review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for traditionally under-represented communities.

Along with the work in planning and enhancing equity, Board Members are also involved in:

- Helping to shape organizational goals and objectives
- Reviewing community development proposals
- Advocating for park and recreation improvements
- Promoting environmental action through volunteering and advocacy
- Coordinating community gardens and neighborhood beautification projects
- Organizing block clubs and working with various agencies to improve public safety

District councils rely on community-building activities and events as the basis for encouraging involvement in their neighborhood. Most Board members participate in several community events each year such as neighborhood forums, festivals, parades, and block parties.

What is the basic commitment and obligation for serving on the Board of Directors?

- Each *Board Term* is 3 years. Those elected in April 2019 are expected to serve until April 2022.
- *Board Meetings:* The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Arlington Hills Recreation Center at Payne and Maryland Avenues. As an elected Board Member, you are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in all 12 meetings each year. For each meeting, Board Members are expected to read and review a 5-10-page packet of materials sent in advance of each meeting. These materials give background information on what will be presented and discussed at the meeting. At the meeting, you are expected to participate in the discussion, ask clarifying questions, and participate in decision making.
- *Fundraising:* Look for and participate in activities that help to raise funds used to support the mission, programs, and goals of the organization.
- *Help Recruit* community members to attend meetings and events, encourage them to engage and share their insights, and to be a part of the community conversation.

It's OK if you still have questions!

Additional information about serving on the Board of Directors can be found at:

www.paynephalen.org/who-we-are?

Further questions about the responsibilities of the Payne-Phalen Community Council's Board Directors can be directed to the following:

- Athena Hollins, Board President
- Britt Kringle, Board Vice-President and Chair of the Annual Nominations Committee
- Jack Byers, Executive Director, (651) 774-5234, jackb@paynephalen.org