



Only **Keewaydin** residents can vote for this candidate for a Neighborhood Election.

2022 Board Candidate Application

Name: Ann Carter

Neighborhood: Keewaydin

Currently Serving on the NENA Board: No

1. Tell us about yourself and your experience in the Keewaydin neighborhood and in Nokomis East?

My name is Ann Carter and I live in the Keewaydin neighborhood with my husband, Tom, and our 6 year old daughter, Genevieve. I am also a stepmom to Tom's two wonderful young adult kids who come and go from our house regularly. We moved here from the Marcy Holmes neighborhood in July 2020 after many years of wanting a change. I guess all it took was a global pandemic to make it happen! We have some good friends over in this neck of the woods and we knew it was exactly where we wanted to be. Our realtor said she'd never had a client before with such a small, pinpointed area they were seeking to buy in! We have found our neighborhood and the whole Nokomis East area to be a lovely place full of lovely people. Moving here during the early days of Covid meant we were quite limited in terms of getting out and about to anyplace indoors, but my daughter and I spent hours walking the blocks and biking to the beach and the parks (and the food trucks!) and through that getting to know many of the wonderful folks here. When we moved in, our new neighbors on the block joked that since the previous owners had been the organizers of our block's National Night Out party that we had inherited that role. But in actuality I was glad to take that on and we've had two fabulous NNO Block Parties since we moved in! I also quickly got involved with—and fell in love with—the Nokomis East Buy Nothing Group. What an abundant and generous community! Not only have we partially furnished our house with gifts from the group, but we've made some great friends through it as well!

2. Why are you interested in serving on the NENA Board of Directors? Describe your interests, skills, experience, hobbies, volunteer work or community involvement that will help your service on the Board?

Community is everything to me. Cultivating it, sharing it, spreading it, celebrating it. I've always done that and plan to continue doing it here in Nokomis East. Serving on the NENA Board would be a natural, fun way to get more deeply involved with this community. I love meeting new people, connecting people to each other, and developing relationships. My day job is as a Volunteer Coordinator for a local non-profit agency, so I have those skills to offer. I also have a lot of experience organizing events. Pulling off an event as part of a team is so fun to me! I also worked for 10 years as a group facilitator and love using those facilitation skills any chance I get. I am a Square Dance Caller so if we ever wanted to host a community dance, I'm your gal! Professionally and personally, I have worked closely with all ages and have substantial experience working with diverse populations. I am committed to racial justice and regularly work to dismantle my own biases and investigate my participation in systems that harm others. I want to do

better, and I know that we as a community can & need to do better. Lastly, when I lived in Powderhorn Park I co-facilitated several community mural painting projects that were amazing community building experiences. Maybe the opportunity for another Nokomis East mural will present itself?

3. What hopes, goals and concerns do you have for the Keewaydin neighborhood and Nokomis East?

One thing I really appreciate about Nokomis East is that it seems to be one of the few neighborhoods in South Minneapolis that has a wide mix of income levels represented. I value that very much and worry about folks getting priced out as more wealth comes into the neighborhood. I am all for affordable housing and creating a welcoming environment for everyone—and I hope that we can find ways to keep this a reality here. Relatedly, I hope that our community can be part of the needed change when it comes to addressing the racism inherent in our systems. I am glad there has been some discussion about equity & inclusion within NENA and I would like to be part of this important conversation/work. As for my sweet Keewaydin neighborhood, I am very excited about the new Minneapolis Parks & Rec Nature playground/park that will be added to the Keewaydin Rec Center grounds this coming summer! I would love to help organize neighborhood events there as a way of building community. My hope is that more folks here feel more connected.

4. What hopes, goals and concerns do you have for NENA?

As I said above, I truly hope that our community can be part of the needed change when it comes to addressing the racism inherent in our systems. I don't claim to be an expert by any means, but I am committed to walking this long walk with others and will contribute everything I can. I am learning to be comfortable being uncomfortable and want to keep pushing this conversation—both on an individual and community level. It is also exciting that there will be a new Executive Director and I would welcome the opportunity to help shape the next phase of NENA. I hope this next phase can be uplifting, engaging and empowering for more and more folks!

5. How will you reach out to the community during your Board term?

I'm hoping my version of outreach would come in the form of helping organize community events, recruiting volunteers, hosting community discussions and more. I love that we have some wonderful neighborhood businesses in Nokomis East and I would welcome the chance to interface with those businesses and their people. I know that NENA has done some important work with renters rights and I would like to learn more/get involved with that outreach as well.

6. What additional organizations, programs and events are you involved with?

Over the years I have been involved with many groups/organizations—such as Project SUCCESS, The Wild Goose Chase Cloggers, Barebones Puppet Theater, Kairos Dance Company and Common Ground Meditation Center. As part of those groups I've helped organize many events, festivals and projects. I am currently employed by Southeast Seniors (a neighbors helping neighbors org similar to Nokomis Healthy Seniors) and have my dance calling business: Ann Carter Calling. I am part of a couple local anti-racist parenting groups. I also teach clogging and line dance. When we first moved here and discovered the amazing neighborhood Buy Nothing Group, I 'gifted' an afternoon of line dancing in our driveway. It was a blast and I plan to do it again!

7. If elected, I will be able to complete the full term of service of 2 years? Yes

8. If elected, I will support NENA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement of Purpose? Yes

9. I affirm that I meet the requirements of serving on the NENA Board of Directors and the information given in this Nomination Form is factual and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that should the nominee become an elected Board Member, any false statements, omissions or other misrepresentations could result in immediate dismissal. Yes