



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting  
Historic Street Car Station  
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016  
7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Special election meeting called to order 7:04 pm.

**MOTION:** *Approve election procedures. Passed.*

Candidates running for Subdistrict 2 seat: Charley Bruce, David Rhees, Maggie Zimmerman. Elected: Maggie Zimmerman.

Candidates running for At Large seat: Wesley Farrow, Sarah Wein, Adina Florea Weseman. Elected: Adina Florea Weseman.

Special meeting adjourned 7:32 pm.

**I. Call to order:**

Board chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**II. Board introductions:**

Present: Ryan Flynn, João Medeiros, Tim Post, Jon Heyer, David Sorenson, Maggie Zimmerman, Erin Dooley, Mike Ireland, Debra Pursley, Darius DeBoer Massoudi, Kevin Dahm, Adina Florea Weseman, Melissa Finnegan, Brandon Heffron, Melissa Liu

Absent: Brandon Heffron, Jess Banks, Amy Perna (leave)

Staff: Michael Kuchta

**III. Review, amend agenda:**

**MOTION:** *Approve the agenda. (Heyer/Pursley) Motion carried.*

**IV. Community section:**

A. Board chair report: Ryan Flynn will name a new Land Use Committee chair in December. Kevin Dahm is currently chairing both the Land Use and Neighborhood committees.

Board retreat follow-up: The board covered several issues around board operation. The board also discussed the amount of time the city allows for zoning variances that need to go before

D10. Ryan Flynn and Michael Kuchta will talk with someone from the city about making sure that timeframe is adequate. The board also discussed training opportunities.

The D10 executives continue to discuss options for the website. Amazon could be a possibility. That would require \$35 a month from the budget, but it's something the D10 budget can handle.

B. Treasurer's report: Amy Perna is on leave, but reports things are going smoothly. Michael Kuchta adds that \$7,000 in Triangle Garden costs show up on the budget, but will be reimbursed.

C. Special presentations: none

D. Other community concerns: A D10 resident raised concerns over recent burglaries in the neighborhood.

**V. Board business section:**

A: Review/Amend/Approve Minutes and Financial Statements:

**MOTION:** *Approve October 2016 meeting minutes.* (Pursley-Ireland) Passed.

B. Committee updates:

Environment Committee: Chair Mike Ireland reports the committee received an update on the Como Woodlands Classroom, which is working to put more information at the site. Classroom officials are also working to get funding to remove non-native plants. The organic recycling location continues to be in high demand. A sign has been put up reminding residents to not drop off leaves at the site. Motion detecting lights and better access to the dumpsters are both being considered. Como Curb Cleanup ended the year with 115 demonstration houses.

**ACTION ITEM:** *The treasurer is authorized to advance up \$2,960 to pay relocation costs of the Paisley Perch sculpture from McMurray Field into the Triangle garden at Churchill, Van Slyke and Horton. These upfront costs will be reimbursed by a year-round Neighborhood STAR grant.* Motion passes.

Land Use Committee: Interim Chair Kevin Dahm reports that the committee did not have a quorum at its last meeting. The committee is looking for more members.

Neighborhood, Relations, Safety and Outreach Committee: Chair Kevin Dahm says the committee is considering the formation of a working group to tackle issues behind a potential dog park in D10. The annual pancake breakfast had mixed results. It took in \$700, but \$500 was spent on advertising.

Staff report: D10 executive director Michael Kuchta reports that about 10 people attended the recent forum on problem properties. 35 blocks were involved in the neighborhood sign effort. The crosswalk at Lexington Avenue and Energy Park Drive is still being worked on; some signs still need to be moved. The owner of the former Shalom Home reports progress on development of the property. D10 will hire an intern to work on a business development plan for the Como/Snelling area. The Hmong College Prep academy will present plans to expand its building and grounds, which have

changed since first brought to D10 last year. Michael also reports that grants are being filed for the year, and reimbursements are coming in.

C. New business: Board member Darius DeBoer Massoudi provided a statement clarifying that as an employee of the Minnesota Department of Revenue, he cannot be involved in the preparation of financial documents, or serve as treasurer, for D10 or any other outside organization.

VI. **Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned 8:23 pm.

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

Como Community Council - District 10  
Land Use Committee  
Monday, December 5th, 2016  
Street Car Station

Present: Kevin Dahm, Melissa Finnegan, Wes Farrow, Jon Heyer, Michael Kuchta (staff)

Call to Order: Interim Chair Kevin Dahm called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Adoption of Agenda: *Motion to approve the agenda (Farrow/Finnegan) Passed.*

Community Concerns:

**1. Gabes By The Park Liquor License Variance**

Tim Weis is selling his business, Gabes By The Park to Dan, Kevin, and Rick Montpettit (Big Operation LLC). They came to District 10 with a request a waiver of the 45 day comment period for a liquor license. Citizens would still have the option to contest the permit after the fact if they so choose.

*Motion: Approve the request by Big Operation LLC to waive the 45-day waiting period (Farrow/Heyer) Passed*

The Land Use committee will draft a letter to the city in support of the request.

**2. Metro Deaf School Parking Variance**

Representatives from the Metro Deaf School came to the committee to discuss their need for a parking variance in order to continue allowing staff to park on Pascal and Jessamine. The school is currently using all available parking space and has made several efforts to find other area options without luck. The school is not asking for designated spaces on the street - simply for the right to park on a 1st come, 1st serve basis, and they do have a plan for when snow emergencies occur. Representatives from Como Park Apartments spoke to their use of street parking as well and expressed concern that if the school grew and more teachers came in the congestion could lead to the city wanting permits for street parking. They did not oppose the request at this time.

*Motion: Draft a letter of support to the City of St. Paul for the Metro Deaf School parking variance request (Finnegan/Dahm) Passed*

**3. Hmong College Prep Academy Expansion Plan**

Representatives from the Hmong College Prep Academy and their architects came to the committee to discuss their proposed expansion plan. The expansion includes additional buildings, an inflatable sports dome, elevated parking, and, if costs permit, a track and football/soccer field. The city of St. Paul is asking for the plans to include a sidewalk on Wynne. Hmong Academy would prefer to only have emergency exits on that side of the building and not build a sidewalk. While a sidewalk is considered to be best practice for fire purposes, it is not a current requirement. Hmong Academy's goal is for the construction to cause as little disturbance to the neighborhood as possible. There was positive community feedback for the proposal. Residents on Wynne commented that they don't want to lose the trees on the south side of the street in order to put in a sidewalk, although they would like Parks & Rec. to do a better job of maintaining the landscaping on that side of the street. It was also noted that the sports facilities could be used by the community upon agreement.

*Motion: Write a letter of support for the expansion and expressing opposition to the need for a sidewalk on Wynne (Heyer/Finnegan) Passed*

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 8:44pm

Next Meeting: The next meeting is Monday, January 2, 2017 at the Street Car Station.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Finnegan, Committee Member

DRAFT

**District 10 Joint meeting Environmental Committee and Como Composts Subcommittee Meeting**  
**1224 Lexington Parkway N, Saint Paul, MN 5510**

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:00 PM

**Minutes**

1. Call to order – Present: Janna Caywood, Ted Benson, Leslie McKenzie, Pat Thompson, Mike McDonald, Bill Sylvester, Mike Ireland, Adina Wesman, Julie Holmen, Susan Cheney, Maggie Zimmerman, Michael Kutcha, David Sorenson, Nick Mollyaard, Erin Dooley
2. Committee, community member and guest introductions
3. Presentations:
  - Transition ASAP (Pat Thompson; [transitionasap.org](http://transitionasap.org))
  - Transition Twin Cities and Transition Longfellow (Leslie MacKenzie; [transitiontwincities.org](http://transitiontwincities.org) and [transitionlongfellow.org](http://transitionlongfellow.org).)

Leslie MacKenzie –

Transition Twin Cities (Overall area + Longfellow in Mpls), Pat Thompson represents ASAP. There are 7-8 groups in the metro area and more statewide and beyond. It began in at a school in Ireland, as a project to increase alternative energy work and grew from there.

Foci:

-Climate study with a systems approach with efficiency, reduction of energy use overall, reducing point-source pollution, more homespun activities such as canning, gardening, etc. and tailor solutions to a specific locale.

-Climate preparedness, City, Macalaster College, and Transition groups are looking at community plans, local solutions and items to keep control over finances and resources local.

-Some host movie nights, “drop a car” events, classes on going “zero waste,” etc.

-Several Transitions groups have published action plans; ASAP is working on theirs. The plan shared at the meeting: “Transition in Action – Tones and District 2013 – An Energy Descent Action Plan”

-Transition Twin Cities also created a Personal Energy Descent Plan – being

- The ASAP group is working on their own energy descent plan (2040); they have groups learning how to use the mass transit system to get to various locations, etc. They also have a school lesion. They worked on an ADU (additional dwelling unit) bill to allow for higher density housing via “mother-in-law” apartments on an existing property, as long as there is also owner occupancy on the property. They also have an inner circle/inner transition, which are idea-sharing forums. They are looking at a local solar farm, and have professors visiting often to bring insights, and are working on a zero-waste sub-group. Their Community Council (D12) is the Fiscal Sponsor for the group.

-The Longfellow group did a set of 3 different series similar to our Sunday Series – Beginner, Advanced, and Businesses.

-Each Transition group is totally independent. Each is dedicated to reducing energy use and carbon footprint, and increasing community engagement.

Transition Groups: Climate change-carbon emissions, Examining energy from many different lenses – food, waste, transportation, etc., and keeping in mind the interrelatedness of all of these things.

Books:

The Carbon Free Home

Making It: Radical Home Ec for a Post-consumer World.

Grow a Sustainable Diet

Locavesting

The Power of Just Doing Stuff

Suggested Resources:

The Power of Habits (Dhuigg). Looks at individual, neighborhood, and community impact.  
MN Dept of Health has an environmental impact on health.  
Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) -- role modeling, social diffusion, social norms.

Looking ahead: Transition US is planning it's first ever conference at the end of July at the St. Paul Campus.

There is also a 7-week training on getting a group started.

Transition Twin Cities does 12 events per year and had 1600 contacts with people at these events.

Transition Twin Cities also has a library of books and movies.

4. District 10 board meeting summary – Erin and Mike
  - Adina Florea Weseman and Maggie Zimmerman elected to the board
5. Wild Weather, Snug Homes, Quiet Streets sustainable resource fair on November 12 – Erin
6. Como Curb Cleanup results – Janna Caywood

This is a great modeling of CBSM (see above in minutes). This was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual implementation of leaf debris removal. Milestone: We have 108 demonstration houses – 1<sup>st</sup> year over 100. We have the role models and social diffusion, now we move to creating this habit as a social norm. Cap Region Water Shed also has a program for adopting a drain to clear the leaves there as well. It isn't as popular here yet. Some alleys also have drains that can be cleared.

They are in calculation mode – as of now (survey results so far), we have reduced phosphorus into local waters by 12 pounds. Last year, we reduced by just over 11 lbs.
7. Pollinator and Traffic Triangle Garden Update – Maren Swenson, Sandara Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist – No update
8. CWOC – Teri Heier and Susan Jane Cheney

Not many new items. The committee is very interested in presenting at the Sunday Series. Their preferred date would be March 19<sup>th</sup> or March 26<sup>th</sup>. It would be part historical perspective of how CWOC came about, as well as current programming, volunteer coordinator/eco-stewards opportunities.

The last presentation on Shallow Lake Ecology was in 2006. It was a movie and other elements as part of a presentation. Murray may have students present any science fair projects at this Sunday Series. Erin will contact the students.
9. Clean Energy Resource Team – Bill Devroy
  - Adding related items to the District 10 website – No update
10. Como Composts Subcommittee – Michael Kutcha
  - Potential support for institutional implementation of organic composting

Bill Sylvester reports that the spotlights are now on and the area is now lighted. Recent use has gone way up – sometimes 1.5 bins are full by Monday (after a Friday pick-up).

We have been approached by a couple of entities trying to set up composting in their organizations. The county is not in favor of them using our site, and would prefer to have them adapt to the city's business model for composting. We may be part of a next-phase, we can't accept their composting, but can provide mentoring for them as they move forward.
11. Chelsea Youth Environmental Optimist group - Mike

Steve Severance – Primary focus is to improve themselves, the community, and local youth. Mike mentioned the Como Lake Clean-Up group. They may be able to help on this front. They would be interested in helping youth help out at the Sunday Series.

12. Community section – open for community input
13. Updates from community partners (if present) and ongoing reminders
  - Capital Region Watershed District update - Mike MacDonald  
Awards will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Janna was nominated for an individual award, as was the Como Active Citizen Network. Janna won. The ceremony will be at 6:30 at the Wilder Foundation.
  - Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom update - Susan Jane Cheney
  - Como Active Citizen Network - Janna Caywood
  - Como Lake Pollinator Garden - Angie Sechler
  - “CARS” Update - Cathy Velasquez
  - Garden Skillshare and Harvest Exchange - Dawn Lamm and Allison Goetzman
  - Como Lake Cleanup - Jacki Morrison
  - Sunday Series Update – Mike Ireland

Top 5 Requests:

- History of the MN State Fair
  - Landscape Gardening
  - Como Outdoor Woodland: New Guidebook
  - Shallow Lake Ecology
  - U of M Monarch Butterfly Lab
    - Upcoming events – everyone and anyone
14. Adjournment 9:08
  15. Next Meeting: December 28 at 7:00 p.m. (the last Wednesday of each month) -- Mike will send an e-mail to see if we should change the meeting date.