Deborah Brister, Audubon Park - District 1

1. How have your life, work and cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on NRP Policy Board?

My life experiences have honed my leadership, strategic planning and critical thinking skills. I'm able to draw on information with an open mind and am able to consider many perspectives before drawing conclusions or reaching solutions.
My work experiences through decades of policy work at local through international levels have taught me how to be inclusive, thoughtful and collaborative. I can envision long-term outcomes and understand there are always challenges and setbacks when policies are debated and made.
My cultural experiences have taught me how much I don't know. Even though I have worked with colleagues in many parts of the world, I've learned never to assume things, but instead approach with curiosity and understand the importance of asking questions.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I am the current Executive Director of Audubon Neighborhood Association. I've served in various capacities over the past 6 years and have led the Audubon Farmers Market, Northeast Market Garden and Audubon Spring Festival. I am a grant-writer and have secured funding for the association for projects such as our senior needs-based assessment, Audubon Business Network, Northeast Cross-Culture Tasting Tour, Northeast Market Garden Local Food Purchasing Program and more. I engage with the Audubon Park Recreation Center and Northeast Middle School, neighborhood residents and local businesses directly during meetings, door-to-door, through special events and social media. I've created the Northeast Emergency Food Growers Network and the Resilient Audubon Initiative for improved emergency preparedness.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NRP Policy Board.

I know the value of city-supported funding for neighborhood associations. There is nothing stronger than a community that works together on issues relevant to that neighborhood. I know Northeast Minneapolis well having owned a house in NRP District 1 for 30 years. I've seen drastic changes in that time. With my experience in policy development and oversight, and with years of direct experience with the Audubon Neighborhood Association, I feel I can provide some thoughtful insight and useful recommendations.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

associations, its board and staff, and participate in events as appropriate including those such as leadership summits initiated by our council member.

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5. How do you plan to engage with underrepresented groups within your district if elected?

I would work in partnership with neighborhood associations and consult with city staff as well as with other community-based organizations. Engagement may include community meetings or special events.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) that you are currently involved in.

Audubon Neighborhood Association
Johnson Street Merchants Association
Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association

7. Please list all your current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Audubon Neighborhood Association
University of Minnesota Alumni Association
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Minnesota Herb Society
Minnesota Mycological Society
Minnesota State Arts Board
Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association
Minnesota Farmers Market Association
Northeast Market Garden Farmers Collaborative
Johnson Street Merchants Association

By signing this form, you waive your right to raise money, conduct phone banks, and produce campaign literature of any kind for the purposes of getting elected to the NRP Policy Board.

Signature	Deborah Brister
Date	12/28/2023