

## **SENA 2022 Board Election Candidate**

Name: Maria Finsness

Neighborhood Connection: Live in Standish

### **Please tell us why you are applying and what you would hope to accomplish as a SENA board member?**

I am applying for SENA as a way to be an active participant in the community where I live. My fiancée and I moved to Standish in May as first-time homeowners after 10 years of being renters in neighborhoods across Minneapolis. Most recently we live in East Harriet where I was on the East Harriet Neighborhood association for 3 years.

### **What special skill or background to would you bring to the board?**

My professional background is in sustainable practices and energy efficiency in residential construction, as a consultant to CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy. More recently I am a birth worker as a doula and am building a solo practice business. I am good with social media and love talking big ideas, while also putting in the volunteer hours. I am a yoga practitioner.

### **Are you a current or past board member/volunteer with another non-profit and if so, please describe the work you have done that you are most proud of.**

I was an East Harriet Neighborhood association board member for 3 years (1.5 terms) starting in 2019. I enjoyed meeting my neighbors and participating on the executive committee, Places and Spaces committee, and the board at large. During my terms, I was involved in the Bryant reconstruction planning with Public Works, developed the proposal for a large rebranding project, and helped develop our equitable engagement plan for Neighborhoods 2020.

### **What do you think SENA's priorities should be?**

Small Business Support

### **Any additional insights or comments.**

I would love to build a hardcore neighborhood with a well-integrated communication network and enthusiastic residents who are informed and eager to participate through creative strategies to reach a large variety of lifestyles, ages, and interests.