While the final section of the trail opened in 2006, the truth is the Midtown Greenway isn’t finished yet. Much remains to be done, including getting a connection over the river to St. Paul; installing better directional signage; and making street crossings safer. There is also a need for new trails and bike routes to and from the Greenway; more public art; new ramps and access points; better lighting, and more.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition will be working to “Complete the Greenway,” partnering with volunteers, neighborhood organizations, government agencies, and elected officials on a variety of unfinished projects.

A BRIDGE TO ST. PAUL
The Midtown Greenway Coalition has long advocated for adding bike and pedestrian trails to the Short Line bridge over the Mississippi River, connecting the Greenway to/from St. Paul. Work was done on this project by the Coalition, Hennepin County, and others more than a decade ago, but progress stalled for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the bridge is still being used by the railroad.

Starting this year, the Coalition will re-start our community discussion about using the bridge, with the goal of determining action steps that will help move the project forward.

THE MIN HI LINE TRAIL TO MINNEHAHA FALLS
The Min Hi Line trail would connect the Midtown Greenway to Minnehaha Falls Park along Hiawatha/Hwy 55. The proposed new trail would utilize the rail corridor that is currently being used by the railroad. However, a southern section of the rail line closest to Minnehaha Falls Park is currently abandoned, and a short section of proposed trail is planned for construction in 2018 between the Greenway and Lake Street.

To support this new trail idea, the Midtown Greenway Coalition is collaborating with the Min Hi Line Coalition, a volunteer-run group dedicated to envisioning and developing this distinct green space and trail along the Minnehaha/Hiawatha corridor. Watch for updates about community meetings regarding the corridor, and be sure to follow the group on Facebook and on their website at www.minhiline.org.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE AND PLACEMAKING
One of the great unfinished projects for the Greenway is getting better directional signage. While long-term Greenway users can find their way around... continued on page 3
At a recent gathering of our board of directors, one of the newer members asked when the Greenway would be completed. The room was silent as the board thought about the question. After all, our official history says the Greenway was completed in 2006, with the Sabo Bridge opening in 2007. But as the board thought about it, they realized that a great deal of the Greenway has not been completed.

For example, rarely a week goes by that someone doesn’t ask us when the Greenway will extend over the Mississippi River to St. Paul, using the railroad bridge. It’s the most frequent question we get, but the answer has always been complicated. However, it’s a question that needs to be answered, so this year we will be working on ways to advance our long-held vision for connecting the Greenway to/from St. Paul over the river.

If we can get the Greenway extended over the river, there’s also a good chance that a new idea for trail connecting the Greenway to Minnehaha Falls could be realized. We’ve recently been partnering with the Min Hi Line Coalition, a volunteer-led group that is working on a new trail that would utilize the freight rail line along Hiawatha Avenue/Hwy. 55. While the main (middle) section of the trail would likely need to be abandoned by the railroad before the trail could be built, the northern and southern sections of the proposed trail are currently abandoned and could be used for the first two phases of trail construction.

There is also great opportunity for getting more art in the Greenway, which not only makes it more interesting and vibrant, but can also help to invite new people to the corridor. So, we are excited to announce there will be at least two new murals in the Greenway in 2017. We will be leading the installation of the first one, and we are partnering with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Little Earth of United Tribes on the other.

Of course, we’ll also be organizing the Greenway Glow Arts Festival, one of the largest performance-based arts festivals in the Twin Cities, and seeking other opportunities to get more public art into the Greenway.

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, we’ll keep working on these projects and more to “Complete the Greenway” and keep it the nation’s best urban bikeway. We hope you will join us.

See you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director
the corridor, it often remains difficult for new users to find the trail. Ramps and access points are not well marked, and it’s hard to know which ramp to use in order to get to destinations on Lake Street and beyond.

Having completed the major Midtown Greenway-Lake Street Connections Study last year, we are now working with our partners to seek funding for new wayfinding signage, to help people get to and from the Greenway. In addition, we are seeking funding to create “places” on the Greenway where people can rest, relax, and simply enjoying being in a green urban space.

A CULTURAL CORRIDOR
While there is already some great public art in the Greenway, there is potential for so much more. Public art can help build community, increase equity, and build a sense of shared ownership for a public space. Art can also bring new people to an area, show that people care about it, and help prevent crime.

We are currently working on several major art initiatives for the Greenway, and are pleased to announce that two new murals will be installed in the corridor this summer. Both murals will be showcase artists from cultural communities that live near the Greenway.

Our vision is a corridor that in addition to having the best urban bike trail in the nation, is also a cultural destination and celebration of the rich diversity of Greenway neighborhoods.

NEW RAMPS FOR THE GREENWAY
More access ramps are needed in the “trench” portion of the Greenway. We are pleased to report there will soon be a new one, part of the I-35W Rehabilitation Project that will break ground in August. The project includes a transit center at 35W and Lake Street, with a new ramp extending down to the Greenway. We’ve been working with MnDOT and other agencies on the ramp design, with a focus on ensuring the ramp has enough lighting and other measures to enhance safety. This new ramp is a good start, and we’ll continue to look for other opportunities to increase access to the Greenway.

ENHANCING SAFETY
While our Trail Watch volunteers patrol the Greenway at night, and we have successfully worked to install new lights in several key locations, safety upgrades are still needed in the corridor. Our Safety Task Force will continue to compile safety recommendations, including areas where more lighting is needed, which they will share with government officials who can make the improvements.

We are also advocating for increasing safety at several key Greenway crossings, including at 28th Street, Hiawatha Avenue, Minnehaha Avenue, and 26th Avenue, in order to prevent potential bike-car collisions.

THE GREENWAY ISN’T DONE
While much has been accomplished – and the Greenway has become the most popular bike trail in Minnesota – there is so much more that needs to be done. The Midtown Greenway Coalition will be working on a variety of unfinished projects and seeks support from the community. To volunteer or donate to help “Complete the Greenway,” please visit the Coalition’s website at www.midtowngreenway.org or call 612-879-0106.

The Min Hi Line Trail would connect the Midtown Greenway to Minnehaha Falls Park. Photo courtesy of the Min Hi Line Coalition.
NEW MURALS FOR THE GREENWAY
By Janey Gengel, program coordinator

We have exciting news for art lovers in the Greenway. The Midtown Greenway will be home to at least two new murals this year!

**GREENWAY LITTLE EARTH ART PROJECT (GREENWAY LEAP)**
In partnership with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) and Little Earth of United Tribes, and thanks to a grant from the Carolyn Foundation, the Greenway will soon feature a new mural created by youth from Little Earth.

Kate Mohn, MCAD’s grant writer, has been working on this project in partnership with the Midtown Greenway Coalition and Little Earth for about two years now. Now that the project has funding, it can proceed this summer.

“At the end of this project we will have created a new, permanent piece of art on the Greenway. But even more importantly, MCAD, Little Earth, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition will have worked collectively to address multiple community needs,” said Mohn.

Little Earth teens will get a chance to not only be a part of the creation of art in the Greenway, but also work behind the scenes with mentors from MCAD, connecting them to new resources and opportunities. Together, the youth will create a mural that celebrates their culture and brings new people to the Greenway.

“In addition, MCAD students will gain valuable experience with community engagement and public art. And all three partner organizations get to work and learn together, hopefully leading to even more art initiatives in the future,” said Mohn.

**GREENWAY EQUITY MURAL PROJECT**
In 2016, the Midtown Greenway Coalition was awarded a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) to place a mural in the Greenway created by a local artist of color from the Phillips/Midtown community. Many generous Midtown Greenway Coalition donors also contributed to the project, including a major gift received from The Ackerberg Group.

With the help of local community organizer the K’Ma Group, a panel of local residents will help select the artist. This mural will be designed to help diverse community members feel welcome in the Greenway and illustrate that the trail is for everyone.

Jo Ann Musumeci, Chair of the ArtSpace Committee, is excited about this project for several reasons. “This mural project is a way to connect the diverse Phillips community to the Greenway—to engage them with the artist to tell their stories; tell who they are and perhaps what the Greenway could be for them. The artist will take inspiration from community dialogs and turn them into a mural,” she said.

The artist for this project will be announced in late February and the mural will be installed in September. Everyone is welcome to join in on a community celebration and mural unveiling in September.

Be sure to come down to the Greenway this summer to see these two new mural projects and celebrate the local community.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates on these mural projects. To get involved with getting more art in the Greenway, join our ArtSpace Committee. Contact Janey@midtowngreenway.org for more information.
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

PETER SCHOLTZ

By Janey Gengel, program coordinator

Each year, the Midtown Greenway Coalition selects a volunteer who has shown exemplary service to the Greenway. This year’s “Tim Springer Greenway Champion Award” ceremony was recently held at Flux apartments on the Greenway, where volunteers enjoyed tasty pizza donated by Galactic Pizza.

This year, Trail Watcher Peter Scholtz was recipient of the award, recognized for his dedication to leading the night patrol of the Greenway.

Scholtz is a biking and outdoor enthusiast who’s been living in south Minneapolis for the past several years, “I’m a big fan of the city’s lakes, creeks, and bike trails.”

“I’ve been using the Greenway for a long time, and I remember thinking it was such a cool idea to have volunteers patrolling the trail to discourage crime,” said Scholtz.

Since that time he has taken the role of Wednesday night Trail Watch leader and inspired others to join his rides.

“Crime is currently very minimal on the Greenway, but it would be great to see it go down even further, and for people to feel comfortable riding the trail at any hour of the day or night,” he said.

Scholtz would love to see you on a ride. “The Greenway is one of the features that has helped Minneapolis get listed as a top bicycling city for years now. Please consider giving some of your time to this very worthy cause,” he said.

The Tim Springer Greenway Champion Award is named in honor of our former executive director, who led the coalition for many years and helped get every phase of the Greenway constructed. Tim continues to be a champion not only for the Greenway, but for other communities that seek to build similar trails.

If you would like to join Trail Watch and ride with Scholtz’s group, please contact Janey@midtowngreenway.org.

△ Checking Peter Scholtz was recently honored as the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Volunteer of the Year. Trail Watch volunteers, left to right: Gary Davis, Peter Scholtz, John Farrell.

A sincere THANK YOU to all Trail Watch riders for keeping riders safe on the trail!

TRAIL WATCH TOP RIDERS (OCT. - DEC.)

Gary Davis
John Davis
Dave Evans
John Farrell

Ray Hastings
Peter Scholtz
Manny

We are looking for new Trail Watch Leaders, co-leaders, and riders! If you are interested, please contact Janey@midtowngreenway.org.
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Thank You
To Our Members, Donors and Volunteers!
(Covering new donations and susteners for the period from October 15, 2016 to January 13, 2017; please contact us if we have missed you!) Special thanks to our sustaining members—denoted with a (*)
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**MISSION**
We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people’s lives.

**MISIÓN**
Nosotros habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.

**MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION STAFF**

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Executive Director
612-879-0105
Soren@midtowngreenway.org

Janey Gengel
Program Coordinator
612-879-0106
Janey@midtowngreenway.org
Greenway Improvements Committee
Second Thursdays, 6–7pm
February 9th, March 9th

ArtSpace Committee
5:30pm
January 31st, February 21st

Safety Task Force
Second Thursdays, 5:30–7pm
February 9th, March 9th

Clip and post on fridge calendar of events

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GREENWAY

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

GREENWAY

CALANDER OF EVENTS

Greenway Improvements Committee
Second Thursdays, 6–7pm
February 9th, March 9th

ArtSpace Committee
5:30pm
January 31st, February 21st

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February 9th, March 9th

Unless indicated, all meetings are held at the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN  55407).