



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting  
Historic Street Car Station  
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tuesday Dec. 19, 2017  
7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

**II. Board introductions**

Present: Laura Jo Busian, Dunette Combs, Kevin Dahm, Erin Dooley, Ryan Flynn, Jon Heyer, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, João Medeiros, Joseph Mueller, Cari Ness Nesje, Amy Perna, Tim Post, Debra Pursley, Maggie Zimmerman

Absent: Haley Fruen, Adina Florea Weseman

Staff: Michael Kuchta

**III. Review, amend agenda:**

**MOTION:** *Approve the agenda (approved by acclimation)*

**IV. Community section**

Lisa Kane from Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse program told the board her organization is ready to help if anyone knows of seniors in need.

A. Board chair report Ryan Flynn appointed the following board members to committees:

- Land Use - Joseph Mueller
- Neighborhood - Dunette Combs
- Environmental - Laura Jo Busian

B. Treasurer's report Amy Perna says most things are pretty straightforward in her report but wants to draw attention to two items. We are over in non-personnel costs: we got hit with two bills we were not expecting this month, one for a workers' liability premium that went up. Amy is working to get that lowered. We also received a bill from the bike rack rental. Amy is moving money from personnel into non personnel so she's not worried. The report also makes it look like D10 is \$5,000 over budget for professional services, but that's money paid for the recent market analysis report and something we'll be reimbursed for soon.

C. Other Community concerns None

**V. Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial reports

**MOTION:** *Approve November 2017 meeting minutes and financial statements.  
(Pursley/Dooley)*

B. Officers' report Ryan reported on the recent leadership meeting with officers and chairs. The group talked about upcoming strategies, the big item being the city's equity grant. They also talked about the roles of the committee and how we might bring in more volunteers to create a list of consistent volunteers so board members don't get volunteer fatigue. The group also discussed future brainstorming on how D10 works and what its priorities are.

Michael reported that the council is able to get a cheaper, two-year contract from Century Link, saving D10 \$720 over the life of the contract.

**ACTION ITEM:** *The executive director is authorized to contact CenturyLink on behalf of District 10 and agree to a two-year service agreement. (Perna/Medeiros) Passed*

### C. Committee updates

**Environment.** Mike Ireland reports that the Capitol Watershed District wants to partner with D10 on an event in June to train people how to analyze rain garden/curb cuts for potential installation in 2019-20 for no charge to the resident. Another idea is to host a Sunday series on rain barrels, to teach residents how to make their own barrel. The fall Como Curb Cleanup is over, analysis is being done now, 37 out of 90 participants have responded to a survey on their cleanup efforts so far. Tim Post gave a pathways subcommittee update. The first meeting took place in late November and the next meeting is coming up in January. Mike says the environment committee has had to postpone the upcoming organization fair. He also says residents can sign up to adopt a part of the outdoor classroom area for cleanup; contact him if you're interested. Traffic at the Como Park organic compost site is picking up because of limited hours at the site in Midway. A Sunday Series on State Fair history is coming up Feb. 25.

**Land Use.** Kevin Dahm says the committee has talked a lot about the future of the firehouse on Snelling. Potential buyer have asked to have area rezoned before purchase; some neighbors are pushing back on rezoning. Schiffman Fountain renovation is being pursued by two groups; Kevin will leave it to the Neighborhood committee if they'd like to do a ceremony at the fountain when it's fixed. More talk in the committee on the Lexington Ave crosswalk; if the proposed crosswalk doesn't fit the bill, perhaps D10 may need to ask the city to gather more funding for a more comprehensive crossing. Como dog park still being discussed, along with efforts by D11 to do the same. A TCGIS official came to the last meeting to offer an update on how the school might secure more space at a nearby church in the future. Kevin hopes to have a dispute resolution official from the county speak at the committee's meeting in January or February. The committee discussed the proposed changes to the Como/Front/Dale intersection. Jon Heyer is looking into the Snelling/Como intersection for the committee.

**Neighborhood Relations and Safety.** Melissa Liu reports that D10s first community yoga event went well, and there's interest in trying to hold that event quarterly. Budget was discussed at the last committee meeting, and members talked about whether to revive block clubs, how to recruit new block club leaders if needed, or possibly revamp the program. A crime prevention meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25 at 630 pm. The committee discussed long-term pedestrian safety and what more can be done by D10. Michael has a list of people who put signs in their yards; perhaps we can mobilize them to help with work.

D. Staff report Michael attended the Como/Front/Dale meeting where the city unveiled options for the intersection. The city says it's open to suggestions from residents on that project (action item below). Sunday Series events are coming up and a few have been booked. The city council votes soon on accepting grant money to fix Schiffman Fountain; \$40,000 would be used to fix

the base, another \$40K would fix the fountain's plumbing. An equity grant meeting is coming up. Every year the city council authorizes \$100K for districts to use on projects they can't do on a day-to-day basis. This year ,the 17 councils want to divide it up, \$5K per council, to fund efforts to reach out to people we're not connecting with. The city says striping on Lexington Ave should happen soon, but Michael hasn't seen a plan yet, and the city has balked at our demands for a public meeting to explain restriping plans.

E. New business

**Action Item:** Lexington/Energy Park Drive crossing (Tim Post) (issue referred to Land Use)

**Action Item:** Select up to three nominees from District 10 to add to the Neighborhood Honor Roll. (D10 members voted by secret ballot to choose Mike Ireland, Frank Liu, and Quentin "Q" Nguyen)

**MOTION:** *D10 will create a survey asking residents yes or no on five major changes to Como/Front/Dale intersection. PASSED*

**MOTION:** *Enter closed session (Dahm/Ireland) PASSED*

**CLOSED SESSION** to discuss personnel issues. Board returned to open session.

**Action Item:** *Approve the 2018 budget (Perna /Liu) PASSED*

VI. **Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm

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

## Como Community Council Officers Meeting

Jan. 10, 2018 (Gabe's by the Park)

Present: Ryan Flynn, chair; Joao Medeiros, vice chair; Amy Perna, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, staff. The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

### Events

- **Honor Roll Celebration.** We receive 6 tickets for our honorees; Michael has reserved 10 additional seats for the Jan. 26 event. At this point, we have five seats still available.
- **Sunday Series.** We have booked part two of Jerry Hammer's State Fair history presentation for Feb. 25 at Lyngblomsten; confirmed a Pedestrian Safety presentation for March 18 with city pedestrian safety advocate Fay Simer and police Sgt. Jeremy Ellison; and confirmed an April 15 presentation with Patty Lammers on home security through landscape design. Officers gave Michael the go-ahead to pursue additional events with the International Institute and Muslim-American Society of Minnesota; and a neighborhood tree walk with Tim Morgan.
- **Yoga Series for Seniors.** The Block Nurse Program asked if they could use the Streetcar Station for six Wednesday mornings beginning in March. Officers instructed Michael to decline based on issues of liability and limited free access.

### Community

- **Lexington corridor.** Michael reported that he is tentatively scheduled to meet next week with the city and county engineers on a proposed restriping plan for Lexington between Orchard and Como/Horton. The engineers have a sketch for discussion, but it does not seem that they are in agreement. Michael has drafted a survey for Land Use Committee to determine how comfortable residents are in allowing Parks to move forward with the proposed crosswalk and median between the Pavilion and golf course parking lots.
- **Como / Front / Dale.** The online survey is open until Jan. 14; it has received more than 400 responses so far. Michael will forward results and comments to the board before Tuesday's meeting. The board will decide whether or not to support or oppose any of the city's recommendations.

### Financials

- **CenturyLink.** The new two-year contract is in place; cost is \$82.50/month, which actually a few dollars cheaper than previously.
- **Staff bonus.** Was authorized in closed session at December meeting. Ryan will read it into the minutes at the January meeting; he and Joao will write a letter documenting the bonus; this should be adequate to obtain grant reimbursement.
- **Bookkeeper.** Amy noted that the bookkeeper continues to make errors that are costing us time and money. She routinely has to have transactions reclassified into the correct account. Most recently, bookkeeper sent in workers' comp audit with incorrect payroll information and incomplete documentation. The error could cost us \$676 in additional premiums. Michael sent a revised audit and asked insurance company for a review based on accurate information. Officers authorized Amy and Michael to begin exploring possible replacements, including partnering with other district councils.
- **Grants.** We will receive a \$3,000 grant for our Pathways project, via the State Health Improvement Partnership program through Ramsey County. We have

not heard anything on our second SHIP application. Amy is exploring a Workplace Wellness grant through Allina Health that could allow us to purchase a standing desk.

#### Organizational Business

- **Ad-hoc fact-finding committee.** Joao reported that discussions are continuing, and that committee will have a report for closed session at the Jan. 16 meeting. It is unlikely there will be a recommendation at this point.
- **Survey policy.** Joao will draft a policy governing surveys before they are sent to the public. Policy likely will operate similar to a “consent agenda” item: Once a committee has signed off, the draft survey will be made available to the full board electronically for comments and suggestions. Board members will have X days to respond; if there are no substantial objections, survey will go out. If there are substantial objections, survey will be held for full discussion and formal action.
- **Board meeting.**
  - There are no guest speakers scheduled.
  - Ryan will announce an appointment to the selection committee to replace the Como mini-golf operation.
  - Mike Ireland will bring three action items that Environment discussed but, because it lacked quorum, could not act on officially. For parliamentary purposes, items will be referred to the committee; but Mike or other board member can ask that they be recalled (by a two-thirds vote) and acted on by full board immediately.
  - Land Use will bring several action items, all related to State Fair overlay districts.
  - If available, we will ask Maggie to give an update on the Pavilion selection process.
  - Michael will follow up with Tim about whether he is prepared to live-stream the meeting on Facebook. If so, we will publicize it, and make sure notice is given at meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

## Notes from the District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting

December 27, 2017 at 7 pm

### STANDARD ITEMS

- **Call to order**
- **Committee member and guest introductions**
  - Welcome new committee member Laura Jo Busian

In Attendance: Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta, Laura Busian, Michael Russell, Susan Jane Cheeney, Gordy Wrobel, Andrew Gustin, Bill Sylvester, Mike McDonald, Alma Palahniuve, Nicole Paulsen, Teri Albrico

As only two assigned board members were in attendance, a quorum could not be declared.

- **Approval of minutes and agenda**

Unable to approve minutes and agenda because no quorum present.

- **District 10 board meeting summary**

- Adina, Erin, Cari, Laura, Michael and Mike

### PRESENTATION

- Michael Russell, St. Anthony Community Council

Mr. Russel was present on behalf of St. Anthony Park Community Council. Mr. Russel inquired whether the Como Community Council was working on a 10-year plan and suggested that the plan needs to be updated for the new comprehensive plan for St. Paul. He advised that the Metropolitan Council wants cities to focus on equity and climate change and suggested that this was an effort to frame the issues for what the Metropolitan Council thinks cities should be focusing on. The St. Anthony Park Community Council has decided to include separate chapters for equity and climate change in its plan. Mr. Russell also advised that there seems to be a regional effort to get cities (particularly suburbs) to include equity and climate change in their plans.

Mr. Russell advised that there will be a meeting with Mayor Carter in January or February and that the St. Anthony Park Community Council intends to encourage Mayor Carter to have a very strong environmental policy, specifically including climate change as a major policy effort. Mr. Russell, on behalf of the St. Anthony Park Community Council, seeks our support in appearing at the meeting with Mayor Carter and supporting a strong environmental policy that includes a climate change. He suggests that this is a way for St. Paul to make bigger strides in environmental policy, beyond renewable energy. In short, Mr. Russell was seeking the support of the Como Community Council for inclusion of equity and climate change in the comprehensive plan for St. Paul, by inclusion in the council's plan. Mr. Russell identified three (3) current participants in this initiative: Mac-Groveland, Union Park, and St. Anthony Park. Specifically, the St. Anthony Park Community Council seeks to have climate change included in the comprehensive plan as either a new chapter or worked into the current structure of the plan.

Mike asked if there was any concern if an Environmental committee representative participate in these discussions with the mayor and city staff or with the Como Community Council giving consideration for this. No concerns were expressed.

### INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

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

- Frank P. Liu, Quentin "Q" Nguyen and Mike Ireland

Recognized the above, voted on and approved at last board meeting.

- **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.

Action item request:

The Environmental committee requests the District 10 Como Community Council to endorse and authorize this committee to partner with the CRWD in hosting a 2018 hands-on workshop on boulevard rain gardens to collect data for potential locations for rain gardens to be planted in 2019 and 2020.

The Committee was unable to vote on this action item as no quorum was present. Jessica Bromelkamp of the CRWD wants to begin planning and advertising the event soon. Mike asked if there was any concern if an Environmental committee partners with the CRWD on this event or with the Como Community Council giving their consideration to authorize it. No concerns were expressed.

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

This item was tabled to the next meeting of the Committee.

- **Sunday Series Scheduled:**

2/25 State Fair History Part II (1920-present) at Lyngblomsten

3/18 St. Paul Proposed Pedestrian Safety Plan at TBD

Other Ideas!

Topic Brainstorm: Rain barrels; Gardening 101, perhaps focus on native plants or vegetables or other specific plants; Out of the ordinary yard; Butterfly gardens; Pollinators; Birding; Demonstration on mapping; Climate change – Mark Seeley; Walking tree tour – Tim Morgan; Place naming in Como – history and changes; History – neighborhood tours; Interesting background for aspects of D10

Other ideas send to Michael.

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

Obtained application from watershed district and tried to contact vendors who provided workshops. The vendors contacted are not doing it anymore, but there is one more vendor to contact. In addition, another option is to work with the Barrel Depot. Mike is not sure where to go from here, but going to look into some other options. The grant does not have a firm deadline. Perhaps rain barrels could be included as a topic in the Sunday Series.

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

This item was tabled to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

Did not receive the America Walks grant.

Two (2) other grants have been applied for, but we will now know whether we have received these until February or so.

- **Sky Rise Bronze Bee Sculpture Sign** - Dawn Lamm

This item was tabled to the next meeting of the Committee.

- **Como Connect Neighborhood Resource Fair**

Rescheduled for April 7 or April 14.

Action item request:

The Environmental committee requests the District 10 Como Community to re-endorse this rescheduled event and reconfirm its permission of the Como Connect organizers to reference the District 10 endorsement and logo in the marketing and advertising (previously passed by the committee on September 27 and the board on October 17).

The Committee was unable to vote on this action item as no quorum was present.

Mike advised that we are tentatively rescheduling this event to 4/7/2018 or 4/14/2018. He further advised that more people are needed to help organize and provide project management support. A new motion was made to seek approval of the Board for these new dates. The members of the Committee had no concerns bumping out the date of this event to one of the proposed new dates.

- **Miscellaneous Stuff - Mike**

Mike advised that he plans to reach outside of the Committee for assistance on single one-time efforts.

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

**PARTNER UPDATES**

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

Notified the group of Como Connect at the last meeting and people seemed interested.

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

None.

- **The Mapping Tool** ([twincities.geopoi.us](http://twincities.geopoi.us)) - Andrew Gustin

None.

- **Churchill Gardens** - Erin, Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist

None.

- **Como Organic Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kuchta

Currently picking up and hauling twice a week if necessary (Monday and Friday). Michael advised he continues to monitor the situation. A member of the Committee asked if there is a way to increase the number of bags at the site because people complain about there not being enough bags when go to the site. Michael explained that we only get so many from city and that approximately 180 bags are put out every weekend. He also explained that there are other ways to get compost bags (come to the office when the museum is open or purchase them elsewhere).

- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald

CRWD awards are coming up on 1/18/2018 at the Wilder Foundation. Those who wish to attend need to sign up in advance.

- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood

None.

- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler

None.

- **Como Community Seed Library** - Dawn Lamm

None.

- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison

None.

- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy

None.



- **Master composter/recycling program** - Teri Alberico

None.

- **Greenway Extension** – Mike

None.

- **Como Connect: A Neighborhood Resource Fair** - Dawn and Sara

None. See above.

- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people

None.

OTHER:

Blooming St. Paul Awards coming up on 1/22/2018 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at the Pavilion.... - 1/22 5:00pm-7:30pm at the Pavilion.

Best Practices in Pollinators coming up on 2/8/2018 from 8:00am to 12:00pm and is sponsored by the Pollinator Friendly Alliance.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **April 2018:** Tentative date for the Como Connect resource fair
- **Fall 2018:** Como Community Parade

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Next Meeting:** January 31 at 7 pm (last Wednesday of each month)

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

## Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council - 1/03/2018

1. **Call to order 7:01pm**
2. **Present:** Kevin Dahm, Maggie Zimmerman, Bill Sylvester, Joe Mueller, Jon Heyer, Michael Kuchta
3. **Amend/Adopt Agenda - Approved**
4. **Full Board update**
  - a. All members were at the board meeting, so no update required
5. **Residential**
  - a. 1060 Avon house demolition update
    - i. Legislative hearing today with City Council
  - b. 1062 Front: house is up to code, but doesn't appear to be on the market
6. **Ongoing**
  - A. Staff Report
    - a. Sholom Home
      - i. No report, some equipment may have been moved from the property
  - B. Lexington Ave.
    - a. Restriping
      - i. Plans are in, but no agreement between departments on how it will happen
    - b. Golf Course crossing
      - i. Create survey asking if residents want the project as proposed, or wait for more funds to add more features.  
*Considerations:* Park District is trying to meet a need; D10's Lexington survey says people want a "safe crossing"; no commitment to pedestrian activated light; very limited northbound site lines for vehicles; Park District will say extending the path along west side of Lexington requires \$\$\$ and won't solve the problem because people WANT to cross right there; extending crossing sidewalk all the way to the actual club house; how long is the money there for?; can crossing be moved north; will new fountain change walking patterns?
        - ii. **Motion: Create survey on city proposal for walkway. PASSED**
          1. Michael will draft survey and send to group for review
  - C. State Fairgrounds and Overlay District
    - a. Land Use Committee recommends that D10 explore these goals regarding the residential and commercial impact of the Minnesota State Fair on our neighborhood
      - i. **Motion: Expand the availability and use of off-street parking during the Fair, especially on the weekends. PASSED**
        1. Rationale: Priorities should focus on unused business lots along Energy Park Drive that could be used as official shuttle sites, and institutional lots within and near District 10 (including those that could provide fund-raising opportunities for booster clubs, nonprofits, and similar organizations). This effort will include partnering with the Minnesota State Fair to identify potential lots, recruiting and working with local businesses and institutions to make these lots available for parking during the Fair, and publicizing use of the State Fair's parking app.

- ii. Motion: Expand the number of neighborhood streets in which parking is restricted to one side during the Fair. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: The streets to be explored:
    - a. West of Victoria between Larpenteur and Nebraska
    - b. Between Lexington and E. Como Blvd., south of the lake and north of the railroad tracks.

This effort should include discussions with residents along and near affected streets, public meetings, and partnering with Saint Paul Public Works, elected officials, and other city agencies as necessary to implement this in time for the 2018 State Fair.
- iii. Motion: Expand the parking overlay district to include all blocks between Hamline, Lexington, Arlington, and Larpenteur. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: This effort should include discussions with residents along and near affected streets, public meetings, and partnering with Saint Paul city departments and elected officials, as necessary, to implement this in time for the 2018 State Fair.
- iv. Motion: Eliminate peddling within the State Fair Overlay District. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: This effort should include discussions with relevant Saint Paul city departments and elected officials to implement this change in city ordinance in time for the 2018 State Fair.
- v. Motion: Implement universal enforcement of vending, peddling, and parking within the State Fair Overlay Districts. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: This effort should include discussions with Saint Paul Police, Safety and Inspections, Parks and Recreation, elected officials, and other agencies as necessary to create reliable enforcement standards. Discussions should include moving toward “universal” enforcement during the Fair, in order to eliminate jurisdictional barriers that arise between city departments and eliminate confusion based on whether a violation is on private, city, park district, state, or other land
- vi. Motion: Execute discussions to clarify what types of signs and advertising are allowed by residents, businesses, and institutions promoting off-street parking during the Fair. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: This effort should include clarifying existing laws and enforcement strategies, along with an effort to communicate those laws to the local residents and businesses.
- vii. Motion: Add temporary speed reductions and physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, barrels, stop signs, road closure signs, local traffic only signs, etc to selected residential streets during the Fair. PASSED**

  - 1. Rationale: This effort should include discussions with Public Works and other city agencies as necessary as part of an effort to reduce traffic speeds and erratic driver behavior.
- viii. Motion: Explore installing temporary metered parking within the Parking Overlay District. *\*\* Consensus not to explore the idea of temporary metered parking in the parking overlay district***

- D. Dog Park
  - a. No report

**7. Active**

- A. TCGIS & Neighbors
  - a. Nothing to report
- 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 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. Survey is out and open until January 14: 400 responses so far
- D. Snelling and Como Commercial district
  - a. No report
- E. Adjourn 8:49pm

# Como Park District 10's Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach Tuesday Jan. 9, 2018

## Agenda

- Call to Order – 7 p.m.
- Attendance: Melissa Liu (chair); Dunette Combs, Haley Fruen, Mike Ireland (board members); Betty Conley, Jennifer Grilliot, Bill Sylvester, Sarah Wein (community members); Michael Kuchta (staff)

## New Business

### A. 2018 Events Schedule

1. Based on recent feedback, committee will not devote additional time in 2018 on block clubs unless residents express specific needs.
2. Committee discussed potential events for the year, with a goal of spreading them out so members and volunteers do not become overwhelmed. To minimize potential conflict, Michael distributed a list of other District 10 and community events that we are aware of.
  - a. **Community crime meeting**, January 25, 6:30 p.m., North Dale Rec Center. Crime prevention coordinator Patty Lammers will lead discussion. Effort will focus on Grids 8 and 28 (roughly Victoria-Dale, Maryland-Larpenteur) as a follow-up to concerns raised in that area at October meeting. Michael has called or email about 20 people who previously expressed interest. General publicity will start in this Friday's newsletter.
  - b. **Yoga**. Will take place quarterly on Sunday mornings March 4, May 6, Sept. 9 and Dec. 2. Budget includes money to pay instructor; donations will be encouraged from participants; proceeds will go to D10.
  - c. **Yard/Garage Sale**. Michael has pulled emails from six years of past participants. We will survey them about preferred timing (May, June, July or September), cost, expectations, and perhaps other questions. Committee members will forward additional ideas for questions.
  - d. **Community social**. Focus again will be on Sub-District 4. Consensus is to again use Orchard Park, based on amenities and last year's success. Haley will contact Blackhawks Soccer Club to line up date, likely in June. For future consideration, Dunette will investigate outdoor space in McLaren Hills complex of Energy Park.
  - e. **Ice Cream Social**. Friday July 13, 5:30-8 p.m. Michael will contact Bubble Baron, body painter Jens Werner, Job Corps Center, and Shakespeare troupe (Classical Actors Ensemble) about participating again this year.
  - f. **National Night Out**. Tuesday Aug. 7. We need to continue investigating if we can provide a "root beer float" starter kit for new NNO events.
  - g. **Neighborhood Parade**. Jennifer will contact Como Park HS booster club to see if there is interest in expanding Homecoming Parade. Michael will call athletic department to find out when Homecoming is.
  - h. **Other events**. Public Works is still looking to move the Citywide Drop-Off at the Fairgrounds into May or June, instead of in fall. We may know more on Jan. 11. Committee had talked previously about booking Patty Lammers for "Crime Prevention through Landscape Design" as part of the Sunday Series. Michael will try to schedule a date with her, likely in April.

## Old Business

**B. Equity Initiative.** Melissa explained the citywide District Council plan in which a grant would support work to reach under-represented neighbors. We know the Como Community Council is very good at reaching a segment of our community, but that segment tends to be wealthy, female, Caucasian, and homeowners. We need to do a better job at reaching other residents. Michael explained that the grant is not locked down yet, but that District Councils are meeting to agree on how to build in accountability measures. At this point, it looks like work supported by the grant would have to make sure district councils do more to: 1) make sure their boards, committees, staff, and volunteer outreach is more reflective of the neighborhood as a whole; 2) examine their organizational policies and practices to make it easier for different types of residents to become involved; and 3) find areas to work toward systemic change in their neighborhoods and the city as a whole. Melissa stated that even if we do not get a grant, this is the type of work we should be doing.

Committee members discussed types of examples of how this could play out.

- Looking at ways of making the Ice Cream Social or other events more accessible to older residents or residents with physical disabilities.
- Pursuing grants and partnerships to hold neighborhood events such as Open Streets, community meals such as Public Art Saint Paul's Create project, or expanding community and edible gardens on public property.
- Holding events in different parts of the neighborhood.
- Holding meetings in different locations, on different days, or at different times.
- Doing deliberate, in-person outreach to rental communities.
- Making sure we do our communication and publicity in additional ways, including more direct fliers and translating our materials into different languages.
- Pushing for more equitable distribution of city resources and investments. Example: Parks devotes a lot of space and money for activities such as golf, hockey, tennis, and broomball at the expense of more affordable, more accessible activities such as basketball.
- Crafting our activities to reflect the priorities of different groups of residents.

**C. Pedestrian Safety Activities.** Melissa noted that activities such as the lawn sign campaign, safety flags, and Stop for Me participation engaged hundreds of residents, but are not changing the fundamental challenges to pedestrian safety such as speeding, careless driving, or all the issues along a thoroughfare such as Dale St. We are hosting a Sunday Series presentation with Saint Paul pedestrian safety advocate Fay Simer and police Sgt. Jeremy Elison to move that conversation forward. Michael suggested that we actively tie into making sure the drafting of the city's new pedestrian plan truly changes the culture and expectations through better design, priorities, and legislation.

**D. Crime Prevention Packet.** Michael has made revisions suggested for the initial draft; he and Melissa will discuss the next steps.

**E. Welcome Packet.** Michael found the original computer files for the 2009 welcome booklet, so we should be able to revise and update the booklet relatively easily, then make it available as a PDF for the website or to email. Before any welcome postcards can be mailed or distributed, the committee needs to decide what exactly will go into the "welcome kit" that we are inviting new residents to stop in and pick up. To start, Dunette, Sarah, Mike and Melissa will begin contacting restaurants and other businesses to seek discount coupons to include.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.