**HPDL Re-Cap of 2022**

What a year it has been! If anything, in a year of adjustment, uncertainty, and hope, we are so thankful that we are finding a new sense of normal and able to gather in community once again. Our neighborhood started bringing back events one by one, along with some new traditions. And we want to reflect on some of these wonderful memories throughout the year.

We kicked off the year with a couple of virtual workshops available for everyone. One of the workshops was providing information on how to support refugees in our own community with emphasis on the Afghan Resettlement in our Neighborhoods supported by ALIGHT and the YMCA. The other was a Community Action Workshop which provided us with time to create our own household safety plans and tips to prepare in case of unexpected incidents. If you would like to suggest more for the future, reach out to us and we will get something set up!

In February, we were able to bring back Frost Fest. Even though it was an all-outdoors event, it was a smashing success for our 1st in person gathering since 2019. We had nearly 1000 neighbors bundle up on one of the chilliest nights of the year and join in for the winter festivities. With a couple of food trucks and hot-cocoa and smores, we were able to warm up by the fire. We brought back the sledding, snow art, and ice skating and added art cars, a giant polar bear, luminary story-walk and fat tire bike track. We had a blast and are already looking forward to another February Friday night at Pearl Park for more winter fun. Nobody embraces the cold like we do hear in MN!

April showers bring May flowers, and we sure felt that during our Earth Day Clean-Up this past Spring! Even though we had a rainy morning, we had many people show up to help take care of our neighborhood and clean up the parks and streets. It was awesome to have many local eco-friendly businesses and organization at our expo to show us what they are doing to help the earth and ways we can join them in their efforts. Remember to mark your calendars for the Saturday of Earth Day to be part of this in the future.

Garage Sale came back in flying colors! We had around 50 participants partake in this annual event. Be on the lookout if you would like to join in for the Neighborhood Garage Sale in May. We provide a digital map on our website of all the participating houses. Be on the lookout early Spring for information if you would like to register.

Our first ever city-wide Neighborhood Day/Election Day took place in May. We had several local businesses, organizations and churches join us to represent what HPDL has to offer to our community. We also had the HPDL Community Association’s election and had 3 new members join our board and many committed neighbors supporting the association. Starting in 2023, our annual meeting and election will be taking place in the month of May. If you find yourself interested in being more involved with HPDL and helping to continue the success of our neighborhood, keep this on your radar for the upcoming year!

Picnic in the Park was the biggest one yet! Nearly 6000 people joined in for all the fun. Every last Thursday in July, we gather with our community and celebrate being together with food, music, games and activities in our wonderful Pearl Park. Make sure to get this on the calendar as you plan next years family events. You won’t want to miss it.

We have a few more events before the end of the year. Mark your calendars:

**Pop-up Farmers Markets:** Thursday, September 15th and October 13th at 52nd and Chicago in the First Free Parking Lot from 4:00-6:30pm. Food trucks, live music, vendors and activities to enjoy with the whole family. $5 suggested donation please as we are raising money to bring back the Farmers Market!

**Recycling Event:** Tech Dump and paper shredding at Mayflower Church on Saturday, September 24th from 9am-12:00pm.

**Annual Meeting and Bingo Night:** Wednesday, November 17th from 7:00-8:30pm at Pearl Park. Come watch our slideshow from 2022 and play Bingo while you sip on hot cider! We want to say thank you in person for a great year!

Remember, if you would ever like to hear what is happening in the neighborhood, you can join us for our hybrid board meetings every 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. Email us at [office@hpdl.org](mailto:office@hpdl.org) for the link to join, or come to the office at 5144 13th Ave South.

We can’t wait to see what 2023 brings!