



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Kenwood to Receive Top 10 Great Neighborhood Designation from American Planning Association during Kenwood Isles Area Association Annual Meeting

Friday, May 2, 2014 (Minneapolis, MN) – On Monday, May 5 during the Annual Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA) Annual meeting, City of Minneapolis Director of Long Range Planning Kjersti Monson will present Minneapolis Council Member Lisa Goodman and Board and members of KIAA with the American Planning Association (APA) plaque designating the Kenwood neighborhood as one of the top 10 Greatest Neighborhoods in the United States in 2013 under the organization’s Great Places in America program.

“It’s an honor to have the Kenwood neighborhood recognized as one of the greatest neighborhoods in the country,” said Council Member Lisa Goodman of Ward 7 where Kenwood is located. “Now many more people will know what we do, that Minneapolis neighborhoods like Kenwood are clean, green and safe, and filled with families who appreciate urban living.”

Each year during National Community Planning Month, APA’s Great Places in America program names 30 exemplary neighborhoods, streets and public spaces to highlight the role planning and planners play in adding value to communities, including fostering economic growth and jobs.

APA singled out Kenwood for its well-preserved architecture, natural attributes, amenities, and engaged residents. Its location – just two miles from downtown Minneapolis and somewhat off the beaten path – stunning homes and lake views combine to make Kenwood one of the city’s most sought-after neighborhoods.

“This early streetcar suburb has evolved into one of Minneapolis’ premier neighborhoods through a combination of planning, community investment, and engaged residents,” said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP. “For more 120 years – from Frank Peavey’s donation of a fountain for Kenwood Parkway to the neighborhood association’s current efforts to ensure that a proposed transit station fits with Kenwood’s park-like setting – residents have

been instrumental in determining and protecting their neighborhood's character," added Farmer, a former director of the Minneapolis Planning Department.

Reminiscent of a sleepy rural hamlet but with decidedly more urbane architecture and scenic vistas, Kenwood's sloping terrain offers impressive views of the surrounding lakes and downtown Minneapolis. Kenwood Parkway, a central link in the city's boulevard system designed by H.W.S. Cleveland. Spectacular, well-preserved architecture – much from the early 20th century – defines the neighborhood along with its tree-lined sidewalks and curvilinear streets.

Neighborhood icons include Peavey Fountain (1891), "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" house (Victorian, 1892) and Kenwood Water Tower (Gothic Revival, 1910). Resident involvement has retained Kenwood Park's mostly natural setting, prevented conversion of the water tower into condominiums, and secured design modifications to proposed Southwest Transitway light rail station to be located in the neighborhood.

APA's Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets and Great Public Spaces feature unique and authentic characteristics that have evolved from years of thoughtful and deliberate planning by residents, community leaders and planners. The 2013 Great Places have many things Americans say are important to their "ideal community" including locally owned businesses, transit, neighborhood parks, and sidewalks. They illustrate how the foresight of planning fosters communities of lasting value.

The KIAA annual meeting will take place starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Bockley Gallery located at 2123 W 21st Street, Minneapolis. Food will be available for purchase from a local pizzeria food truck. At 6:30 p.m. new KIAA members will be announced and following the award presentation will take place. For more information on KIAA visit their [neighborhood website](#). To learn more about APA click [here](#).

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