

2017 Candidate Statements

J. Cheema

I am interested in serving on the MNA board again. During my two years as the board member, I learned a lot about community priorities and as treasurer helped streamline our budget processes and put systems in place to enhance accountability and transparency.

I have been away from Madison, serving our nations best interests overseas, for the past year. On my return in October, I want to continue and build on my past experience on the board and help MNA become even more responsive to and a stronger advocate for community issues and concerns.

I am particularly interested in targeting our scholarship and grants programs in order to benefit people most in need. I want to strengthen the capacity of smaller organizations providing services so that MNA grant projects leave a legacy and ensure some sustainability and are just not a “one off” grant program.

I look forward to serving the community once again and I hope that you will vote for me.

Colleen Hayes

Hello. My name is Colleen Hayes and I'm interested in continuing my service to the neighborhood as a member of the MNA board. I'm a graduate of the UW-Madison and have lived in this neighborhood for 20 years. I work at Whitehorse Middle School coordinating a volunteer tutor program and running our free, drop-in after school program. In addition to the MNA board, I also serve on the board of the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.

Robert Kobuch III

Finding a place where you belong is a struggle for many people. Since the Marquette Neighborhood was established back in the early months of 1968, neighbors would elect officials to be the voice that represents the needs of the community. Throughout that time, much has been preserved and some things have changed, all for the benefit of this neighborhood. My belief is that we need to continue these traditions and help shape the Marquette neighborhood; in ways both old and new. Even though I've only lived here for six years, through all my travels of living from coast to coast, I have never found a place to live like this one. A place where I feel like I belong. I also work in the neighborhood at our local Credit Union: offering financial guidance and services to helping members of the community. I have volunteered for many of the local festivals and have recently become a regular attendee at the MNA and P&D meetings. Hearing

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the thoughts and concerns that board members bring to the table during these meetings brings me joy. I share their eagerness to keep the neighborhood an active and thriving community.

I'm running for the position of board of directors member to bring my passion and devotion to our community. I intend to uphold these belief by helping to maintain a high quality of life, and to work hard to continue to enhance this terrific neighborhood with new projects and community involvement. I intend to bring thoughtful, careful consideration to the issues that this board will face and will work to represent your views in these endeavors; to continue the work of our predecessors and to be an advocate to whom everyone can bring their concerns. It is my hope to best serve this neighborhood, this place where I have come to feel where I belong. Thank you for your consideration.

Marlisa Kopenski Condon

I have lived in the neighborhood for 13 years have volunteered for many of the events that make our neighborhood exceptional. Besides day-of work like setting up and bartending at all the festivals every year, I have recruited volunteers for the Orton Park Brunch, was on the marketing committee for the very first Fete de Marquette and co-organized the Dandelion Dash for 10 years.

I work in the neighborhood at a product design and strategy firm as the Director of Business Design. I received my MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern. I have children who attend Marquette and O'Keeffe, where I have been very involved.

One thing that is important to me as we see our neighborhood become more desirable is to expand the number of residents -- new and old-- who feel a part of MNA and our larger community writ large. Responsible development and bike and pedestrian safety are also issues that are significant to me.

I would like to increase on my commitment to the neighborhood by becoming a member of the MNA board and using my business, facilitation and communication skills to help our neighborhood maintain all the tangible and intangible things that make things living here great as well as evolve and prosper in the future.

Lynn Lee

I am running for another term on the MNA Board. I have enjoyed the last four years working with the neighborhood, helping to solve the issues our neighborhood faces, and being part of the discussion of where our neighborhood is heading. In the past four years we have seen many positive changes on Willy Street, our parks, the festivals, and with in MNA itself. My hope is to serve on the MNA Board and help in any way I can to see this neighborhood continues to grow and thrive.

Mary Ann McBride

In the fall of 2017, I was lucky to win a one-year appointment on the MNA Board. I've lived in Madison for 27 years, 10 of which have been in the Marquette neighborhood. This past year has been one of the best, as I've become integrally part of MNA.

I love living in our neighborhood, but I love it so much more now that I'm on the Board. I've helped out at the festivals and been active in three committees. I've been part of the *Preservation and Development Committee*, guiding homeowners, developers, and businesses to keep their plans within the values and legal parameters of our neighborhood. The *Green Spaces Committee* has improved and created new shared environments, and I hope to add to that by getting benches for the outdoor spaces at the streets that end at Lake Monona. Revitalizing the landscaping at Yahara Place Park is another one of my goals. It has been gratifying to work on the *Neighborhood Enhancement Committee* and see the wide variety of educational items, grants and scholarships that have been provided to our community and to our schools.

Marquette is known as the neighborhood that welcomes everyone, and it's rewarding to be a part of an intergenerational MNA Board where the voice of a retired resident is valued and included.

Gary Tipler

Friends and neighbors,

For years, I've enjoyed engaging neighbors in reviewing development, planning and traffic proposals, particularly during the last two years in my work as a board member and as committee chair and co-chair of the Traffic Committee and Preservation & Development Committee. It has been a rewarding challenge to balance the goals of neighborhood plans, the investments and needs of residents and business, as well as the interests of those who are proponents of change. Providing records of our community engagement and transparency of our decision-making work requires vigilance. As a candidate for the board, I propose to continue my work in these areas and encourage your participation.