Midtown Greenway Coalition to Organize the

2ND ANNUAL GREENWAY GLOW

Illuminated Art Festival and Night Bike Ride

June 22, 2013

Love the Greenway? Love art? Love things that glow in the dark? The Midtown Greenway Coalition is pleased to announce that the second annual Greenway Glow will take place on the evening of Saturday, June 22nd.

The Greenway Glow is two events in one: a free community art festival, and a night bike ride to raise funds for the Midtown Greenway.

Last summer, the Coalition participated in the Northern Spark all-night art festival by organizing more than a dozen art installations and performances along the Greenway. With the announcement that Northern Spark will only be in St. Paul this summer, the Coalition has decided to organize its own art festival, to coincide with its night bike ride.

“We’ve decided to carry that momentum forward this summer, with even more artists and performances in the Greenway in Uptown, Midtown, Seward/Longfellow, and locations in-between.”

A complete schedule of the Greenway Glow art installations and performances will be posted to the Coalition’s website.

In addition to the art festival, there will be a bike ride (5 mile and 10 mile routes) to raise money to support the Greenway. Glow Ride participants will enjoy the art installations and performances, plus free food & beverages, glow-in-the-dark t-shirts, mini bike lights from Civia Cycles (for the first 75 people to register), and continued on page 4.
Dear Friends of the Greenway,

In early April there was a serious incident on the Greenway, when two children (pre-teens) threw a Molotov cocktail at a biker.

Our Crime Prevention Task Force has been working on a list of recommended safety improvements, which were presented to the City of Minneapolis at a meeting held on April 12th. The recommendations included getting more lights on stairs, ramps, and bridges; ensuring that police cameras can view trouble spots; maintaining the blue safety phones; and installing better signage to help Greenway users know where they are while in the corridor.

With 1.5 million estimated bike trips taken in the Greenway each year, crime is actually quite low in the corridor, with just a few serious incidents reported each year. Our Trail Watch safety patrol, which bikes the Greenway every night, has helped reduce crime, and our new Crime Prevention Task Force is working to reduce it even more. We also remind Greenway users to always call 911 when they see something suspicious, including groups of people loitering in the Greenway, especially at night. Together, we can help ensure that everyone has a pleasant and safe Greenway experience.

To help fund our crime prevention and other programs for the Greenway, we are pleased to announce our second annual Greenway Glow, which will be held on June 22nd. It will be a wonderful evening full of free community art in the Greenway, plus a fundraising bike ride with prizes, free bike lights, free food and beverages – and glow in the dark t-shirts!

The Greenway Glow will also be a statement and reminder that the Greenway belongs to everyone. Let’s fill it full of people on June 22nd and watch it GLOW.

Form a team and join us for a great night on the Greenway!

See you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a coalition of neighborhoods and individuals who love the Midtown Greenway. We’re the organization that got the Greenway built by public agencies, and now we work to protect and enhance it. We grow stronger with each new member. Join us to help protect YOUR Greenway and make it even better!

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 Corridor, and four at large seats.

Matt Beckman, Longfellow Community Council
Glen Christianson, East Calhoun Community Organization
Janet Court, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association
John DeVitt, Midtown East River Association
Amanda Dlouhy, Midtown West Neighborhood Organization
Gabriel Hoffman, Seward Neighborhood Group
Deborah Karmen, East Isles Residents Association
Margaret Kirkpatrick, East Phillips Improvement Coalition
Jo Ann Muzumeci, Midtown Neighborhood Association
Michael Nelson, Lyndale Neighborhood Association
Nolan Peterson, Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization
George Puzak, At Large
Aaron Shaffer, Minneapolis Planning Commission
Jane St. Clair, Corridor Neighborhood Organization
Margaret Wunderlich, At Large
Morgan Zahner, Lake Street Council

Michael Wilson, Cedar Hill, Neighborhood Association
We are currently seeking volunteer board members to represent CARAG and LHENA

FOR A LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS’ ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, VISIT WWW.MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG. CLICK ON “THE COALITION,” THEN “BOARD OF DIRECTORS,” OR CALL 612-879-0055

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE MAKES SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

City of Minneapolis Officials Agree to Make Improvements

Members of the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Crime Prevention Task Force met recently with officials from the City of Minneapolis, including the Department of Public Works and the Minneapolis Police Department, to present recommendations for safety improvements in the Greenway.

While a recent incident involving children (pre-teens) throwing a Molotov cocktail at a biker during the day received significant media coverage, the Task Force has also been reviewing other incidents, which mostly happen late at night. Their list of recommended safety improvements include:

- Ensuring that the blue safety phones are properly maintained
- Adding more lights and security cameras
- Discussing ways to prevent objects from being thrown from bridges
- Installing better street signs and trail markings
- “Our Task Force volunteers helped identify specific areas on the Greenway that need safety improvements, including better lighting and security cameras on key stairs and ramps,” said Jane St. Clair, board member and leader of the Crime Prevention Task Force. “We are pleased the City of Minneapolis is taking our suggestions seriously.”

The meeting with the City of Minneapolis was convened with assistance and support from Council Member Gary Schiff, who represents many neighborhoods along the Greenway. Council Member Meg Tufill also provided assistance, helping to convey our message to Public Works to make sure the blue safety phones are being properly maintained. Support for the Greenway remains strong amongst all council members.

“With an estimated 1.5 million bike trips taken on the Greenway each year and only a few serious crimes reported, it’s important to remember that the Greenway is safe,” said Soren Jensen, executive director for the Coalition. “Still, we won’t rest until serious crime against Greenway users becomes nonexistent. The Greenway is too important to let thugs and criminals ruin it for anyone.”

In addition to the Crime Prevention Task Force, the Coalition continues to organize a Trail Watch safety patrol, which bikes the Greenway and the Hiawatha LRT Trail every night. For information on how to volunteer for Trail Watch or the Crime Prevention Task Force, contact Jackie@midtowngreenway.org

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH TRAIL WATCH?

Email: Jackie@midtowngreenway.org

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION STAFF

Soren Jensen, Executive Director 612-879-0105
Jackie Blair, UVC Administrative & Outreach Coordinator 612-879-0106
Jackie@midtowngreenway.org

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.

For a list of board members’ roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Click on “The Coalition,” then “Board of Directors,” or call 612-879-0055.
a post-ride party with live music and food from local restaurants. There will also be prizes for the largest bike team, best costumes, most creative bike-lights, and most funds raised for the Greenway.

Registration for the Glow Ride is $25 by June 3rd ($30 after/at the event). Riders must also raise at least $75 in donations for the Greenway. (Adult riders may personally donate the $75 if they choose. Youth under 18 are not required to raise funds.)

Register for the Glow Ride: greenwayglow.kintera.org

Proceeds will benefit the Midtown Greenway Coalition and programs to help protect and enhance the Greenway.
MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION Matches New Donations

We are pleased to announce that the McKnight Foundation will be matching new membership donations made to the Midtown Greenway Coalition in 2013 and 2014, up to $10,000 each year. Any new membership donation will be matched 100%. In addition, any increase in a member donation over the previous year will be matched. For example, if you donated $100 last year, and you donate $150 this year, the $50 increase will be matched 100%.

The McKnight Foundation is one of our largest supporters, and we appreciate this new matching grant, which will help us recruit new members and raise more funds for our programs for the Greenway," said Soren Jensen, executive director for the Coalition. For questions about the matching grant, contact soren@midtowngreenway.org

THANK YOU TO OUR TRAIL WATCH SUPERSTARS (2013 QUARTER I)

SOREN JENSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

(9/1/2013-4/9/2013. Please call if we have missed you!)
MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Phone, E-mail ________________________________

☐ $250 – Greenway Angel
☐ $100 – Greenway Patron
☐ $50 – Greenway Advocate
☐ $25 – Greenway Sponsor
☐ Business $__________
☐ Any amount comfortable for you $__________
☐ 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
or donate at www.midtowngreenway.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING INTO BIKING FAIR & EXPO
June 1

GREENWAY GLOW
June 22

TOUR DE FAT BIKE CARNIVAL
July 27

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Fourth Thursdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
May 23, June 27, July 25

GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
Second Thursdays, 6 PM – 8 PM
May 9, June 13, July 11

ARTSPACE COMMITTEE
Third Wednesdays, 5 PM
May 15, June 19, July 17

CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE
Second Mondays, 6 PM – 8 PM
May 13, June 10, July 8

Unless indicated, all meetings are held at the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55407).