Hugo Bruggeman

Grid-Two Representative Candidate

(Incumbent)

Tell us about yourself:

I came to Minnesota from The Netherlands, first drawn by crisp falls and sunny winters, then kept here by the people I now call my best friends and close family. The mutual aid and neighboring movements that so many of us are involved with this year have confirmed that this is home. My wife Hallie and our kids thrive in Macalester-Groveland, drawn to its strong sense of community, excellent schools, beautiful parks, and local shops that we love to support.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

I am running for re-election and asking for your support and vote. As a Board member, I bring people together to strengthen our community through unity and inclusive action. I believe consensus building and genuine engagement are central to making our city a better place.

I listen to community members, track the 5 year plans of our city, and advocate for you in meetings with city and county staff. This work has delivered real results: canopy trees on Grand Avenue, safer pedestrian crossings at our schools, and improved plans for all ability access to Groveland Park and its rec center. I'm committed to ensuring our voices shape the decisions that affect our neighborhood.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

Over the next couple of years, the City plans to invest in Summit Avenue and Grand Avenue while asking our council to develop a 10-year Community Plan—important work that requires vision and skill. My professional background in community engagement, design thinking, and consensus building positions me to influence these street projects and help create a plan that reflects our community's values and needs. Together, we can build a neighborhood that works for everyone.

Brian Snyder

Grid-Two Representative Candidate

Tell us about yourself:

I was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa and had the good fortune of meeting a Saint Paul girl while at school in Chicago. After we were married I knew it was only a matter of time before we moved to Minnesota. We have lived in the Highland and MacGroveland neighborhoods for the past 24 years, where we are raising three boys and two mini Schauzers.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

Minnesota, Saint Paul, and the MacGroveland neighborhood have become home to me and I would like to give my energy back to the community. Be an involved citizen is what makes our communities stronger and better places to live.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

I am a small business owner, optometrist, scoutmaster, father, and husband. I have experience leading, organizing, working, and getting stuff done.

Tor Flatebo

Grid-Two Representative Candidate

Tell us about yourself:

I I grew up in Saint Paul n the North End, moved to the west coast and Mpls for about 20 years, then moved back to Saint Paul about 5 years ago. I graduated High School from Como Park.

I work remotely and rent an office space on west 7th near Saint Clair, my career is in software engineering and technology.

I live with my wife and two high school age children.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

I like to be involved in my community, and now that my kids are a little older I have some additional time I can use to volunteer and help out the community.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

- I have been involved in the Green Party and the DFL as a delegate in the past
- My wife was involved in the Longfellow Community Council when we lived in Mpls, so I am somewhat familiar with what a local council works on
- In my line of work I am often working across different groups with various needs, and the best path forward is when we can have a form of compromise, but also keeping an eye towards what is possible and taking action over inaction
- I frequently have to manage to a budget
- I have lived in Saint Paul for a long time, and have a long-term home here

Katherine Cairns

Grid-Two Representative Candidate (Incumbent)

Tell us about yourself:

Hello Mac-Groveland neighbors! I'm Katherine Cairns, a 45+ year resident of Grid 2. My husband and I have raised our 3 children, cared for relatives, and attended school here. I have loved our Mac-Groveland "city within a city"- with most of what a person/family needs within a 15-minute walk/bike/drive. I am a community volunteer, small business owner (health care consultant), University of Minnesota and University of St Thomas alumni. I have volunteered/worked with statewide and community non-profit boards. In my free time, I like to garden, fish, fix things, head "up north" to the cabin, and hang out with our grandchildren. I bring to MGCC a passion to connect and engage the multi-generational residents of our neighborhood, to support area businesses, and to advocate for improved safety/health for our neighbors.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

Initially, I was asked by a neighbor to consider running for a Board seat after serving on a Mac Groveland committee. My priorities focus on our neighborhood: 1.) Safety improvements for the children, students, adults and seniors; 2.) Supporting diverse neighbors/workers; and 3.) Support local small businesses. This is a great place to live and I want to help, with other neighbors, to make it better.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

As a caregiver for family members with permanent and temporary disabilities, I understand that our neighborhood can either be a supportive environment or a source of stress and harm to residents and visitors. As a Board member, I am committed to promoting empathy, respecting history and neighbors, and anticipating hazards to ensure a better quality of life for all residents and visitors. I bring a strong professional background to this role, holding master degrees in public health (MPH) and business (MBA). My experience has been in health care, public health, managed care, and for national/state clients focusing on health policy, advocacy, pediatric and adult medicine. My non-profit board experience ranges from service on League of Women Voters board, statewide professional organizations, local organizations, and community health centers. Working together with our combined skills and abilities, will make our neighborhood strong for the next generations.

Eileen Bock

At-Large Renter Representative Candidate

Tell us about yourself:

I have been renting a unit in a 1922 duplex in the Macalester Groveland neighborhood for over 12 years. Professionally, my job as a Product Manager involves planning, problem solving, and working with people across different teams and countries. Outside of work, I value being part of a connected, welcoming neighborhood and enjoying what makes Mac Groveland a great place to live. As a renter, I pay close attention to how neighborhood decisions affect housing stability, livability, and day to day life. I am interested in contributing my time and talents to support the MGCC.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

MGCC plays an important role in helping residents understand and influence local issues, and I would like to be part of that work. As a renter, I want to help make sure renter perspectives are included in conversations about neighborhood priorities. Serving as an At Large Renter Representative is a practical way to give back, stay informed, and help ensure neighborhood decisions reflect the experiences of people with different housing situations and life circumstances.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

I bring experience working with people from many backgrounds and viewpoints, developed through my global professional role, as well as while serving on boards of other non-profit organizations. I am comfortable listening, asking questions, and finding practical ways forward when opinions differ. I am organized, prepared, and adept at reviewing detailed information to support group decisions. I would bring these skills, along with a renter's perspective, to support MGCC's board and committee work.

Kobie Bardouille

At-Large Residential Representative Candidate (Incumbent)

Tell us about yourself:

20 year Nativity parishioner, 8 year MacGroveland resident, UST Alum. Currently At-Large Residential Representative and WSNAC liaison. Active with the St. Paul Chamber. Former Board Member Global Minnesota.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

Seeking to continue my representation and advocacy on all issues affecting my surrounding community. I have a dual affinity for UST and my neighbourhood. I want both to thrive.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

2 years experience with MGCC Board (1-year WSNAC liaison). UST Alum (MBA '14). 20 year Nativity Parishioner. 8 year resident of MacGroveland. 20 year Financial Services Professional.

Keren Whaley

At-Large Residential Representative Candidate

Tell us about yourself:

I am a mom of two boys, a wife, a nurse practitioner by trade, and a native of Texas. I met and married my husband, who is from Stillwater, Minnesota, 16 years ago. We spent our first 11 years together living all over the United States. In the spring of 2021, we bought our forever home in our forever place—Saint Paul, MN. I just made it through my fifth winter in Minnesota, and I truly love it here. I proudly consider myself a Minnesotan by choice .

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

I love our neighborhood, community, and local school. I am enjoying laying down permanent roots. As I put down these roots, I feel it is important to find a way to give back. I have attended the last 6–7 Housing and Land Use meetings, and based on that experience, I believe MGCC is a great place for me to learn more and become more involved in my community. I look forward to becoming more invested in and supportive of the community I love by running for the MGCC Board.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

I enjoy listening and learning. Over the past year, I have spent time learning more about local government and I have had the opportunity to connect and work with many neighbors, several community organizations, the University of St. Thomas, the City Council, and the Mayor's Office. Through these experiences, I have learned that collaboration is key to building a healthy, happy community. I look forward to continuing to learn, listen, and build meaningful connections in my community.

Trevor Vernon

At-Large Residential Representative Candidate

Tell us about yourself:

Hello! I was born in Oakland, CA and have a degree in philosophy from UC Santa Cruz and another in mechanical engineering from Colorado State. My wife and I moved to Mac Groveland last year and have happily settled into our new home. I am the Saint Paul Public Works CAD Coordinator, and spend most of my time refining CAD standards and supporting the city's engineering staff.

When I'm not working, I enjoy watching soccer and am a MNUFC season ticket holder. My wife and I also frequent the High Bridge Dog Park with our goofy German Shepard/Husky/Lab mix. And, if you'd like me to not stop talking for an inordinate amount of time, ask me about cooking. I can talk about frying tofu, caramelizing onions, or smoking ribs for hours.

What encouraged you to seek a board seat on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board of Directors?

When looking for neighborhoods St. Paul, my wife and I chose Mac Groveland because it was an area that clearly valued community. Now that we are here, I want to work with the Mac Groveland Community Council to help maintain and grow the community makes Mac Groveland exceptional. It took a long time to become a homeowner and I want to be involved in the wonderful neighborhood we have chosen to be a part of.

What skills/experience can you contribute to MGCC?

I've worked as a CAD manager for a decade and joined Saint Paul Public Works last year. I have experience leading a team and managing communication between multiple departments. I'm detail oriented and have strong technical and computer skills. Also, I'm easy to talk to and in general a social, nice guy. I care about those around me and genuinely want the best for my community.