



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, June 20, 2017
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

I. Call to order

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

II. Board introductions

Present: Kevin Dahm, Ryan Flynn, Haley Fruen, Jon Heyer, Mike Ireland, Andrew Johnson, Melissa Liu, João Medeiros, Cari Ness Nesje, Amy Perna, Tim Post, Debra Pursley, Adina Florea Weseman, Maggie Zimmerman

Absent: Darius DeBoer Massoudi, Erin Dooley, Wesley Farrow

STAFF: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda. Passed.*

IV. Community section

A. Special presentations

Sarah Arnold, who performed a business study of the Como/Snelling intersection, presented her findings to the board. 384 residents responded to Arnold's survey on how they feel about the area now, and what they'd like to see there in the future. Nearly half of respondents hadn't shopped at Como/Snelling. Many didn't feel it was worth the trip or were discouraged by a perceived shortage of parking. 73 percent wanted to see a coffee shop, more sit down or carry out restaurants, or other basic goods in the future. Visibility of current businesses at the intersection is a problem, and some responded that they didn't know the intersection was considered a business district. Arnold also talked to three business owners at the intersection. They like doing business there, it's close to their homes, and is in a good spot between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. Arnold's study led her to conclude the intersection needs better branding, community space, and improved buildings to build the identity of Como/Snelling. She also determined there's an opportunity for redevelopment, new businesses and services at the intersection.

Mark Lindeberg spoke to the board about MnDOT's redesign of Snelling Avenue and how pedestrian bicycle paths will fit into the plans. The current design is not safe for bikers or walkers because of the layout of the bridges needed to cross the railroad tracks. New options would reduce speeds and give bikers/peds protected lanes. The project could cost upwards of \$15M to \$20M. Funding for the project has not yet been identified, but Lindeberg hopes to

round up that funding after the project's plan is finalized. That funding could come through a combination of money from bonding and funds from the city, county and MnDOT.

B. Board chair report Ryan Flynn says there are many D10 sponsored summer activities coming up, he asks that board members volunteer when they can and attend the events with family and friends. The board executives group met with owners of the former Shalom Home. While their bonding money was recently denied, the good news is the project has secured funding from banks and investors in Europe and other locations. The owners hope to open an assisted living facility on the site by fall of 2018. The facility could still offer affordable housing, with the help of grants and other funding, but those units could be converted to market value in the future. Asbestos abatement has been done on the buildings so even if the project falls through it could still be a marketable property. Board member Wesley Farrow is leaving D10, his last meeting will be in July. His position on the board comes up for special election in August.

C. Treasurer's report Amy Perna reports that Michael has submitted papers for the community engagement grant, and we should start seeing reimbursements in next month's report. One omission: The payment to the Sarah Arnold for the Como/Snelling report (\$1,500) will show up in next month's treasurer's report.

V. **Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial statements

MOTION: Approve May meeting minutes and financial statements. *(Heyer/Weseman) Passed*

B. Officers' report Ryan Flynn says the D10 board retreat is coming up in July at John's Pizza. The board will discuss grants, fundraising ideas, initiatives for the future, and other brainstorming conversations. Ryan has made these committee assignments: Cari to Environment, Haley to neighborhood, and Andrew to Land Use. Another round of committee assignments could happen in Sept. and Oct. Ryan will have a conversation with committees on which will take on Sarah Arnold's report on Como/Snelling and its recommendations.

MOTION: *D10 urges the city of St. Paul to waive the 45 day waiting for a beer and wine license for Delicato Pizza and Gelato (Action item passed in land use) (Passed)*

MOTION: *D10 supports a sound variance for the 2017 Hmong Freedom Festival at McMurray Field July 1-2. (Action item passed in land use) Passed.*

C. Committee reports

Environment Mike Ireland recapped the June 11 Sunday Series on water quality and Como Lake. The questions after the presentation were very engaging, and Mike says a new study on Como Lake is coming from the Capitol watershed district office soon. The Sunday Series will continue in 2018. Mike mentioned the possibility of a neighborhood resources fair, it's in the early stages, but could be planned for January. The committee will hear from Andrew Duston at their next meeting on an interactive map he created of the Como Park area.

Land use Kevin Dahm said the committee passed a lot of action items at its last meeting and had a packed schedule. No progress on dog park initiative. An August summit is being planned on overlay districts and what can and can't be done during the state fair in terms of parking and vending. Committee heard from property owners on Lexington who want committee and boards help on property line issue. The committee having more conversation on Twin Cities German Immersion School traffic and noise complaints from some neighbors. Kevin says some

progress has been made between the school and neighbors. The school is planning to replace the fence around its playground to cut down on noise. A D10 resident also approached the committee with a request that the board support a study on whether an enhanced pedestrian crossing is needed at Como/Van Slyke.

MOTION: *District 10 urges the St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections and the Police Department's Parking Enforcement Unit to increase enforcement to ensure compliance with the terms of the vending and parking overlay districts during the State Fair. Additional enforcement is especially requested on evenings and weekends. Passed.*

MOTION: *District 10 urge the City of Saint Paul to designate a primary contact point for residents to register rail safety concerns. Passed.*

MOTION: *Send a letter on behalf of D10 board to Ramsey County Property Records and other departments as necessary, in the case of properties at 1004/1008 Lexington Parkway, urging them to correct the paper error, accept the property lines as both property owners understand it, and approve technical variances necessary to resolve a boundary issue. (Passed)*

Neighborhood Melissa Liu gave an update on safety flag installation in the neighborhood. Sponsors are invited to step up and purchase one for their neighborhood. Cost is \$31.50 per set. D10 resident Kevin Anderson asked the committee to request the city study the possibility of improving the pedestrian crossing at Van Slyke and Como. The following action item was proposed:

ACTION ITEM: District 10 will petition the City of St. Paul to initiative an engineering study to investigate and enact proposed changes to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Van Slyke and Como Ave.

250-300 people attend the D10 community celebration at Orchard Park, resident now interested in other events. It was a cold day for the May 20 garage sale, committee considering changing date next year to coincide with ComoFest, will seek input in a survey.

Melissa is looking for volunteers for the July 14 Ice Cream Social. Ice cream is being donated by the Humphrey Center. D10 resident Paul Seeba is performing.

MOTION: *Refer action item on proposed Van Slyke/Como engineering study to Land Use (Dahm/ Medeiros) Passed.*

D. Staff report Michael Kuchta is busy with many organization duties, including helping committees, and organizing series and other events. The ice cream social is falling into place. The rental company is dropping off tables on Friday July 15, they'll be stored at Dockside, so the Como Fest art fair can use them the same day. We'll split the cost of renting tables with the Art Fair.

D10 used a COP grant for the Orchard social, and Michael is looking at using this year's grant on a marketing analysis/consultant to look at Dale Street corridor to see what's possible for economic development. On state fair parking: Michael is identifying institutional and business locations that have parking lots that aren't being used, to see if can be a part of the system of park and rides for the State Fair.

E. New business

MOTION: *Approve funding in the amount of \$258.76 to fund 75 booklets for Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom with extras going to the D10 office. (Ireland/ Medeiros) Passed.*

VI. **Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectively submitted by Tim Post, Secretary. These minutes are not official until approved.