

PATHWAYS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION

Volume 14, Issue 1 ♥ January, February, March 2009



WEST CALHOUN
CEDAR ISLES DEAN
EAST ISLES
EAST CALHOUN
CARAG
LOWRY HILL EAST

PROSPECT PARK
LONGFELLOW
SEWARD
EAST PHILLIPS

GREENWAY CRIME RASH, COALITION RESPONDS

By Nate Kerr, LVC Community Organizer for the Coalition

In the fall of 2008, there was a rash of robberies in the Midtown Greenway and on the Hiawatha LRT Trail. The number of robberies in the past few months is greater than all those in the previous eight years that we know of. All of these attacks happened after dark to individuals bicycling alone, sometimes involving a weapon and resulting in a purse, backpack, or wallet being stolen, but never has a bike been stolen. In all instances, the attackers were groups of two to three young men, not of one specific race, and it appears that more than one group is involved.

The Midtown Greenway has become such a well-loved and highly used amenity in Minneapolis that it is here to stay. Criminals can't keep us away. But making it safer again at night and keeping it that way will require a concerted effort. As we go to press, the Minneapolis police are directing patrols toward the Greenway and the LRT Trail. The Coalition is improving communications with police and suggesting improvements to the system of reporting and logging crimes in the Greenway. We promptly notify the city of problems with lighting, call phones and security cameras. We're uploading crime summaries to our Web site. In response to a request from the Coalition, the police produced a bulletin to warn the public about this recent crime trend. We then created a poster using this bulletin and partnered with Hennepin County who put the poster up at six locations along the trails.

If you find yourself cycling in the Greenway or on the LRT Trail after dark, find another trail user to ride with. Please respond warmly to such requests from others even if it means adjusting your speed. Riding in groups after dark is a cultural shift that we need your help with — spread the word. The future of the Greenway depends on it. Noise-makers are a good idea too. Also after dark, if you see pedestrians loitering up ahead, take another route. If you see ANYTHING suspicious, please call 911 on your cell phone or use one of the blue call phones, note

(continued on page 5)



On Saturday, December 13, about 50 cyclists turned out for a Take Back the Greenway ride organized by Luci Russell through www.mplsbikelove.com. These diehard Greenway users are committed to continuing use of the trail and doing what they can to make it safer.

RESPUESTA DE LA COALICIÓN A LA OLA DE DELITOS EN EL SENDERO GREENWAY

Por Nate Kerr, LVC, Organizador comunitario para la Coalición

En el otoño de 2008, ocurrió un brote de robos en el sendero Midtown Greenway y el sendero Hiawatha junto a la línea férrea del tren LRT. De nuestro conocimiento, el número de robos en los últimos meses ha sido mayor que en los ocho años previos. Todos estos ataques ocurrieron por la noche y sus víctimas fueron personas andando solas en bicicleta; a veces fueron amenazadas con un arma para robarles la cartera, la mochila o la billetera, pero nunca les robaron la bicicleta. En todos los casos, los atacantes se acercaban en grupos de dos o tres varones jóvenes, de raza indefinida, y al parecer más de un grupo participó en los robos.

El sendero Midtown Greenway se ha convertido en algo muy apreciado y transitado de Minneapolis. Los delincuentes no nos van a amedrantar. Pero para que sea nuevamente seguro por las noches y cuidar de que siga siéndolo, requerirá un esfuerzo mancomunado de todos nosotros. Al momento de imprimir nuestra publicación, el departamento de policía de Minneapolis está patrullando el sendero Greenway y el sendero Hiawatha junto a la línea del tren LRT.

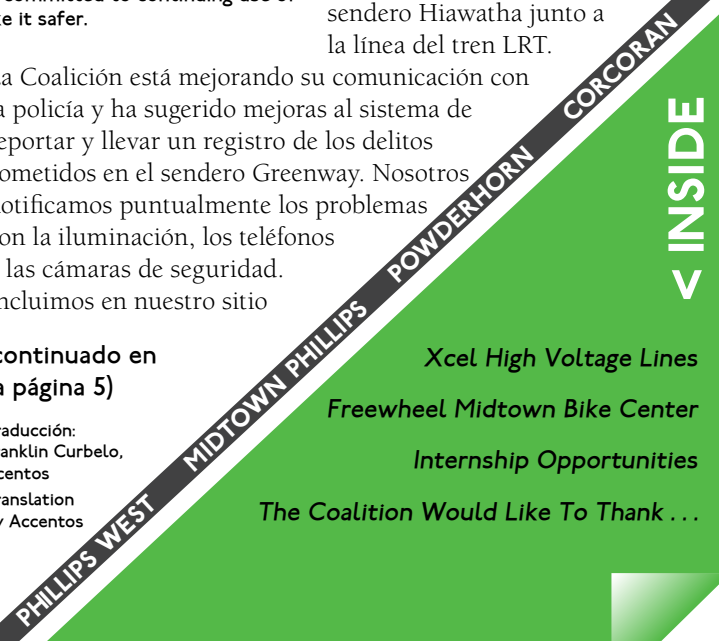
La Coalición está mejorando su comunicación con la policía y ha sugerido mejoras al sistema de reportar y llevar un registro de los delitos cometidos en el sendero Greenway. Nosotros notificamos puntualmente los problemas con la iluminación, los teléfonos y las cámaras de seguridad. Incluimos en nuestro sitio

(continuado en la página 5)

Traducción:
Franklin Curbelo,
Acentos
Translation
by Acentos

Xcel High Voltage Lines
Freewheel Midtown Bike Center
Internship Opportunities

The Coalition Would Like To Thank ...



WHITTIER LYNDALÉ CANDO

LOVEOURPATHWAYS.COM

XCEL'S PROPOSED HIGH VOLTAGE LINES MORE TIME NEEDED TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES

By Eric Hart, Coalition board member from the greater Longfellow Community

Photo Courtesy of Xcel Energy



In late September 2008, Xcel Energy announced its Hiawatha Project that seeks to increase the amount of electricity flowing to the Midtown area of south Minneapolis. The plan includes two new substations, one near Hiawatha Avenue and another near I-35W, which are to be connected by two high voltage transmission lines. The potential area for the transmission lines is parallel to the

Midtown Greenway between 26th and 31st Streets. It is our understanding that the only approval needed by Xcel is a routing permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Xcel does not have to prove the need for the project or study alternatives to it like they would for a larger project. Their application to the PUC could come as early as late January 2009.

We have learned from Xcel and businesses in the corridor that there have been power quality issues that have adversely effected some businesses. It is important that the corridor is served with high quality, reliable power. However, simply running high voltage lines on huge towers through the Greenway corridor or along residential streets is not the long-term solution that causes the least harm to the people in the effected neighborhoods and promotes a more sustainable future. As of December 3, 2008 the Midtown Greenway Coalition "currently opposes" the Hiawatha Project given the lack of

detailed data from Xcel and the lack of any serious alternatives analysis so far. Visit www.midtowngreenway.org to see the Coalition's policy resolution or watch for updates on this issue.

The Coalition is working with Xcel, the effected neighborhoods and others to explore solutions that negate the need for the power lines and substations. Alternatives include aggressive electricity conservation, distributed electricity generation (such as solar power or co-generation of heat and power), upgrading the local distribution system, and high-tech demand management systems.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Recommend to the following parties that alternatives to the Hiawatha Project be studied and that more time be allowed for this purpose: Minneapolis Council Members (contact info at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/>) or Xcel Energy (Paul Adelman, paul.adelman@xcelenergy.com, 612 630-4384).

If energy conservation and renewable energy interest you, volunteer your help or request that updates be emailed to you, contact Tim Springer at 612-879-0105 or tim@midtowngreenway.org.

Finally, participate in one or both of these upcoming meetings:

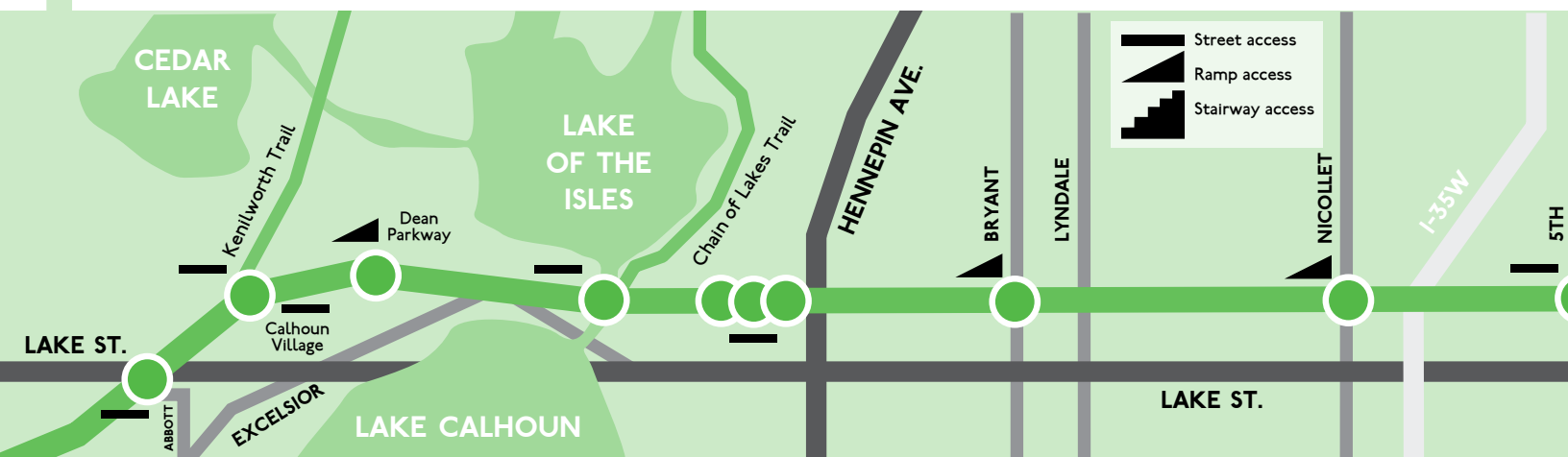
COMMUNITY FORUM ON XCEL'S HIAWATHA PROJECT

Sponsored by the Phillips Community Energy Cooperative, the Coalition, and others

- ♥ Monday, Jan. 12, 2009
- ♥ At Plaza Verde (next to Heart of the Beast)
1516 East Lake Street
- ♥ 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

XCEL ENERGY'S NEXT PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE ON THE HIAWATHA PROJECT

- ♥ Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009
- ♥ At Plaza Verde,
1516 East Lake Street
- ♥ Noon to 2:00 p.m.
And 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.





FREEWHEEL MIDTOWN BIKE CENTER

HAS SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON

By Kevin Ishaug, Owner, Freewheel Bike
and Dan Breva, Manager, Freewheel Midtown Bike Center

As of December 2008, the Freewheel Midtown Bike Center is seven months old! With spring and fall now behind us, we are looking forward to our first winter in our Greenway location. Things got off to a rollicking good start with our Grand Opening Ceremony, which included Mayor R.T. Rybak, Council Members Lilligren and Schiff, Allina Hospitals executives, city and county officials and of course the Midtown Greenway Coalition, which made all of this possible. With the late opening we hit the ground running—or riding, in our case. The weekend business during the summer and fall was frenetic at times, with patrons from all over stopping in to see the latest amenity in our nation's premier cycling city. The Bike Center struck a chord with the media as well—both local and national—as gas prices hovered around \$4.00/gallon and bike commuters in record numbers took to the parkways and streets.

As part of our mission to serve the bike commuter, we offered bike commuter clinics, classes on bike repair, wheel building, winter riding/commuting



Photos Courtesy of Sarah Simrall

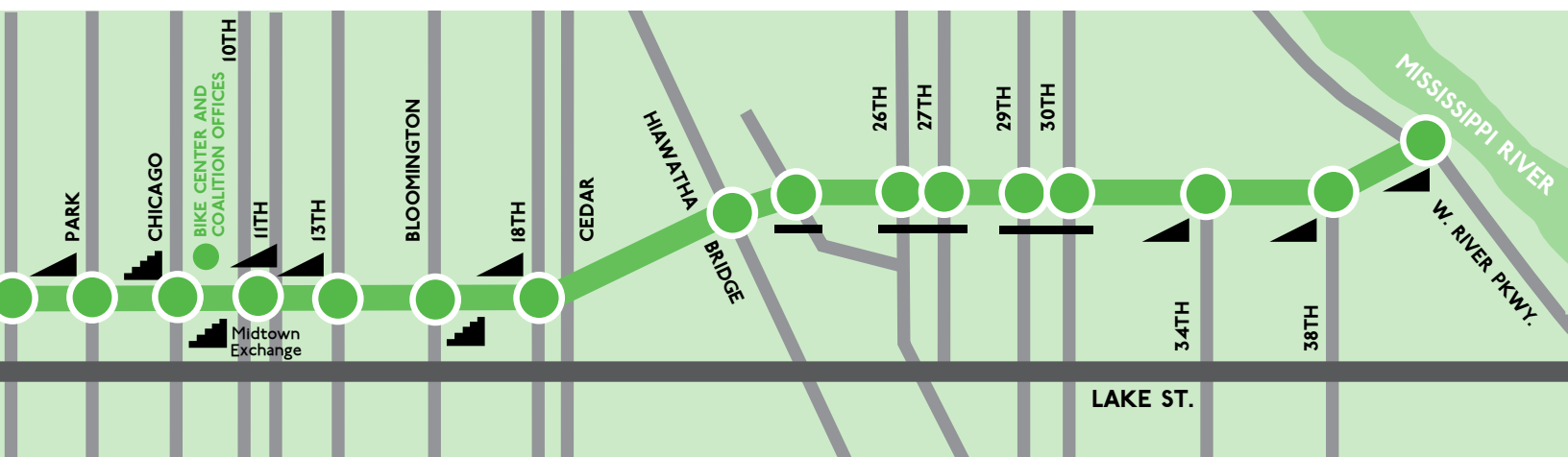
and new repair classes for “women only,” taught by women for women. To showcase the Bike Center and the great trails network, we hosted the New Belgium Brewery Urban Assault Ride in mid-September. With over 500 riders and all the friends that accompanied them, the event was a huge success. We look forward to bringing more rides and events to the Greenway in 2009. Check www.freewheelbike.com for more information.

Customers were elated with the public shop at the Bike Center! Three full service repair benches stocked with every tool needed to work on your bike, plus knowledgeable staff and a café on site. What more could one ask for?



We are grateful for the support we have received from the cycling community and look forward to expanding our services. In 2009, look for spinning and yoga classes, as well as a greater offering of food and pastries from the Salty Tart and other neighbors at the Midtown Global Market.

Huge thanks to all of you that helped us get off to a great start and to the Midtown Greenway Coalition for making all of this possible!



MISSION

We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people's lives.

MISIÓN

Nosotros habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING 2008 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS! (Please call if we have missed you!)

- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
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Penn Cycle and Fitness
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Punch Neapolitan Pizza - Uptown
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Biota
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Bituminous Roadways
Blue Moon Coffee Cafe
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Clicquot Club Cafe
Coldwell Banker Burnet
South Mpls.</p> | <p>Dero Bike Racks
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Hiawatha Bicycling Club
Midtown Farmers' Market
Minnesota Inline Skate Club
Northstar Rollergirls
Old Arizona
Peace Coffee
Penn Cycle & Fitness
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Phillips West
Neighborhood Organization
Pilgrim Lutheran Church of St. Paul
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Shari Seifert & Neil Hailstone
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Spirit of the Lakes UCC
The Chicago Lofts
Homeowners Assn.
The Muggle Group
Transition Plus REACH Team
Twin Cities Bicycling Club
U of M Students' Co-op
Wedge Community Co-op
West Calhoun Neighborhood Council
WFDL Redeemer
Whole Foods Market</p> |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

The Coalition board of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway Corridor, and four at-large seats.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Greg Benz
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CEDAR ISLES DEAN</p> <p>John DeWitt
PROSPECT PARK</p> <p>Eric Hart
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POWDERHORN PARK</p> <p>Gabriel Hoffman
SEWARD NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP</p> | <p>Brendan Jordan
CARAG</p> <p>Margaret Kirkpatrick
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EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION</p> <p>Christina Melloh
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LYNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.</p> <p>George Puzak
AT LARGE</p> <p>Todd Sample
(TREASURER)
AT LARGE</p> <p>Karl Stoerzinger
CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD ORG.</p> <p>Dawn Wangen
PHILLIPS WEST</p> |
|---|--|---|

For a list of board members' roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Follow the links to Board of Directors, or call 612-879-0103

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to the youth in the Boy Scouts Venture Program and the Holy Rosary Youth Group who planted and maintained the East Phillips Gateway Project throughout the summer of 2008.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to our Midtown Lofts fundraising house party sponsors, volunteers, and hosts. Together they helped us raise about \$2,000.00 for the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>SPONSORS
Common Roots Cafe
Dunn Brothers - Bryant/Lake
Famous Dave's - Uptown
French Meadow Bakery
Punch Neapolitan Pizza - Uptown</p> <p>HOSTS
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Sue Crolick
Ruth Lauritzen</p> | <p>VOLUNTEERS
Victoria Bull
Alex Eckroth
Chris Friend
Betty Grant
Lucy Lyon
Lee Mathis
Scott Rohr
Danny Schwartzman
Judy Wendt
Elana Wolowitz</p> |
|---|--|



2009 NON-PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Gain work skills in a green industry.
- ♥ Foster multi-cultural community involvement.
- ♥ Defend and improve Minnesota's busiest bikeway.
- ♥ Hang out with fun and interesting people.

Adopt-a-Greenway Coordinator—Help coordinate groups with clean ups and general maintenance events along the Greenway. Other tasks include recruitment, communications, and data entry. 4 to 10 hours/week, likely through October 2009.

Greenway Stewards Assistant—Help lead adult and youth volunteers with garden care along Greenway. Knowledge of native plants and sustainable landscaping needed. Start in April or May, complete in September or October. 10-15 hours/week.

High Voltage Line Alternatives Coordinator—Help coordinate nine neighborhoods, Lake Street businesses, and various nonprofit groups as conservation and renewable energy alternatives for Xcel Energy's proposed new substations and high voltage transmission line are explored. 4 to 10 hours/week, likely through 12/31/09.

Youth Biking Program Assistant—Help run Green Way to Go group bike rides with area youth and other outreach tasks at our office in the Freewheel Midtown Bike Center. Start April or May, complete September or October, 10-20 hours/week.

Safety Program Assistant—Help us expand and run this program. Dates and hours negotiable.

Other—Bike ride leaders, data entry, mailing parties, staffing information tables at events. For all opportunities, email theresa@midtowngreenway.org or call 612-879-0103.

GREENWAY CRIME RASH, COALITION RESPONDS (continued from page 1)

your location as the Midtown Greenway and the nearest cross street, and describe the situation in great detail.

Finally, the Coalition continues to plan for a citizen's patrol in the Greenway starting in spring 2009, but money is a big roadblock. Our only insurance bid so far to cover the program is for \$25,000 per year. If you are interested in helping plan the program, being a volunteer patroller, or have suggestions, please contact Nate at nate@midtowngreenway.org or 612-879-0106. And to all, please donate to the Coalition using the form on the back page or by visiting midtowngreenway.org so that we may expand our safety work for your Greenway.

RESPUESTA DE LA COALICIÓN A LA OLA DE DELITOS EN EL SENDERO GREENWAY (continuado de la página 1)

Web los resúmenes de los delitos. Como respuesta al pedido de la Coalición, la policía ha preparado un boletín para advertir al público sobre los recientes actos delictivos. Nosotros creamos un cartel usando este boletín y colaboramos con el Condado Hennepin en cual colocó el cartel en seis sitios en los senderos.

Si por la noche, desean andar en bicicleta en el sendero Greenway o en el sendero Hiawatha junto a la línea del tren LRT, le aconsejamos que vaya acompañado de otro ciclista. Por favor responda positivamente a pedidos de esta índole de otras personas aún cuando signifique ajustar su velocidad de marcha. Andar en bicicleta en grupo por la noche es un cambio de costumbre para el cual necesitamos su ayuda – corran la voz. El futuro del sendero Greenway está en juego. Además, es una buena idea llevar cornetas, silbatos, matracas u otras cosas para hacer ruido. Si por la noche observan a peatones en su camino en actitud sospechosa, tomen otra ruta. Si vieran algo sospechoso, por favor llamen al 911 desde su teléfono móvil o desde uno de los teléfonos azules instalados en el sendero, mencione el sitio donde se encuentra en el sendero Midtown Greenway y la intersección más cercana de calles, y describa la situación detalladamente.

La Coalición continúa haciendo planes para organizar patrullas de voluntarios en el sendero Greenway a partir de la primavera de 2009, pero el dinero es un gran escollo. Hasta el momento, nuestro único estimado de seguro de cobertura del programa es \$25.000 por año. Si estuvieran interesados en ayudar a planificar el programa, ser un patrullero voluntario, o tienen sugerencias, pónganse en contacto con Nate en nate@midtowngreenway.org o al 612-879-0106. Por favor hagan su donación a la Coalición usando el formulario al reverso de la página o en el sitio Web midtowngreenway.org de para seguir redoblando nuestros esfuerzos para que su sendero Greenway sea más seguro.



2834 10th Avenue South
Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 612-879-0103
info@midtowngreenway.org
www.midtowngreenway.org

BUDDY UP

WHEN RIDING AFTER DARK

(see cover page)



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MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, E-mail _____

- \$250 - Greenway Angel
- \$100 - Greenway Patron
- \$50 - Greenway Advocate
- \$25 - Greenway Sponsor
- \$12 - Greenway Friend (Low income)
- Business \$ _____
- Other \$ _____
- Yes, I want to volunteer

My main interest is: _____

Please make your check payable to:
"Midtown Greenway Coalition"
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GREENSPACE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 26, February 23, and March 16
6:00-7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.
January 14, February 18, and March 18

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Second Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
February 9, March 9
No January meeting, attend Xcel meetings instead,
see p. 2.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Fourth Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
January 22, February 26, March 26

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, are at the
Coalition office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level,
Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55407).