



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday Nov. 21, 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, Erin Dooley, Ryan Flynn, Haley Fruen, Jon Heyer, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, João Medeiros, Joseph Mueller, Cari Ness Nesje, Amy Perna, Tim Post, Debra Pursley, Adina Florea Weseman, Maggie Zimmerman

Absent: Laura Jo Busian, Dunette Combs

Staff: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda. (Approved by acclamation)*

IV. Community section

A. Special presentations

Jay Demma, Perkins + Will, presented a market study related to the retail potential in the Dale St corridor and D10 as a whole. Demma says retail currently is minimal and on the edges of the neighborhood. The report's takeaways: D10's household numbers and wealth would support some retail, but there are not a lot of high-quality retail locations because of D10's geography and land use (Como Park, cemeteries, State Fair). Demma says that limits the potential for retail chains, but there are still possibilities for hyper-local and specialized offerings.

Andrew Hestness from the City of St. Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development presented the latest on the Como/Front/Dale Commercial Vitality Zone. The city hopes to improve the commercial environment by making investments in the intersection's pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, bus stops, and turn lanes. A U of M study called for greater design improvements to the intersection; however, Hestness says, the current budget for the project doesn't support that level of investment.

B. Board chair report Ryan Flynn reports that two more applications were received for the Pathways sub-committee. He's appointed Rebecca Calvo and Priscilla Wyeth to the committee. Its first meeting is Monday, Nov. 27.

C. Treasurer's report Amy Perna says the council is right where it should be financially. She's drafting the 2018 budget for the December meeting and asks that committee chairs email her budget numbers if they have financial needs for events or other items.

D. Other Community concerns None

V. **Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial reports

MOTION: *Approve October 2017 meeting minutes and financial statements. (Pursley/Heyer)*
Passed

B. Officers' report Ryan Flynn reports that the officers met and discussed the final numbers on the community clean-up in the fall. They also discussed a request by Job Corps for another letter of support. In the spring, the Job Corps asked for an emergency letter of support over of concern that the federal government was going to cut its budget. The board was supportive of that request. Another request for a letter of support came in recently, but the board wasn't able to respond because of a one-day deadline to do so. Ryan met with Councilmember Amy Brendmoen recently. She said if D10 wants to take on issues of community safety, she's happy to lend support. They talked about the effort to replant trees in the district's boulevards and whether neighbors could pitch in funds to plant more mature trees. Brendmoen says city forestry officials don't recommend that because younger trees tend to adapt better to boulevards and, within a few years, there's minimal difference in size. They also discussed the Twin Cities German Immersion School and complaints by some of the school's neighbors. Brendmoen says the city doesn't consider it an issue it does not want to get involved in. If there are issues that arise around the school's expansion in the next few years, the city could weigh in if necessary.

C. Committee updates

Environment Mike Ireland says the committee talked about its budget. Members also discussed applying for a grant for a future rain-barrel project, and also considered including that effort in an upcoming Sunday Series. The committee is compiling a list of organizations to include in the upcoming community resources fair and will continue brainstorming on which orgs to invite. The committee's next meeting is Nov. 29.

Land use Kevin Dahm says the committee discussed the proposed Lexington Ave pedestrian crossing near the entrance to the golf course. The project has been pushed off until spring and the committee will try to pick up the issue again next month. TCGIS update: The school says it's not inclined to pursue noise abatement. Kevin says the city has shown it's not an issue they want to pursue, and the only option for neighbors at this point looks to be mediation or some sort of legal action. TCGIS has taken step to ease traffic concerns in the neighborhood by asking staff not to park on Van Slyke. The school is moving into expansion mode soon; Kevin says the committee is exploring ways for neighbors to air any concerns they have without acting as a mediator or taking sides on the issue.

Neighborhood Melissa Liu says the committee talked about safety concerns in D10 at its last meeting in light of two attacks this fall on women near Como Lake. The committee is considering proactive ways to bring D10 together in light of such incidents without creating panic, and members are considering hosting another crime prevention meeting, perhaps early in 2018 in the Orchard Park/North Dale Street area, with the help of D6. Community clean-up update: the event saw a 40 percent increase over last year, with 127 tons of material collected. The city

would like to hold a pick-up event at the State Fair in the spring to take pressure off smaller events, Melissa says D10 could consider working with D12 to get more support.

D. Staff report Michael Kuchta says the deadline for Neighborhood Honor Roll nominations is coming up soon; the board will vote for the honorees in Dec. Michael is also staying on top of Dockside news and next steps. He's also part of discussion with other districts on the city's Innovation Fund; this year, the funds could be divided among the districts to be used for equity purposes.

E. New business

Action Item: *The Como Community Council gives executive officers and the executive director permission to move forward with a pilot project to live stream the January and February D10 meetings through the D10 Facebook account. Passed.*

Cari Ness Nesje alerted the board to the recent listing of the historic Hazzard House at 1371 Nebraska. It's eligible for historic preservation.

F. Closed Session: Personnel

VI. **Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned at 10:38 pm by Ryan Flynn.

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

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2017 at 7 pm

Highlights/Action Items:

- Como Woodland: Seeking Eco Stewards, also, there is a City Nature Challenge coming this spring. See Susan Jane for more info.
- Como Connect Event: Feb 10th. Volunteers needed. Erin will ask NJHS students to volunteer at the event and/or host a table.
- Curbside Clean-up: It is now over and the impact is being tabulated via on-line survey.
- Rain Barrel Grant: Mike MacDonald is looking into a grant. This may be the centerpiece of a Sunday Series event.
- Watershed District Award: Committee member Courtney Ryan received a nomination.

STANDARD ITEMS

- **Call to order**
- **Committee member and guest introductions**

Mike Ireland, Dawn Lamm, Adena Weisman, Bill Devroy, Bill Niebur, Gordy Wrobel, Michael Kuchta, Andrew Gustan, Mike McDonald, Bill Sylvester, Erin Dooley, Susan Jane Chaney, Mike MacDonald, Julie Wegscheid, Courtney Ryan, Terri Albrico

- **Approval of minutes and agenda**
- **District 10 board meeting summary**
 - Adina, Erin, Cari, Michael and Mike

Two presentations focusing on the Como/Front/Dale area –

One on businesses in the area; what is the potential? We have enough people to support additional businesses, but not the space in most of D10.

The other focused on safety upgrades to that intersection. The focus was on possibilities, but also limitations due to budget and the intersection itself. There will be a meeting to collect community input.

Two additional members were added to the Como Pathways group, tasked with providing signage and other communication to the public.

The city is not in favor of residents purchasing larger trees in lieu of size that is most typical. This is because of transplant shock, as well as the fact that after a few years, there is little difference in size.

Community clean up received about 40% more volume than last year. The city may do the first one in the spring next year.

D10 meetings may be streamed on facebook. Pilot to start soon.

Various other subcommittee meeting minutes were also shared.

PRESENTATION

- None scheduled

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- **Next meeting is December 27**

Do we want to reschedule the date with everyone's availability between the holidays?

The majority of the committee will be available on the 27th. Michael or another volunteer will take minutes in Erin's absence.

- **The St Paul Watershed District awards are coming up**

Courtney Ryan was nominated. The committee did a brief celebration for the well deserved honor. The award is January 18th.

- **Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll**

District 10 is accepting nominations of local individuals or organizations to add to Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. Email district10@district10comopark.org no later than Dec. 15 and include a short description of their accomplishments or the reasons they should be honored for making Como a better place to live, work, or play.

- **District 10 possible cosponsoring a CRWD rain garden program**

CRWD is interested in engaging volunteers to assist with analyzing boulevards throughout the Como sub-watershed to determine if they are a good fit for a rain garden. They are considering hosting a brief "how to" along with a work day in May or June. The rain gardens will be installed in 2019 and 2020 at no cost to homeowners.

Michael has heard from the watershed district on this front. Mike has 5 interested residents, and the watershed district is looking for sites to have a rain garden. The program, if one is accepted, is no-cost.

- **2018 District 10 and Environmental committee budget request**

Mike presented a list of ideas for the budget request. Como Woodland no longer needs funds for the propagation garden, and requested the request be changed to seedlings/young trees. The remainder of the list will be passed on, as is.

- **Rain Barrel grant application - Mike MacDonald**

This would be a best-fit for a spring Sunday Series. Including a request for rain barrels ahead of time to assist with assembly and use of the barrels, but people could come to just the info session. The last time there were info sessions, there were three annual sessions, each with large turn-out. We would need to have a pre-order for the barrels. Other suggestions included a rain barrel tour (ala garden tour) to see successful/innovative uses; doing supplemental sessions with seed exchanges, etc.

Courtney will look into a rain barrel expert/presenter.

Mike M will continue to pursue additional grant information – logistics such as cost, matching, lag time needed for delivery after order.

- **Curb cuts and residential interest - Mike MacDonald**

- **Como Curb Cleanup update** - Janna Caywood, Courtney Ryan, Mike

The event is officially over. Many of the trees dropped their leaves while still green, and they have more phosphorous if they are green. The survey will be coming to members to calculate the amount of phosphorous kept out of the lake/s.

- **Como Park Wayfinding subcommittee** - Teri, Andrew and Michael

The committee met. Andrew is already working on the GIS, they are working on formulating surveys as well as how to deliver them (on park signage, newsletter, etc.). They are also collecting tales of people who have gotten lost in the park. Tree identification can also be part of the outcome. Mike suggested having a “tree walk” as an option.

Many committee members are new to taking an active role in D10, which is nice to see.

- **Sky Rise Bronze Bee Sculpture Location** – Michael

The rock has been selected for the Bronze Bee. We will need to design signage to accompany it.

Dawn volunteered to work on the sign.

- **Como Connect Neighborhood Resource Fair**

-- February 10 at Bethel Lutheran Church.

Environmental committee table at this event? We need ideas on other organizations to invite (handout)

The Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists have been shared – organizations that would be a good fit for this event, all of the Tier 1 organizations have been contacted. As of today, we have about nine collaborators. The group is looking to have local businesses at the fair as well.

There was also a list of “audience” groups that may benefit from connecting with one or more of these organizations or who don’t even know of their existence.

Committee members were asked to add to either of these lists, volunteer at the event, and spread the word about the event.

- **Miscellaneous Stuff** - Mike

- Resilient Cities Presentations - <http://allianceforsustainability.com>

- Reaching outside the Environmental committee for assistance with single one-time efforts

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

Gordy shared a concern about a friend on Alameda that had rats in their window well. The city is no longer doing rat abatement, whether in conjunction with sewer work or not.

PARTNER UPDATES

- **Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom** - Teri Heier and Susan Jane Cheney

Susan Jane shared that the propagation beds have been cleaned out. They are used for growing and youth programs.

There are also new seedlings in the transition section of the woodland. There is a problem with buckthorn and black locust (which is native, but aggressive).

If you are interested in volunteering/adopting a section of the woodland, contact the eco stewards – parks and rec, who are holding a training in March.

Event coming in late April – City Nature Challenge. Bio blitz, a national program

- **Como Park Wayfinding subcommittee** - Teri, Andrew and Michael
- **The Mapping Tool** (<http://geopoi.us/freelance/>) - Andrew Gusting
- **Churchill Gardens** - Erin, Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist
- **Como Organic Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kuchta

At this time last year, usage increased (leaf sites close down during the week, people don't do at-home composting as much). Michael will be monitoring.

- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald
- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Como Community Seed Library** - Dawn Lamm
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **Master composter/recycling program** - Teri Alberico

Her coursework is done, hours still need to be completed, and must be done in specific location/s. She is hoping to apply the skills and information in a broad range of areas, including public education, J4 soccer event, reduction in addition to just composting/recycling, etc.

- **Greenway Extension** – Mike

This group had their first meeting earlier this month. There is interest in connecting bike routes across the cities. Funding for the project is coming from the Federal Government rather than the city. Greenways are growing fast and a great development tool. One suggestion is to connect Midway to Downtown via Ayd Mill Road. It would aid in making St Paul more of a highlight in bike-friendly towns. The current plan does not fit with the city's current bike plan. D10 chose to not be a part of the decision-making team, as the plan is not within D10, proper. By staying out of the team, we are also able to maintain our own, independent voice in the process, rather than being required to go with the majority. Bill's perspective was that the tenor of the D10 meeting was not in support of the plan.

- **Como Connect: A Neighborhood Resource Fair** - Dawn, Cari and Sara
- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2/10/2018** Tentative date for the Como Connect resource fair
- **Fall 2018** Como Community Parade

ADJOURNMENT

- **Next Meeting:** tentatively December 27 at 7 pm (last Wednesday of each month)

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council – 12/6/2017

1. **Call to order 7:02pm**
2. **Present:** Kevin Dahm, Maggie Zimmerman, Jon Heyer, Debra Pursley
Residents: Bill Sylvester, Doug Siekmann, Kris Anderson
Staff: Michael Kuchta
3. **Amend/Adopt Agenda - Approved**
4. **Ongoing**
 - A. Staff Report
 - a. Sholom Home
 - i. Still no updates on funding or progress
 - b. Firehouse on Snelling
 - i. Back on the market, but all prospective buyers have said it needs to be rezoned from multi-family residential.
 1. May consider talking to local residents to see if there is support for rezoning over continuing vacancy
 - a. If we opt to survey the neighbors, focus on those within 100 feet who would need to sign off on a rezoning. Also invite those from slightly outside that zone.
 - b. Interest was from a Chai bottling operation and tea room, the Weaver's Guild of MN, and computer-based tech company.
 - c. What would the parking requirements be for one of these types of businesses or organizations?
 2. Bill says there was a study by D10 when Sholom home moved (9-10 years ago) that had city planners come out and zoning decisions were made.
 - c. Schiffman Fountain
 - i. Pieces seem to be falling into place to repair the fountain with private funding
 - ii. Ask NRSO to consider hosting or helping with some sort of rededication event when fountain is finished
- B. State Fairgrounds and Overlay District
 - a. Consistency in enforcement of street parking violations in the area that has parking restrictions during the State Fair
 - i. Jon sees pretty reasonable parking enforcement in the area
 - b. Expansion of streets with one-sided parking restrictions during the State Fair
 - i. Bill sees issues with expanding one-sided parking because it will drive more people further east.
 - c. Expand the parking overlay district
 - i. Relieve extra congestion from increased fair attendance?
 - ii. Consider permit parking during the state fair
 - iii. Temp speed bumps?
 - iv. More parking enforcement
 - d. Add more official park-and-ride shuttle lots, especially weekends along Energy Park Drive
 - e. Engage more institutions and business property owners in utilizing their off-street parking during the State Fair. This could also allow booster clubs, nonprofits, and similar organizations the opportunity for fund-raising.
 - f. Eliminating jurisdictional and property distinctions regarding enforcement of vending, peddling, and overlay district parking violations
 - i. Results of many different agencies enforcing single issues, and many missed issues. Could we ask the city to, for the 12 days of the fair, allow everyone to enforce everything? Universal enforcement empowerment.
 - g. Request stricter enforcement of peddler requirements, or complete elimination of peddling in the overlay district
 - i. Peddling is the most common complaint of residents
 - ii. Do a better job of enforcing laws?
 - iii. Or give up on enforcement

- h. Clarify what is and is not allowed by residents, institutions and businesses trying to “advertise” their off-street parking during the Fair
- i. Congestion increases, which then increases speed and erratic drivers
 - i. Increased enforcement for speeding
- C. Lexington Ave, Golf course crosswalk
 - a. Use winter as a time to consider alternate solutions.
 - b. Sidewalks on the golf course side still go to nowhere.
 - c. City says this is part 1. What is part 2, 3, 4, etc.
- D. Dog Park
 - a. In contact with D11 – they are trying to get a dog park at Newell Park
 - i. Similar mix of neighbors for and against dog park

5. Active

- A. TCGIS & Neighbors
 - a. Gael says there is a school event on Dec 14th 2:30-4:30pm. Expectations for significant increase in parent visitors. Email reminder being sent to parents to not park on Van Slyke Ave.
 - b. TCGIS is renting space from the church across the street for student advisory period (study hall), one hour a day. Will begin after winter break.
 - c. Doesn't look like TCGIS will be moving forward on any purchase of the church property.
 - d. Neighbors report that parking has been much better. Pre-emptive reminders about blocking cut outs.
 - i. U-turns have been happening in the middle of the road on Van Slyke.
 - ii. School bus couldn't turn left onto road to get to Como side of the school. Too long a stream of cars at afternoon pick up. Busses should be in place before school lets out.
 - e. City Council declines to compel DSI to do any sound readings
 - i. Suggestion to consider St Paul Dispute Resolution Center
 - f. Dec 12th 6pm is the next facilities meeting for TCGIS.
- B. Guest speakers list
 - a. Dispute Resolution and Arbitration services and processes within the city (<http://disputeresolutioncenter.org>) – Hopefully get them on the schedule for January or February 2018.
 - b. Problem property info session and resources
 - c. Climate Change in St Paul – impacts on roads, forestry, commutes, etc
 - d. Transportation planner
 - e. City traffic coordinator
- C. Como Front Dale Intersection
 - a. Presentation at the last full board meeting on economic potential and specifically the C/F/D intersection.
 - i. Some options for making intersection safer
 - ii. Major crash at that intersection every week for the last three weeks
 - iii. Dale Street Corridor meeting next week
 - b. Michael met with the PED folks who ran the study to talk more about the Uniforms store to hear about what businesses they are hoping for there.
- D. Snelling and Como Commercial district
 - a. Desire for an anchor store of some sort
 - b. On-going desire to share commercial district business info with the local business owners at that intersection
- E. Board member area of interest
 - a. Jon requests Snelling and Como area.
- F. Adjourn 8:47pm

**Como Park District 10's
Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach
Tuesday, 12/5/2017 at 7:00 pm**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order – 701pm
- II. Introductions – Melissa, Debra, Mike, Bill S., Michael
- III. Review of 11/7 minutes – approved.

IV. New Business

A. 2018 Budget;

1. Ice Cream Social – \$1000 budgeted for event in 2018; we will contact Kemps early in 2018 to see if they would be willing to donate the ice cream again.
2. Orchard Park Rec Center Social – \$500 budgeted this event; will discuss more in Jan mtg; possibly move the event around to different parks within the D10 community?
3. Funds for community meetings – zero dollars budgeted for this item.
4. December Yoga - \$200 budgeted for this event in 2018; discussion to possibly expand and have quarterly yoga events at the Street Car Station (SCS). Budget would cover cost of paying the instructor.
5. Community Fall Parade - \$250 budgeted for this event; “first annual”, we are really not sure what kind of costs we may run into (refreshments, advertising, and traffic control?)
5. Others = \$1000 budgeted for New D10 Resident mailing & welcome kits; cost of printing larger post-card, actual mailing costs, possible costs for welcome kits?

B. Block Club Leaders 2018 Initiative – much discussion surrounded this topic; a wide range of opinions were shared;

1. Debra feels that with the vastly improved means of Social Media, the block club program may not be as important as it once was. Should we be spending time and resources to try to revive a program that is no longer needed?
2. Bill S. has suggested many times that we create a Block Club Leader “starter kit” that would include instructions of how to organize a block club along with some root beer and ice cream to encourage them to host a Root Beer Float Night for their neighbors. He suggested we do a pilot program in 2018 by offering 10-20 starter kits to interested community members to try to jump start the Block Club Program again. This suggestion might be tried in August just before National Night Out.
3. Michael reminded us that D10 did an extensive outreach in 2015, in partnership with the Block Nurse Program to identify current Block leaders and what support they needed for D10. The response from community members was not encouraging at that time.
4. Additional Note; during this discussion, the conversation began to get a little bit heated and there was some interrupting and talking-over of other committee members. Melissa, our Cmte Chair, made it very clear to all participants that this type of over-talking behavior will not be tolerated at all going forward.

Obviously more discussion needs to be had regarding this topic when the NRSO committee is again at full strength in Jan 2018.

C. Survey results for renters in Como - \$300 budgeted for continued outreach to renters in 2018. We need to find a way other than food to entice participation in meetings and surveys. Food cannot be reimbursed from city monies. Initial suggestions were drawings for movie tickets, gift cards, and gas cards.

D. Additional Community Crime Prevention Meeting;

1. We will shoot to have this second community meeting sometime in Feb 2018; Melissa will book a room at the North Dale Rec Center; Michael will contact Patty Lammers to inquire as to what her schedule looks like in Feb.
2. Michael presented a rough draft of a crime prevention/block club tip sheet that we could make available to community members when they call or email the D10 office with complaints, concerns or general questions regarding crime happening in District 10. Michael fields quite a number of calls each week from concerned residents and would very much like for this committee to review, give feedback and ultimately approve a final draft of this tip sheet. Then we will bring the final draft to the full D10 Board for approval before Michael will begin distributing to residents. We can also have this new tool included on The Como Park D10 web-site.

E. Long term pedestrian safety plan for D10;

- 1-Michael stated that the city will be unveiling a city-wide plan for Pedestrian Safety sometime in 2018. The City will also be hiring a permanent position to specifically deal with pedestrian safety issues/concerns.
- 2-Michael also posed the question of whether this Committee wants to take on the wider and deeper, city and county wide pedestrian problems. More discussion to come in future NRSO meetings.

V. Old Business

A. Pedestrian Crossing near Chelsea - Michael presented the Safe Routes to School spreadsheet completed by Chelsea Heights Elementary. Committee members are encouraged to review this spreadsheet.

B. Holiday Yoga – was very well attended for our initial offering of this event. A total of 18 participants were getting their Relax-on! There seemed to be some interest in making this event more than once a year. The committee will discuss further in 2018 if we think this would be possible; maybe quarterly to start with? We would need to pay the instructor something and have a minimal charge for the event.

C. Como Connect Update – Mike Ireland stated that they have 11 confirmed organizations that will be presenting at this event on Saturday, Feb 10th, 2018. The organizers would really like to have a minimum of 20 groups/organizations.

V. Community member section – no new topics were presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.