



District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018
7:00 PM
MINUTES

I. Call to order

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Board introductions

Present: Ryan Flynn, Haley Fruen, Mike Ireland, Tim Post, Amy Perna, Thomas Coburn, Cody Zwiefelhofer, Maggie Zimmerman, Melissa Liu, Annie Huidekoper, Alexis Baker, Rebecca Calvo, Olivia Mulvey Morawieck, Anne Hartman

Absent: Adina Florea Weseman, Laura Jo Busian, Cari Ness Nesje

Staff: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda (Passed by acclamation)*

IV. Community section

- A. Special presentation: Fay Simer, St. Paul's pedestrian safety advocate, presented the St. Paul Pedestrian Plan. Simer described the planning process, how public input was taken, and how the plan will move forward. Citizen input included interest in more crosswalks and sidewalks and better snow and ice removal. The plan is expected to go before the city council next year.
- B. Board chair report: Ryan Flynn's chair report is contained in the executives' report.
- C. Treasurer's report: Anne Hartman said the D10 is getting close to its budget amount for the executive director's salary but it's right on track. She has started to separately track grants that make up part of Michael's salary
- D. Other community concerns: None

V. Board Business Section

A. Minutes and financial reports

MOTION: *Approve October 2018 meeting minutes and financial report. (Perna/Baker) passed*

B. Officers' report: Ryan Flynn said the executives discussed conversations happening between officials at the Hmong Academy and neighbors about the prospect of planting trees along Wynne Ave to improve the look of the street and hide buildings on south side of the street. It's a topic land use is also addressing.

The community survey is now out.

The execs are proceeding with the interview process for the organizer position.

Ryan reminds board members to get their neighborhood honor roll nominations in soon.

MOTION: *The D10 board will go into closed session after the meeting to discuss possible use of leftover funds for compensation to executive director (Ireland/Huidekoper) passed*

ACTION ITEM: *The executive director is authorized to purchase:*

*Dell Optiplex 7460 All-in-One desktop computer, with Intel Core i7-8700, 8GB memory, 256GB Class 40 solid-state drive, Microsoft Office Home and Business 2019, Foxit Phantom PDF Standard, McAfee Small Business Security (36-month subscription). Approximate cost: \$1,775
Office phone, such as VTech C56949, desk phone with 2 portable handsets. Approximate cost: \$55 (Coburn/Zwiefelhofer) tabled then passed after closed session*

ACTION ITEM: *The Como Community Council appoints community members Kris Cramer and Benjamin Kowasky-Grahek to represent District 10 on the Como/Front/Dale work group. (Liu/Perna) passed*

Committee updates

Environment Mike Ireland Como reported on the latest public input into a management plan for Como Lake. The committee is submitting a partnership grant to watershed district, The Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom is requesting funding from D10 for plantings. Tim reports the Pathways committee will meet on Nov. 27.

Land use Maggie Zimmerman discussed new concerns brought to land use last month. Residents of Como by the Lake presented a petition asking D10 to lend support for pedestrian improvements in the area and a crosswalk to the park.

TCGIS updates: Gael from TCGIS gave the committee an update on efforts to ease traffic. School officials have added a fifth bus, parent crosswalk volunteers, and visual reminders for motorists to slow down. The school contracted out a traffic study and expects results in December. The Heritage Preservation Commission voted that the aula at TCGIS was eligible for historic designation, sending the issue to the planning commission, it would then go to the city council. In a separate process, zoning site review for a proposed plan to replace the aula comes up in December.

Dog park update: expect Kevin Dahm to bring a motion to land use in December outlining support for a potential dog park.

ACTION ITEM: *That D10 works with neighbors, Hmong Academy and City of St. Paul to explore additional greening to reduce light pollution to enhance the aesthetic for the neighbors. Passes*

ACTION ITEM: *In the site review and zoning processes involving the Twin Cities German Immersion School proposed expansion, District 10 board, committee, and staff members will pursue long-term solutions to ensure that the school makes a positive impact on the Warrendale neighborhood. Examples of things to consider include (but are not limited to): height and lot density; landscaping and design; traffic; parking; playground noise; and children and pedestrian safety. Passes*

ACTION ITEM: *D10 supports the investigation on the feasibility of a crosswalk at the Como by the Lake location. Passes*

Neighborhood Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki reports there was no quorum at last meeting, but members discussed the recent meeting about concerning behavior in the Tilden Park neighborhood. They discussed partnerships that could lead to a food shelf for the

neighborhood. The committee is considering a name change because the current name is too long.

Staff report: Michael refers to the officer notes and committee reports for an update on his work. He's following up on the Tilden crime meeting and the Metro Transit route 84 change.

E. New business

Board goes into closed session at 9:08 pm.

Board ends close session and goes back into regular session at 9:23 pm.

VI. Adjourn Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm by Ryan Flynn.

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

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council, 12/5/2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Mission Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)

1) **Call to Order at 7:07 PM** - Present: Maggie Zimmerman, Rebecca Calvo, Annie Huidekoper (board members); Michael Kuchta (staff). 206 people signed in; head counts show crowd was larger than that.

2) **Land Use Voting Procedures** - Reminders by Maggie

3) **Agenda was adopted** (later, due to time constraints, the Ongoing Business and Coming Events agenda items were tabled for the 1/2/19 Land Use meeting)

4) **New Business** - 1031 Como Avenue (Twin Cities German Immersion School - the requestor) Variance Requests

- Building Height
- Lot Coverage
- Parking

Maggie welcomed the group, the largest ever for a D-10 Land Use meeting, celebrating that "community engagement is not dead." She then outlined the goals for the evening regarding the 3 zoning variances the City wants Land Use, and then the full D-10 board, to consider regarding 1031 Como Avenue.

Michael Kuchta pointed out the ground rules for civility posted on the walls of the meeting room walls for respectful interactions during discussions on the motions. Then he made use of the District 10 Land Use Meeting power point presentation to highlight the key topics and details of tonight's meeting and the timetable for the variance process going forward. This included the fact that TCGIS is zoned R4 and meets the permitted uses in R4 per city code.

The city's 6-point process for reviewing variance requests procedure was highlighted. Maggie reminded us that other than the requestor, each speaker has a 3-minute timeframe to speak. Once we are at 20 minutes, we should be ready to vote.

Variance #1 Lot Size/Coverage

The requestor (TCGIS) provided an overview on the rationale of their project; then specific details/images and answers to questions. First Ted Anderson, TCGIS Executive Director, outlined the school's need to ask for more space to ensure quality delivery and increased functionality to best serve their students. Since 2016 TCGIS has explored multiple options; wants to remain a part of Warrendale, Como Park, and Saint Paul. The lead architect, Deb Rathman of Rivera Architects, spoke to the design elements going back to their 2014 addition between the two buildings (the school and the Aula). In responding to a question, she said the building envelope/footprint is fixed; interior details will be later.

Some of the current school parking on Como Avenue will be taken away (6 spaces) to expand the playground and allow for better storm water management. She elaborated on levels, expanded commons area and reducing the elevation changes that are now a challenge. The lunch room will have natural light and the gym will be on the lowest level (8' below grade) with classrooms above.

The emphasis was on easier circulation for the students and "timing out" = having the same elevation for the floors. Due to the slope there is a need for 3.1 foot of additional elevation. The addition would be 23,500 sq. ft, that is only 8500 sq. ft larger than the footprint with the Aula (which is 16,000 sq. ft but only 12,100 usable space). The brick exterior is the same type as on the school; then the architect focused on the blue accent color to tie the school together and provide a canopy for the kids during recess. The upper level will be a "gold-ish"/light color. There are 2 designated spaces for public art

pieces on the Como exterior. The 3D perspective highlighted additional details, including plan for landscaping with new trees along the boulevard.

Community questions/input regarding the lot size:

- Good schools = increased property values
- We have a lot of schools around us; concern about tearing down a landmark, damaging our "community fabric" and that this school's creative process has lacked input from the neighbors.

Nic Ludwig, Facilities Committee Chair and Warrendale resident, encouraged all interested parties to refer to www.tcgisbuildingproject.org for more background, history, FAQs, and the most up-to-date images, including the preliminary 3D images he and Deb were sharing. He emphasized Facilities Committee engagement with the community.

Kevin Anderson and other members of Save Historic St. Andrew's (SHSA) had prepared challenges to all 3 variance requests. The first document RE: Lot size was read in its entirety, providing the audience with the SHSA point of view.

A few points from the audience:

- Paul - the property is a school; WAS a church... unreasonable to expect a school to maintain it.
- Deborah - moved here from TN for this school... needs to be a functional working environment for children.
- Teri - we already have a local landmark (the church building), we look forward to an upcoming design charette.
- Audra - what happens when the school continues to expand, another floor? Ted Anderson answered, no plans to expand: max 24 kids/class = 648 de facto cap.

Other comments ventured away from lot size with a number of questions about the school staying. Maggie called the vote at 8:22 pm.

Motion to approve the variance request for a 1% increase in lot coverage, moved and seconded by many (followed by a thorough counting of votes made by members of the D-10 Board)

Vote tallies: Yes - 100, No-74, and Abstentions - 7 - "The motion passes" - Maggie

Variance #2 - Height

Details provided by TCGIS to explain the need to exceed by 3'1", above the 30 feet allowed - noting that the existing building is quite a bit taller (46' 9"), with the eaves at 32'; then the public comments included:

- Teach children beauty has a right to exist for its own sake
- Concerns about the height of the Aula peak with a gabled roof, compared with a flat roof and potential for lost air space and visibility

A resident raised a procedural question about voting/discussion... Why are we voting? Maggie pointed out this is for the city's purposes (BZA), need our "advisory" input on the process.

Concerns raised about mechanical units on top of the roof. TCGIS architect said yes there will be and no they are NOT included in the height measurements. Tom Goldstein asked about noise variances. The site plan does not indicate a need for them.

Maggie called the vote at 8:45: **Motion to approve the 3'1" height variance... again moved and seconded by many**

Vote tallies: Yes - 96, No-76, and Abstentions - 10 - "The motion passes" - Maggie

Variance #3 Parking

87 employees - 50 parking spaces = 37 gap

TCGIS Board Vice-Chair Julie Alkatout reminded those in the audience that the school provides 87 high-caliber jobs. They believe there is "ample" on-street parking for 37 teachers and staff. Lots of emphasis placed on 15 spaces in the contract lot at OPC. FT teacher count going up by 6; losing 6 spots for storm water/playground green space. Currently 16 staff members do not drive (6 of them walk); other modes of transportation are used, plus additional bike parking will be added for staff and student. A \$12,000 traffic study done by independent consulting firm concluded that some blocks have full parking only when parents are parking near the school during a 1- minute peak pick-up time from 3:15 to 3:30. Study calculates there are 280 street spaces near the school; it found 25% use midday and 16% use at night.

Motion made at 8:58 to allow for the variance of 37 parking spaces.

- In response to question, former TCGIS board chair (now Secretary) Kelly Loudon provided greater detail/background about 2 previous locations, where school rented. If this little baby school took off/"matriculated" we would need to look for our "forever home" – found it here in Warrendale. She said essentially TCGIS cannot make 50-100-year promises but this is Phase 2 of our long-term planning/build-out and we want to be here.
- Community concerns about recent investment in roads/sidewalks/traffic calming... vs. the school's need for staff/parent parking and "a ton of buses" twice a day
- Others said the school is an essential part of our neighborhood and they can always find a spot within 30' of home; plus another neighbor reminded us all that on-street parking is public, not mine or yours...
- Concern was brought up regarding school events - where will school parents/neighbors park?
- Jeremy provided some levity, mentioning that he's lazy and he could clean out his garage to gain a parking spot... However, even during the July 4th weekend, with the Hmong Festival, he's never had to walk more than a block to park his car. He thoughtfully pointed out people with limited mobility can apply for a handicapped parking sign if there is a need.
- Bonnie, who lives across the alley from TCGIS, talked "location, location, location." She noted the city code and that the school is 37 spaces short. This issue is near and dear to those right around the school.

Maggie asked if further discussion was needed for folks to vote, an eager crowd was ready to vote. At 9:14 pm the vote was called on the **Motion to approve the variance request of 37 parking spaces for TCGIS at 1031 Como Avenue.**

Yes - 101, No - 76, Abstain - 10, Motion carried

In the interest of time, the rest of the agenda was tabled and will be taken up at the January 2 Land Use meeting. The D-10 Land Use meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Huidekoper

District 10 Como Community Council
Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach

COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Como Streetcar Station

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minute Recorder (Melissa Liu)

II. OPENING

- A. Call to order (7:04 PM)
- B. Introductions (all board members, skipped to new business)
- C. Review of Minutes from 11/06/2018 NRSO Committee Meeting
- D. Add to Agenda for 12/04/2018 NRSO Committee Meeting

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Name Change

1. Current ideas for change: Community connections, Community engagement, Keep it the same, Neighborhood Relations

- a. Google's results for NRSO is the National Registry of Sex Offenders, which makes it a good reason to change it
- b. Name change requires a change in the by-laws; there is also an upcoming vote to lower the voting age
- c. FRUEN motions to change the name to "Neighborhood Relations"; seconded by BUSIAN. Passed unanimously.

B. Front Street High Rise

1. Holiday Cookies + Sing Along in December / Equity

- a. BUSIAN recommended the date to be in January and not tied to any specific holiday
- b. MORAWIECKI will follow up with the contact to find out a convenient date for them

C. Welcome Kit

1. Discuss Welcome Packet

- a. postcards go to neighbors who move in
- b. packet will be on the website but we have money to print some copies (some could go to Rec Centers in our district)

D. FRUEN raised a concern about the lack of sidewalks and carriages on the south of Front. KUCHTA said we need to look at the pedestrian plan and their criteria. D10 needs to get a pedestrian count done. The question of who is supposed to shovel stops. Metro transit is supposed to.

E. IRELAND bought up Como Connect 2019, and the desire to partner with NRSO. LIU recommended inviting the Como Connect vendors to the Ice Cream Social for greater visibility.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recent Events Review

B. Tilden Park Meeting, KUCHTA and Patty Lammers met with 4 representatives from Booth Brownhouse. There are policies in place to prevent the behavior that neighbors have observed. Lock down hours are in place.

C. Current Initiative Update

- 1. Safety Flags - there are new ones for replacements

D. Other Event/Initiative Updates

- 1. Food Shelf

- a. Food Shelf one Tuesday a month at the Front Avenue High Rise
- b. many calls were made but waiting for answers
- E. Long-Term Initiatives**
 - 1. Equity
 - 2. The Next Generation
 - 1. Great River Charter school is interested in engaging their youth. One idea is a summit for high school students or a model UN format.
 - 2. The city is lowering the voting age to 16.
- F. Community Concerns**
 - 1. Plowing alleys question from BAKER. Committee gave ideas.

V. NEXT MEETING

- A.** Tuesday, January 8, 2018 @ 7:00pm at Historic Streetcar Station
- B.** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018 at 7 pm

STANDARD ITEMS

- **Committee member and guest introductions**
Mike Ireland, Ariel Kagan, Adina Weseman, Andrew Gustin, Teri Alberico, Dawn Lamm, Bill Niebur, Cari Nesje, Gordy Wrobel, Thomas Coburn, Mike MacDonald, Bill Devroy, Erin Dooley.
- **Review of previous meeting minutes and approve this agenda** - completed
- **District 10 board meeting summary**
 - Summary provided by Mike Ireland
 - Pathway survey
 - Two members appointed by D-10 to the Como - Front - Dale working group - Commercial Vitality Zone; D-6 will also appoint a couple of members.
 - Action item passed on D10 focus to ensure long term positive impact on the community.
 - Higher Ground Academy and Hmong Academy - discussion of shrub removal along school perimeter to ensure safety; installation of new greenery approved.
 - Como by the Lake community engagement session - investigate the feasibility of a crosswalk in front of the building; liaison with the City of St. Paul.

PRESENTATIONS

- None

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- **Need volunteer to take our minutes** - Adina agreed to create the minutes
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - need a leadership team to drive this initiative
 - Part of Capital Region Partner grant; if approved, we will need a team to get involved.
 - Discussion about doing cleanup in spring and fall before vegetation gets too thick along shore.
- **CRWD's Como Lake Management Plan**
 - December 6 from 6 to 8 pm at the Pavilion
The next Public Advisory Group meeting will review the issues and goals identified in the first meeting and provided feedback on various watershed and in-lake management actions for meeting those goals.
 - Asking for RSVP but not necessary. Discussion about issues and goals identified at past meeting. Another public advisory group meeting will take place in February. Proposal will then go to the CRWD Board for approval.
 - Links:
[Como Lake Management Plan web site](#)
[Como Lake Management Plan Story Map](#)
- **2019 Como Lake Rain Garden Project**
 - Last summer we sponsored a feasibility analysis
 - 90 properties identified, will likely narrow list down to 30 properties.
 - Tentative meeting for residents of targeted properties: January 26 and January 29

CWOC planting

- We used discretionary funds to contribute to the purchase of plants

- A variety of tree species: Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Shrubs consistent with the different plant communities at CWOC would be good as well: Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), Hazelnut
- **Organic Compost Site**
 - Holiday capacity - this is the busy season for drop-offs, we want to make sure pick-up happens on time
 - Question about Eureka Zero Waste Buying Co-Op for compostables. Currently on hold
 - EcoSafe bag dispenser- Michael; being assessed currently



- **Capitol Region Watershed District Partner Grant update - Michael**
 - Expect to hear back next month on the main part of the grant application
 - Mike MacDonald: Capital Region discussion about grant - probably will get funds for lake cleanup, not likely for recycle bin proposal.
 - Capital Region is trying to find an ongoing source for recurring projects without having to apply for annual grants. Capital Region received substantial funds for work in the Como watershed (Targeted Watershed Project), esp. for community work and engagement - we should look for projects to get community involved in changing community behaviors and to do work in watershed to prevent nutrients from getting into the lake - we may be able to get some funds.
 - Brainstorming about projects on improving soil health in order to reduce nutrients getting into Como Lake.
 - 2 quotes from private sweepers for street sweeping - vary wildly; waiting to hear back from Public Works.
 - Mike Ireland will reach out to U of M professor who lives in the neighborhood re: project on fertilizing lawns.
- **Sky Rise Bronze Bee sculpture sign - Dawn Lamm**
 - Graffiti removed from the Bee Sky rise sign by the lake.
 - Public Arts St. Paul is looking into funding for the project's maintenance.
- **Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. Nominations (due December 11)**

District 10 is accepting nominations of local individuals or organizations to add to Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. The citywide award recognizes members of our community who make a sustained and lasting impact on the quality of life in Como and the city. A short list of reasons why the individuals or organization should be honored for making Como a better place to live, work, or play should be sent to district10@district10comopark.org no later than December 11.
- **Sunday Series ideas**
 - Already in the works:
 - Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
 - Emergency Planning (City has presentation developed)
 - New ideas:
 - (Teri) Como Lake Management Plan Process/ Monitoring/ Research results

(Bill) History of Como Park (done in the last 3 years, maybe bring it back)

(Erin) Citizen Science

(Dawn) Rolling tour (like Slow Roll) - alleyways, sewers, storm drains

Related: Michael has had some preliminary discussions with possible partners on how to increase biking/general outdoor participation in local schools.

(Ariel/Teri/Dawn) Zero Waste/ Composting/ Reuse/ Upcycle exchange - "Trash to Treasure"

- **Adopt-a-Drain challenge** (begun August 1)

| | Current | Last Month |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ○ Como | 116 | 104 |
| ○ Hamline Midway | 40 | 27 |
| ○ Mac/Groveland | 11 | 11 |
| ○ Union Park | 0 | 0 |
| ○ Highland | 16 | 14 |
| ○ St. Anthony Park | 5 | 0 |

- Will pick up effort to ramp up participation in the Spring.

- **Miscellaneous Stuff**

- Reaching outside the Environmental committee for community involvement

- New potential project - Mike MacDonald:

In 2006/07 - Bird Habitat Study. It might be time for the Environmental Committee to update the report. Easy to use app. - EBird (Cornell Univ). Goal: Are we seeing changes in bird population due to changes in Como Park?

Get together a team to start tracking migrators in March.

Michael Kuchta - talked with someone at Great River School - interest in helping students get involved with environmental projects (plantings, native gardens, lake cleanup)

Michael will provide a list of projects that the committee could use help with.

Summit - students to decide what projects are important and encourage them to get involved.

- Ideas/requests for 2019 Budget - Mike Ireland

Printing costs for education pieces - salt use, etc. + door knocking campaign
Como Connect costs

Stipend for research/ expert technical assistance for committee projects

Pollinator Friendly Garden Tour - promotional and support materials, maps, etc.

- City Residential Trash Pickups - Thomas

Complaints on social media/ NextDoor - inability to opt out due to low trash use or to share trash service with neighbor.

What can D-10 do to address issues with the City not focusing on the existing contract but from an environmental perspective. Maybe offer a recommendation based on community input. Would a survey accomplish this purpose?

What happened to curbside compost pick-up?

Thomas and Teri will send around a proposal for a position on environmental issues we would bring to the attention of the D-10 board.

- **2018 committee initiatives and project planning**

Encourage replacement of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals in lawn and garden maintenance: Through awareness and education, advocate a reduction of environmentally harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers and promote ecologically friendly alternatives.

Teri an Eric

Initiate improved recycling options in parks and other public spaces: Work with Parks and Rec and other organizations to improve community and visitor awareness and correct participation in recycling in parks and public spaces through education and process improvements.

Eric, Teri and Thomas

Explore options to fight the growing chloride threat to Como Lake: Work with the golf course management, Parks and Rec and the CRWD to improve water conservation and filtration.

Gordy and Dawn

Pursue improved leaf-clearing initiatives to fight the growing nutrient threat to Como Lake: Leaf sweeping, collection and street sweeping in the fall to optimize the timing, method and prioritization within D10.

Andrew, Adina and Mike

- Requested inclusion in the CRWD Como Lake Management Plan and the CRWD Partner grant
- Obtain sub-district boundaries
- Goal is to prepare a proposal this winter and partner with the CRWD

Establish a neighborhood "pollinator friendly" garden tour

Erin and maybe Mike MacDonald and Dawn

- Garden Tour 2019 Ideas:
 - o Re-start small – 8-10 max
 - o Shoot for representation from all 4 sub-districts
 - o No tree walk (this year)
 - o Nominations (self or neighbor) start in early May, decision made by the end of the school year.
 - o Hold as part of Como Fest (maybe after ice cream social for advertising)
 - o Unique/Educational – multiple specific pollinators, different seasons for blooming, Community-based gardens, rain garden, exclusively local, difficult soil types, etc.
 - o Include map in email blast and at ice cream social, plus 10-15 at each site (volunteers replenish, as needed)
 - o Solicit flyers from local garden centers.
 - o LIMIT time from 10-12 or 11-1 or 9-11
 - o Create a database that can be shared with D10

COMMUNITY SECTION – a time for anyone's input or concerns

- None

PARTNER UPDATES

- **Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom** - Teri Heyer and Susan Jane Cheney
- **Como Park Pathways subcommittee** - Teri, Andrew and Michael
- **The Mapping Tool** (comopark.info) - Andrew Gustin

- **Churchill Gardens** - Erin
- **Como Organic Compost Subcommittee** – Michael
- **Capitol Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald
 - MPCA 319 Small Watersheds Focus Grant
- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Como Community Seed Library** - Dawn Lamm
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **Master composter/recycling program** - Teri Alberico
- **Midtown Greenway** - Mike Ireland
- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 11:** Neighborhood Honor Roll submission deadline
- **January 26 and January 29:** 2019 Como Lake Rain Garden Project tentative dates

ADJOURNMENT

- **Next Meeting:** December 19 at 7 pm at the streetcar station

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

Dec. 12, 2018 (John's Pizza Café)

Present: Ryan Flynn, chair; Amy Perna, vice chair; Anne Hartman, treasurer; Tim Post, secretary; Michael Kuchta, staff

Events

- **Sunday Series.** Officers gave the go ahead for staff to pursue the following ideas: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District; Emergency management and preparation; Citizen science basics (perhaps with a hands-on bird count); the basics of composting, recycling, and hazardous household waste disposal; update from Capitol Region Watershed District on its lake monitoring research project.
 - On the citizen science topic, Anne will contact her nephew at the Bell Museum, which makes citizen science a focus.
 - At this point, we have not been able to find a dedicated presentation on the history of redlining in Saint Paul. Michael will continue following up leads.
- **Ward 4 renters' forum.** Tentatively scheduled for March. New organizer will be point person once hired.

Financials

- **Fund-raising.** Volunteer has finished database of past volunteers. Online version of community survey has slightly more than 200 responses. A paper version is now available; need to figure out how and where to make it available.
- **Account review and tracking.** Anne is slowing revising revenue and expense details so they more closely link to their supporting grant or funding stream. Revision of chart of accounts is a more detailed undertaking and will be a long-term project for 2019.
- **2019 budget and work plan.** Anne presented a draft of a 2019 budget, including input from NRSO and Environment committees. Need to make sure line items adequately reflect desired spending caps and include projects included in those caps. We do not know exactly how much city grant will increase in 2019. Final adoption by board may be delayed until January to more accurately reflect anticipated income and expenses.
- **End-of-year balances.** Michael and Anne will continue to compare notes on how much is left in personnel and non-personnel categories under main city grant. Computer is purchased, but not yet set up. Amy will purchase phone system and conference call module before end of year.
- **Color copies.** Coordinated Business Systems has proposed providing a color copier for slightly less than current monthly cost; however, this will require a new five-year lease. (Current lease on B&W copier expires in summer 2019.) Michael will solicit bids from other vendors.
- **Unemployment insurance audit.** We were selected "randomly" to undergo audit by State of Minnesota. Michael and accountant have compiled necessary paperwork from 2017. Audit takes place in our office Dec. 13.

- **Workers comp audit.** Annual audit is due Dec. 20. Michael and accountant are compiling necessary reports, which will be filed online.

Organizational Business

- **Organizer position.** Ryan and Tim (and Anne in some cases) interview 5 candidates. They have recommended one; Ryan will extend an offer on Dec. 13.
- **Equity training.** Michael shared proposal from Nexus Community Partners for training. Proposal is for 5 three-hour sessions beginning in May 2019, after new board is elected. Cost is \$14,040 for up to 30 people; or \$9,000 if we do not include an IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) component. District 6 is willing to share training and split cost, but is not interested in IDI. We could cover our share using Year 1 and 2 equity funding from city. Ryan, who has gone through the IDI process, questioned the value for the organization. In short, the process assesses how we react to cultural differences by using five groupings: denial, polarization, minimalization, acceptance, and adaptation. IDI would include personal assessments, then an organizational profile based on those assessments. Officers also raised concerns about whether board members could commit to 5 sessions. Michael will hold further discussions with Nexus and D6. Amy is seeking proposal from Ann Phibbs, formerly at the University of Minnesota.
- **Como/Front/Dale oversight committee.** We are waiting to coordinate first meeting with Ward 1 and Ward 5 offices.

Board Meeting

- **Recognition of Janice Rettman.** Janice will not be able to attend, so formal recognition will be pushed back.
- **Bylaws revisions.** Amy submitted draft language to reduce age of D10 membership from 18 to 16, to bring us in accordance with new city policy. This would allow 16-and 17-year-olds to vote and hold office. NRSO has voted to change committee name simply to Neighborhood Relations. Both of these proposals will be introduced in December, but cannot be voted upon until January at the earliest.
- **Action Items.** Land Use has three on TCGIS variances: lot coverage, height, and parking. Ryan will run meeting more formally than usual. TCGIS and Save Historic St. Andrew's each will receive 10 minutes to state their cases. No other public comment will be allowed. All TCGIS/Warrendale business will be handled at beginning of meeting; that way supporters on both sides know they can leave and not fear that something else will be raised later in meeting. Ryan will urge all board members who are interested in amendments or other language on the variances to talk with him in advance, so language can be in writing and so we have best chance of making sure language accomplishes author's intent.
- **Neighborhood Honor Roll.** We have 8 nominees; board can select up to 3 by secret ballot.
- **New business.** Tobacco 21 and Neighborhood STAR issues will be raised, then tabled until January meeting.
- **Presenters.** International Institute will be rescheduled until January.

Staff Report

- We have received concerns about buses on new Route 84 loop idling at Pascal and Almond during scheduling layover. Michael will talk with Metro Transit.
- District Councils have responded to an RFP from Ramsey County to do community engagement on county projects. If selected, one council will need to be lead and act as fiscal agent. Officers are willing to consider if the time comes.