



Welcome to the Voter’s Guide for the 2024 Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

6 out of 12 board of director seats are up for election. This guide has materials submitted by the 8 candidates running. The submission deadline to be in this guide was February 22. Voting begins online at our annual meeting Monday, February 26, 2024 and will continue until midnight, Wednesday, February 28. Ballots can be found by scanning this QR code, on our website, or emailed to anyone who requests one by emailing info@lynnhurst.org.

Vote here!



CANDIDATES



Dyan Venters

I am currently on the board serving on the “Welcoming Committee” and Environmental Committee.

My hope is that we are able to involve more of the renters and BIPOC community in all that we do. Also to continue to do more community activities so that we are able make our neighborhood more inclusive. Fiscally, we will need to find ways to increase our income in order to continue to provide activities and programs to the community.

I have experience in Marketing, writing, meeting facilitation, volunteer management.



Jose Martinez

My name is José Martínez. I went to St. Olaf College for my undergraduate and the University of Minnesota for my masters degree in Curriculum design. I'm a person that enjoys cooking, I also enjoy brewing coffee, playing the guitar, playing sports (my favorites are soccer, tennis, volleyball), going camping, biking and any outdoor adventure. I am running for a board seat in our neighborhood with a commitment to fostering an inclusive and vibrant community. As an advocate for diversity and representation, I believe that a wide array of perspectives is crucial for a neighborhood to thrive. My strong belief in community involvement stems from the understanding that collective engagement is the cornerstone of a resilient and connected society.

Additionally, I am driven by the desire to strike a harmonious balance between preserving our cherished traditions and embracing positive changes that benefit all residents. I believe that by fostering an environment that values both continuity and progress, we can create a neighborhood that is not only rich in its history but also adaptable to the evolving needs of our diverse population. Above all, safety is paramount, and I am dedicated to implementing measures that ensure the well-being of every member of our community. Together, let us build a neighborhood that reflects the strength found in unity, diversity, and a shared vision for a thriving and secure future.

My hope is to be part of a committed group of community organizers that want to continue the development of a proud community. A group of leaders that understands the value of creating spaces and activities that welcome and brings the community together.

I have been working as a teacher and a soccer coach since 2009. In addition to my teaching experience, I have also co-coordinated a mentorship program for teachers of color in the school district where I work. I have a unique ability to bring diversity, equity and inclusion into spaces that have that area of opportunity.



Linda McConley

My husband and I have lived in Lynnhurst since 2001. Our three kids attended Burroughs, Justice Page, and now Washburn. I hold a variety of volunteer positions for my kids' schools, sports clubs, and other activities. I enjoy gardening, cooking, and walking and biking with family and friends through our wonderful neighborhood and city.

With funding cuts over the last few years, The Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association is needing to rely on volunteers more than ever. I'm excited to continue to work with other board members on fundraising and on new,

innovative ways to communicate and host events. Our neighborhood is stronger when we are connected by timely communications and opportunities to gather in person.

I have a corporate communications background and have had my own website designer/developer business since 2016. Prior to becoming a Lynnhurst board member, I helped the board create the current website (lynnhurst.org) and I've continued to manage the site's content and technical maintenance since then. I also serve on the Lynnhurst Communications Committee where I help plan and write content for our newsletters and create posts for Lynnhurst's social media platforms.



Michelle Hansmann

My family and I moved to Minneapolis in April 2021. I live with my partner Steven and our one-year old son Hayden. I am originally from Minnesota and spent the previous six years living in the Pacific Northwest, in Portland, Oregon and Kirkland, Washington. We love how family-friendly Minneapolis is, and when purchasing our first home, it was important to us to live in this area of the city, within walking distance to Lake Harriet. We feel very fortunate to live in Lynnhurst and love all that our neighborhood offers. During my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, meaningful conversations with friends, and spending time outside: hiking, biking, swimming in the lakes, playing with my son, and picnicking in the parks. This past summer, I participated in a beginner pickleball league through Minneapolis Parks and I currently facilitate a monthly book club and serve on the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Family Council. As a new resident and new parent, I am excited about the opportunity to bring my skills and experience to the Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association Board because I value civic engagement and am eager to connect with neighbors and represent the collective interests of our neighborhood. If elected, I will bring my community building skills and passion for social justice to engage volunteers, residents, and public officials in supporting our neighborhood projects and facilitating community conversations.

I don't have concerns for our neighborhood though I do have hopes for our neighborhood. I want Lynnhurst to be a neighborhood that better reflects the diverse people and families that live in Minneapolis. I want all families to feel welcome here and it is important to me that the neighborhood association board does their best to connect with new residents, especially renters, and works to support and actively attract multicultural businesses and affordable housing to our neighborhood. I believe that neighborhood advocacy isn't limited to individual interactions. It is a community conversation that not only involves listening to and addressing complaints and concerns but also includes sharing information and keeping those in our community informed about important updates and opportunities to participate in civic engagement. My goals include increasing public awareness about the neighborhood association, connecting neighbors, promoting diversity and inclusion within our neighborhood, and supporting sustainability efforts.

Creating meaningful connections is at the core of what I do, and relationship building has been essential to my work. Prior to moving to Minnesota, I spent the past several years working on political campaigns and in legislative offices of state and local elected officials. In my previous roles as a Legislative Assistant, I collaborated with community stakeholders and tracked bills to ensure the advancement of priority legislation. I facilitated meetings with advocacy groups on behalf of the Representative and Senator I was working for, and managed constituent communication, which included writing monthly newsletters to provide legislative updates to our constituents. In my previous role as Campaign Manager, I led field organizing operations, event planning, and volunteer recruitment for a state legislative campaign. In 2016, I worked as

Finance Assistant on Oregon Governor Kate Brown's campaign. My work on the campaign involved researching potential donors and producing call sheets to prepare the Governor for call time, planning and staffing six state fundraising events, and recruiting volunteers for a door-to-door canvass that reached 4,500 people during the final week before election. When we moved to Minnesota, I took a temporary position with Our Streets Minneapolis, where I supported event operations for five Open Streets events, including volunteer recruitment and supervision, reviewing and tracking permits, maintaining vendor database, and conducting community outreach along Open Streets routes. In each of these positions, I advocated effectively for constituents and successfully created a strong base of support through community outreach as well as through the recruitment and training of volunteers. I'm not afraid to knock on doors and meet new neighbors! I am currently staying home with our sixteen month old son and I am eager to get involved with our neighborhood association.



Patrick Larson

I currently reside in a duplex in the Lynnhurst neighborhood. By day, I serve as a Development Officer at the University of Minnesota Foundation, where I focus on raising funds and awareness for the Masonic Children's Hospital. Additionally, I am pursuing an MBA at the Carlson School with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2025. Outside of my professional pursuits, I am deeply engaged in volunteer work with Special Olympics Minnesota. I sit on the Young Professional Board, advocating for individuals with disabilities through sports. In this capacity, I've organized fundraising events, spearheaded a career fair for people with disabilities, and actively participate in preparations for the 2026 National Special Olympics Games, which will be hosted in the Twin Cities.

Having resided in Southwest Minneapolis for the past five years, I have a passion for this part of the Twin Cities which I know is shared by many residents. However, I also recognize the need for continual improvement to make our community more accessible, affordable, and inclusive. As a current renter facing the possibility of having to relocate to afford homeownership in the future, I bring a unique perspective to this board. While I understand the housing affordability issue in the Twin Cities is quite complex, I believe that my perspective as a renter under the age of 30 can offer valuable insights to the Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association's discussions and decisions on this topic. Given my background in non-profit management and fundraising, I am also eager to contribute as the Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association develops a plan for long-term financial sustainability. With city funding diminishing to neighborhood associations, it will be crucial to create a strategy that incorporates diverse revenue streams, with fundraising playing a pivotal role. I'm looking forward to contributing to a strategy that will allow LYNAS to thrive for years to come. Finally, I am excited to contribute to the vibrant community-building activities in Lynnhurst, including block parties, the summer festival, and other events fostering neighborly connections. I firmly believe that our neighborhoods thrive when residents have a shared sense of belonging and ownership, a goal that is much easier to achieve through intentionally crafted touchpoints.

My professional background includes five years as a healthcare strategy consultant for Optum and the last two years as a Development Officer for the University of Minnesota Foundation. I'm skilled in creating sustainable fundraising strategies and will certainly leverage this as the LYNAS looks to identify long-term funding avenues. Additionally, my role on the Young Professionals Board for Special Olympics Minnesota has provided me with board experience including creating bylaws, strategic plans, and annual

reports. During my time as a consultant at Optum, I became quite adept at meeting organization, project management, and strategy implementation.



Patrick McDougle

I am a relatively new resident to Lynnhurst as of August 2023 where I live with my fiancée Patty. Patty and I chose Lynnhurst for its proximity to lake Harriet, walkability, and the beautiful mature trees. I am a software engineering leader specializing in building websites in the marketing, ecommerce, media, and advertising sectors. When I moved back to MN from San Francisco I made a commitment to try to be more engaged in my local community and I hope that being elected to serve on the LYNAS board will be part of that commitment. I am a member of the Edina Morningside Rotary Club and have and will continue to serve as an election judge for the Minneapolis elections department. In my free time I am pursuing my pilot's license, attending local theatre and dance performances (I minored in Theatre), and walking around the lake or along the creek.

Lynnhurst is already a great neighborhood which is an amazing starting place. I hope I can help with the following by serving on the LYNAS board: - Navigating the desire of the city to up-density according to the 2040 comprehensive plan while also ensuring that the beautiful and historic homes (and the trees on their lots) in our neighborhood are protected - Foster and encourage connectivity between neighbors and local businesses - As funding for neighborhood associations continues to decline, brainstorm and implement strategies to try to close the budget gap while also ensuring that programming continues.

I watch many of the city public meetings and can ensure that the neighborhood is made aware of actions that the city is taking that impact us most. I would be happy to also help with any marketing / advertising / computer related things as they are needed.



Paul Ragozzino

I am the current President and would like to continue my time on the board to work alongside the next group of LYNAS leadership.

I have lived in Lynnhurst since 2006 with my wife Linda, who has lived here since 1989. My children Brad and Lia both graduated from Southwest High School.

I am a recently retired architect who uses those skills to assist in planning and development issues regarding parks and street projects. I am one of two board members who has long term institutional knowledge and look forward to bringing and sharing that perspective to future neighborhood issues.

I joined the LYNAS Board in December 2010 and have held the roles of Vice President and President multiple times including this past year. I enjoy the parks, proximity, people and sense of place in Lynnhurst. Some skills I bring to the board is my career as an Architect, Project Manager, Urban Planning, Multi-family housing, landscaping and retail design.



Sam Kwon

I have been a Lynnhurst resident since 2012. We are in our second house in the neighborhood, so we clearly love it here! My wife, Mary Ann, and I have 2 children, Josie (13) and Ryder (10). I am a retail consultant having worked corporate retail for nearly 20 years before starting my own retail consulting company. I am a huge soccer fan (the real football) and music lover. I was most recently President of the Burroughs PTA and also a Board Member on my daughters soccer club, Minneapolis United Soccer, leading the leading the Advancement Committee.

Having lead the Burroughs PTA coming out of Covid, my primary push was bring the community out and back together again. My hopes and goals are the same for LYNAS but more so to bring the community together and gather or activate. How can we inform, support and help our neighbors and neighborhood is one of my goals.

Fundraising (lead that for the soccer club), Strong business acumen (Retail/Entrepreneur), Presentation skills (consultant), meeting facilitation (PTA), and project management (Consultant).