



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

I. Call to order

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

II. Board introductions

Present: Kevin Dahm, Darius DeBoer Massoudi, Wesley Farrow, Ryan Flynn, Brandon Heffron, Jon Heyer, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, João Medeiros absent, Tim Post, David Sorenson, Adina Florea Weseman, Maggie Zimmerman

Absent: Erin Dooley, Melissa Finnegan, Amy Perna, Debra Pursley

Staff: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda. Passed.*

IV. Community section

A. Special presentations

Wendy Lane and Jerome Brenner from St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections addressed several topics, including: zoning department staffing, types of zoning hearings, public hearings for zoning cases, zoning standards, and requirements behind the department's findings.

Ryan Flynn asked Lane and Brenner how they tell applicants about D10. Brenner told the board once individuals apply for a zoning variance, he makes sure they have the proper documents, then instructs them to reach out to D10, a move that's not required, but in their best interest. Lane told the board individual boards handle variance requests differently.

Chair Flynn asked Lane and Brenner if there's a way the department can accommodate D10's meeting schedule, allowing D10 to get neighborhood feedback on a project before

the Board of Zoning Appeals rules on a variance request. Brenner said D10 can ask an applicant to request the BZA delay a decision so D10 can weigh in, but BZA will only layover a decision for district council review if an applicant agrees to such a move.

In response to a board question regarding enforcing peddling rules outside of the State Fair, Brenner told the board that if residents hear of a problem with illegal peddling, they can call his office, or St. Paul Police.

John Neubauer of The Falls Events Center told the board that his company has bought the former Railway Museum at Bandana Square and plans on converting it into an 18,000-square-foot events center. The facility needs more parking than the 60 spaces available, and negotiated a deal to secure 55 spaces from the nearby Best Western Plus. Those spots are farther away than what's allowed by the city's zoning code, requiring a variance from the city. Neubauer said a skywalk at the property, as well as the availability of valet parking, will make up for the extra distance from the facility. Neubauer asked D10 to support the variance ahead of an April 10 BZA hearing.

MOTION: The District 10 supports a zoning variance for parking by The Falls Event Cent
(Farrow/Sorenson) Passed

B. Community concerns

Kris Anderson lives near the Twin Cities German Immersion School. She told the board that residents in her neighborhood have concerns over a shortage of parking because school employees are parking on the street. Kevin Dahm invited Anderson to present her concerns at the next D10 Land Use committee meeting in April.

C. Board chair report Ryan Flynn said much of his report is contained in the officer meeting minutes. He reminded board members that elections are coming up during D10's annual meeting on April 18.

D. Treasurer's report Amy Perna is absent, but Michael Kuchta reports that volunteers have stepped forward for the audit committee. Michael and Amy are still working with the bookkeeper on discrepancies between his numbers and D10's.

V. **Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial statements

MOTION: Approve Feb 2017 meeting minutes and financial statements.
(Heyer/Sorenson) Passed (Abstention Massoudi)

B. Officers' report Ryan Flynn reports that the financial audit committee has its three volunteers – Melissa Liu, Adina Florea Weseman, and Wesley Farrow.

C. Committee reports

Environment Mike Ireland reports that the committee is working on its work plan for the year. The second Sunday Series was held on the topic of Como Woodlands, about 15 people attended. The next event is on monarch butterflies and will be April 2. A plan is being developed for Triangle Garden maintenance. The citywide cleanup is April 22 at various locations around the city, there's a location at Dockside. The committee is hoping to do a future Sunday Series on garden design and hopes to coordinate a seed exchange for the same event.

Land use Kevin Dahm said the committee got an update from the real estate agent who is selling the uniform shop near Como/Dale/Front. It's a location that's not likely to be developed anytime soon, according to the agent.

The committee also submitted a letter opposing extended hours at Gabe's patio due to noise concerns in the neighborhood. And the committee submitted another letter asking for a speedy rehab of a house on Front Ave. that the city has declared a nuisance property.

The committee will discuss the Lexington Ave survey at its next meeting and will likely have an action item for the board to act on in April.

Neighborhood Melissa Liu reports that two upcoming activities are planned: the credit score session, and the May 20 neighborhood-wide garage sale; residents can register online to get their sale on a map.

A resident of subdistrict 4 wants to organize a neighborhood outreach event in June. Orchard Rec Center is interested in hosting. Board action is required to release D10 funds for the event.

The committee is considering putting together a community parade, and is also working on its work plan for the year. The next meeting is April 4 at 7pm.

MOTION: The Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach committee requests that the Board approve the release of District 10 grant funds in the amount of \$500 to go toward the South Como (Sub-district 4) Community Building Event in the month of June at Orchard Park Recreation Center. *Passed*

D. Staff report Michael Kuchta reports that the water damage on the Streetcar Museum ceiling has been fixed.

The problems at the compost site are back, the bins haven't been emptied, and Michael is trying to stay on top of the situation with the company and the county.

The 2016 city grant has been fully reimbursed. The committees are putting together their work plans, which will be a part of D10's application for the 2017 City Engagement Grants.

The Como/Snelling study is ongoing, and the intern is making good progress. She is still compiling data, and is working on a survey for residents and business owners in the area.

E. New business Ryan Flynn told the board that when Subdistrict 4 was annexed by D10 in 2013, the board did not change its articles of incorporation to reflect the change. The board needs to adopt the new articles of incorporation and file a new version with the MN Secretary of State's office.

MOTION: Authorize the amendment of the Articles of Incorporation. *(Post/Dahm) Passed.*

D10s current voting procedures do not allow for preferential voting, but that has been requested in recent special elections.

MOTION: Amend the voting procedures to permit and provide for preferential voting. *(Post/Sorenson) Passed*

Language in the D10's Community Garden rules concerning organic methods requires gardeners to check in with the garden's sponsors, which technically means the board. This action item would change that to require gardeners to check in with the community garden management committee.

MOTION: Amend the community garden rules. *(Sorenson/Farrow) Passed*

Board member Maggie Zimmerman reports that the International Institute of Minnesota, on D10's western border, is applying for a Neighborhood STAR grant to continue their work welcoming new residents to the country. The group is asking for D10's support for their application.

MOTION: Authorize the executive director to send a letter of support for International Institute of Minnesota's STAR grant request. *(Farrow/Dahm) Passed*

In response to problems at the Como compost site, this action item came forward:

MOTION: Authorize the D10 Executive Director to draft and send a letter expressing board and citizen concern regarding Sanimax's failure to abide by its contract, and its negative impact on the community, and the organic composting program. *(Farrow/Sorenson) Passed*

ADJOURNMENT. Ryan Flynn adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The board went into closed session to discuss the medical leave of the executive director.

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

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 pm

Minutes

STANDARD ITEMS

1. Call to order

2. Committee member and guest introductions

Mehr Aslani, Mike Ireland, Mike McDonald, Bill Sylvester, Courtney Ryan, Adina Weseman, Andrew Guston, Dawn Lamm, Bill Niebur, Erin Dooley, Susan Jane Cheney, Terri Alberico

3. District 10 board meeting summary – Erin, Adina, Maggie and Mike

- New event center hoping to locate at Bandana Square; parking can be an issue
- TC German Immersion School – neighborhood parking, noise issues
- Shalom Home – no waiting list for the tax credit bond funding.

GENERAL INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

4. Annual Spring Seed Exchange event on May 21 - Dawn Lamm

Information on the seed library is available on their facebook page. As details are finalized, there will be more publicity.

Como Community Seed Library is one again hosting the seed and plant swap. There is a “save the date” type flyer. They may invite Elpis in to demonstrate their re-claimed wood compost bins and how to home compost. There may also be a seed/plant pop-up. Courtney Tchida may also provide information about Cornucopia work at the U of M.

The group is collecting seeds as well as the stories that go along with the plants. Seeds also often have user information. The group also promotes, and educates on raising the plants in as natural/organic way as possible – lower impact, natural soils.

The city is looking into an open source seed initiative, with local seeds available for growing and/or breeding.

5. Ramsey County rain barrel and compost bin sales - Mike MacDonald

Pick up on April 29; 9 am – 2 pm

<http://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/>

We can apply in the fall for grants for rain barrels and compost bins.

6. Master Water Steward program and possible rain garden installation -

Courtney Ryan

Working on a capstone project with the Water Steward program. She and her partner are looking for a site for the project. They are open to sites in the area, including private land. They would provide volunteers, know how, and supplies—based on how efficient the rain garden is and how much water is affected. The commitment is 10 years. Ideal locations would be sites with water issues – either pooling or running off.

Capital Region Watershed works with groups to project manage larger scale rain gardens as well, with a reimbursement program.

A location was proposed, where land owners are impacted by street features that are impacting lawns.

7. Como Lake Cleanup follow up from January 25 – Jacki

No update

8. Churchill Gardens update - Erin and Mike

The final spring planting will be in April 29th. It will include filling in spaces where the plants were out of stock in the fall, re-distributing mulch, evaluating how well the plants survived the winter, etc.

9. Climate Action event held on 2/27 - Bill DeVry

10. Neighborhood resources fair - Dawn Lamm

Holding a fair for all of the local groups – a centralized place that community members could go to find out what we have available in the neighborhood. Volunteer resources, information on energy efficiency/solar power, etc., general information – creating awareness about all of the resources that we have in the area and bringing people together to get the word out, garner support, offer expertise.

As a follow-up or precursor, we could have a “neighborhood resources” page on the D10 website.

Michael will share this information with Melissa for the Neighborhood Relations; perhaps they would be interested in co-leading? Possibly creation of an ad-hoc committee?

11. Minnesota State Science Fair Awards - inviting students to the June Sunday Series (consider if they could have a table and discuss their projects) - Erin

12. Sunday Series – Everyone

- **Como Outdoor Woodland Classroom presentation debrief**

Attendance was rather low, due to the venue, we were competing with good weather and special program at the zoo.

- **U of M Monarch Butterfly Lab – April 2**
 - Location: Great River School
 - Sarah Weaver from the U of M Monarch Lab will present

Several committee members will be in attendance.

- **Landscape and Garden Design – May 21**
 - Possible location: Orchard Rec Center
- **Shallow Lake Ecology – June 11**
 - Possible location: Lakeshore

- Capital Region is looking at a new presentation
- Como Active Citizen Network is willing to coordinate

Erin will connect with Janna Caywood to have a poster session as a part of this event.

13. 2017 Environmental committee initiatives discussion – Everyone

All members are invited to look through the document (an e-copy will be sent with the minutes) to check for thoroughness in scope. Feedback can be made via e-mail.

14. Miscellaneous Stuff - Mike

- Como High School reconstruction - Site walk through
- Minute taker needed for our June and July meetings

Adina has volunteered to take the June minutes. Erin will know whether a July will be needed as well.

- City of St. Paul LED streetlight test and feedback (until May 17)

https://www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/113/Issue_4647?cookies=detect

Map of light options is at the link above. There are some initial studies on the impact of different lights on animals, people, etc.

- Organic compost site new hauler and bag rotation supplies

Sanimax contract is coming to an end. Waste Management will be taking over, with different bins, which will be more user friendly. Hopefully, with the new bins and hauler issues will be reduced.

Bags have been going faster than usual. People also need to be educated as to the use of proper compostable bags, rather than plastic or paper bags. Compostable bags are also available at local retailers.

Terri volunteered to write an informational paragraph with information on local retailers who sell compostable bags and with information and/or a link to Eureka's site to purchase bags and silverware, plates, and other compostables.

- Fall Como Community Parade

Neighborhood Relations will be hosting this event, which will take place on Bomo blvd on the north side of the lake (site of the proposed bike route).

COMMUNITY SECTION – open for community input

Updates from community partners (if present)

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

They have another presentation on their history and programming in May – Big River, Big Woods wild ones May 25th. It will be at Autumn Grove Park in Roseville. Sections of the woodland are “adopted,” but there are many areas still available.

The group was also approached by the U of M Invasive species group, who is doing a study on using “over-crowding” rather than pulling to push out certain invasives.

Como Park Sr. Field Day will be coming out next month to do work on their plots and do species surveys.

Greater and Greener. The Woodland will be a workshop area – July 31.

Mike will get Susan Jane information about a contact at the Humane Society about including the Woodland with summer day camps.

- **Como Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kutcha
- **Pollinator and Traffic Triangle Garden** – Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist
- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald

There is video of the Trout brook storm sewer on their website.

- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Garden Skillshare and Harvest Exchange** - Dawn Lamm and Allison Goetzman
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **“CARS” Update** - Cathy Velasquez
- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people within District 10

Upcoming events and dates to remember:

- April 2 "Fate of the Monarch Butterfly" Sunday Series
- April 22 Annual Citywide Cleanup (9 am to 11:30 am)
- May 20 Como Area Yard Sale
- May 21 Annual Spring Seed Exchange event
- May 21 Landscape and Garden Design Sunday Series (tentative)
- July Como Fest on the weekends
- July 14 District 10 Ice Cream Social
- TBD South Como Community Building Event -- \$500 community grant for Subdistrict 4. They are looking at bringing in vendors/food trucks and inviting the community. Tentatively in June, at Orchard Rec.
- Fall Como Community Parade

Adjournment

Next Meeting: April 26 at 7:00 p.m. (the last Wednesday of each month)

NRSO Meeting Minutes

4/4/17

Attendees: Melissa, Sarah, Brandon, and Bill

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Review minutes from 3/7/17

March Board Meeting Update:

- Shalom home bonds from city denied
- City explained how to get a variance

Business

- South Como Community Planning
- \$500 budget approved by the full board
- Update from Haley and plans
 - 6/4 date
 - Does D10 have an insurance policy for accidents with kids? Ex: Kids bump heads, etc.
 - Do we have to be at street car station for insurance to work?
 - Should we have some sort of liability waver?
 - Funds:
 - Bouncy House
 - Nametags for neighbors
 - Printing (advertisements, etc)
 - Worries from meeting participants:
 - Food trucks - do we have to pay them to be there?
 - Make sure they do not require a down payment in order to join event
- 744/746 Simon Street Concerns
 - Problem property, they are rental units - cars and people pulling up frequently and at night
 - CALL if you see anything abnormal!!
 - Don't try to handle the situation yourself as a citizen, call the police
 - Another potential issue: parking lot across from zoo right by mini golf area gets some vehicles sitting next to each other at night

- German Immersion School
 - Parking and noise has become a big issue around the school
 - If they are planning growth, this will become a bigger issue
 - They are taking this to the Land Use committee on 4/12
 - School just had a meeting with neighbors
 - Feeling from meeting attendees said that there has never been a great feeling amongst community members that the school has had concern for the community impact
- Orienteering Club of MN Como Sprint on Friday 4/28
 - Get a compass and friend and explore the park while racing against others!
- Community Yard Sale on 5/20
 - Registration set up through D10 website
 - 4 people have signed up now that we have been starting to promote it
 - Can we put this into Bugle and Monitor calendar?
 - These are free, it wouldn't have to be an ad
 - Put this in Craigslist!! (The hard-core garage-salers check this site!) And NextDoor
 - Strategic placement of flyers to area businesses
 - A Board member could go and hang them up after asking specifically
 - This would also be free to do and probably more effective
- Ice Cream Social on 7/14
 - Kemps will NOT supply the ice cream for free
 - He put in a request for Izzys but we won't hear back until end of April
 - We should have funds to supply the ice cream though, so should be fine
 - How many tables and chairs do we need to order from Park Board?
 - Inside for sitting
 - Outside for sitting
 - Tables for presenters (Environmental committee giving away small compost bins, etc)
 - Portable bike stands from the Park Board? Last year it was bad construction so a lot more people biked, but we can still encourage that this year too
 - TO ORDER FROM PARK BOARD:
 - 20 Tables

- 2 Portable Bike Stands
- Block Nurse Program Coordinator Update:
 - Found Earth Day Parade opportunity from Olympia, WA that she is excited about
 - Procession.org
 - Can we team up with the zoo?? Zooboo event?? Look into this potential?
 - Melissa will call Amy Brendmoen to ask about ideas
- Safety Flag update from Sarah:
 - Talked with individual who put up flags on Snelling Ave
 - Info on flags/holders
 - PVC pipe holders, need to drain
 - Don't get cheap flags
 - Flags get stolen, build into your budget
 - Additional questions for Sarah to ask individual who put up flags on Snelling:
 - How much money did this take to start up?
 - How much money per year in upkeep?
 - How much time do you spend on upkeep in a year?
 - How many intersections do you have flags at?
 - Do you ever rotate intersections where the flags are located?
 - Who did you talk to at the city to get permission?
 - Are your flags cloth?
 - How did you teach people how to use them and let citizens know they were there for their use in crossing the road safely? Any continuing outreach?

Community Member Issues: N/A

NRSO Attendee Issues:

- Has the intern assigned to research D10 businesses done this? She hasn't yet reached out to Brandon even!

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meeting on 5/2/17 at 7pm

Como Community Council Officers Meeting

April 11, 2017, Historic Streetcar Station

The meeting began at 6:58 pm.

Present: Joao Medeiros, vice chair; Tim Post, secretary; Amy Perna, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, staff.

Events

- **Sunday Series.** The Como Woodlands presentation on March 19 at the Zoo and Conservatory Visitor Center attracted about 2 dozen. The monarch butterfly presentation April 2 at Great River School attracted about 3 dozen. Two presentations remain:
 - Residential landscaping will be May 21 at Orchard Park Rec Center. Four panelists are confirmed, and a fifth is possible. In addition, the Como Seed Exchange folks will hold their spring event afterward.
 - Capitol Regional Watershed District will give a Como Lake water-quality presentation June 11 on the 3rd floor of Como Dockside.
- **Garage Sale.** Registration for the May 20 event is open through our website. Michael has researched lawn signs that participants could use to brand and promote their events; we could obtain 100 signs for \$300-\$400, depending on size and material. He will raise this option as part of his staff report at the April meeting.
- **Financial Workshop.** We hosted this event March 22 for TopLine Federal Credit Union. 20 people registered, though only 12 attended. Feedback was good. As expected, it attracted a more-diverse crowd than typically attends D10 events. The next workshop is scheduled for October 18.
- **ComoFest.** Planning continues. Our Ice Cream Social is the first event July 14. The art fair and a new block party hosted by Beloved Studios are July 15; Lyngblomsten's Mid-Summer Festival and North Dale's movie night are July 21; the Block Nurse Program's walk/run is July 22; Northwest Como's campout is July 28, followed by an adult kickball tournament July 29. TopLine holds its community picnic July 29, and is looking to add additional features this year. In addition, M Studio Fitness is considering holding events in coordination with the art fair and walk/run.
- **Ice Cream Social.** Kemps will not donate ice cream this year. Michael has applied to Izzy's; Amy will apply to Schroeder's.
- **Triangle Gardens.** Neighbors are planning another planting/work day April 29 at the new gardens at Horton/Van Slyke/Churchill. There is about \$980 left on the CRWD grant for additional plants and soil work. Organizers are recruiting neighbors; Murray Jr. HS' honor society and members of a service fraternity at U of M also are expected to volunteer.

Community

- **Como/Snelling business district study.** Our intern, Sarah Arnold, is beginning interviews of business owners/managers. The customer survey is open until April 24 and has received about 250 responses so far. We distributed it first through block leaders in Sub-District 1, then through the newsletter and website.

- **Como Park Senior Living.** HRA notified developers on March 23 they will not receive revenue bonds this year. CEO David Grzan sent a long email indicating developers are not giving up, but officers' consensus is to be proactive and discuss the property's future with them in person once they have a month or so to adjust plans. We would take a two-stage approach: What are their plans? We want them to succeed; what can we do to help?
- **Gabe's liquor license.** DSI says the Montpetits are withdrawing their request for additional patio hours and sound, and will live with the existing license conditions for the time being.
- **Falls Event Center.** BZA granted the parking variance on April 10. Michael and representatives from the Hamline-Midway and Saint Paul chambers of commerce spoke in support.
- **Block clubs.** Pam McCreary of Western District Police will coordinate a meeting May 3 at 6:30 p.m. at North Dale Rec Center for a new block club forming on Maywood and nearby streets. In the wake of last year's project with the Block Nurse Program, Michael will try to assemble a resource kit for block clubs, based on feedback we received from existing block leaders.
- **Community Garden.** Organizers are working through the process of plot assignments for this season. It looks like there will be 6 open plots, with 8 people on the waiting list. With the expiration of David Sorenson's term, the board will need to appoint another garden liaison. Michael has ordered compost for the site, and ordered water hook-ups for both the community garden and the triangle garden.
- **Compost site.** Waste Management took over the contract effective April 1. We will ask the county if it is possible to remove the smaller, 2-yard container to eliminate the crowding at the site.

To follow up on in the future:

- **1062 Front.** The City Council granted a 120-day extension on March 1 to bring the property up to code.

Financials

- **2016 budget.** Amy expects to be able to deliver a final 2016 report at the annual meeting.
- **Audit Committee.** Wesley Farrow, Melissa Liu and Adina Weseman conducted their audit on March 31. They will be expected to give a report at the annual meeting.
- **2017 work plan.** Michael has not compiled this yet.
- **Grants and fund-raising.** Amy has begun researching additional sources of grants, and plans a brainstorming with Michael and willing board members after the elections.

Organizational Business

- **April Annual Meeting.** This will be a separate agenda from normal monthly board meeting, and will precede the business meeting. Items will include elections, the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, the audit committee report, and annual reports from the chair and treasurer. Joao will share examples with Amy about what type of financial reporting is appropriate. Michael reported that, with a few hours to go before the filing deadline to be on the ballot, we have candidates for every office, including the special election to

fill Melissa Finnegan's vacancy. At this point, there will be contested elections for chair, Sub-District 3, and the At-Large seats.

- **April board meeting.** No guest speakers. Michael reported that, at this point, there are no action items from any of the committees. He will raise the Garage Sale expenditure to see if the board wants to take action.
- **Board retreat.** Officers will schedule a board retreat and a leadership meeting with committee chairs after results of the elections are known.

Staff Report

- Michael reported that his recovery from surgery is on schedule. He is working from home as much as possible, but still has physical restrictions until May 15 or so.

The meeting ended at 7:42 p.m.

Notes taken by Michael Kuchta