



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday July 18, 2017
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

I. Call to order

Vice-Chair Joao Medeiros called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

II. Board introductions

Present: Mike Ireland, Debra Pursley, Melissa Liu, Joao Medeiros, Amy Perna, Jon Heyer, Haley Fruen, Cari Ness Nesje, Wes Farrow

Absent: Kevin Dahm, Erin Dooley, Ryan Flynn, Andrew Johnson, Darius Massoudi, Tim Post, Adina Weseman, Maggie Zimmerman

Staff: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION (IRELAND) to approve the agenda and requests to add Public Art in Private Land for New Business. Seconded by HEYER. **APPROVED**

IV. Community section

A. Special presentations

- A. Alice Messer, Parks Department, new crosswalk on Lexington Parkway
- B. Travis Bistodeau, DSI, Temporary Family Health Care Dwellings: public hearing is on August 2nd.
- C. Nathaniel Hood, Sustain Ward 3 Saint Paul, Ford site development

B. Board chair report (Joao Medeiros)

Board Retreat summary

C. Community Concerns

Kim Grosenheider, safety at Como Lakeside Pavilion. Son slipped through the railing along promenade. Spoke with Parks and Rec Department; railing met code when installed but the code has changed. Later a letter was written to the Director of Parks and Recs. The reply was stated they may put up signs as an immediate option. PURSLEY asked if there is a way to submit a report about incidents like that. Because it is a historically recognized building it would take much more work to fix it. NESJE thanked her for coming as a fellow parent. Kim spoke with Paul Prior from Parks facilities.

D. Treasurer's report (report not available at this time)

V. **Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial statements

MOTION: PURSLEY Approve June 20, 2017 meeting minutes; seconded by IRELAND **APPROVED**

B. Officers' report

No meeting because of the retreat.

C. Committee reports

Environment (Mike Ireland)

- Artist will paint some storm drains on east side of Como Lake; expects to start in August, though there are strict parameters from the city.
- Mapping program was demoed for the committee.
- **ACTION REQUESTED:** The Environmental Committee requests the District 10 Como Community Council board approve the formation of a subcommittee reporting to the Environmental Committee to perform initial signage research on the pedestrian and bicycle paths within Como Regional Park. Procedural questions asked by LIU and explained by KUCHTA and MEDEIROS. Unanimously passed: Board authorizes creation of subcommittee.

Land Use

No meeting this month. Update from KUCHTA about Land Use issues that have come through the office this month:

- The Lexington crossing, supplementing info from Alice Messer's presentation.
- 1004-1008 Lexington boundary issue is moving forward.
- Finding out who from City authorizes parking restrictions during fairground events has been a runaround.
- 45-day liquor license waiting period was waived for the Delicata.
- Rail safety: DSI has received our request a single point of contact.
- Still working on TCGIS playground noise issue.
- Como Park Senior Living expects financing will be in place by the end of July.
- 1062 Front deadline was not met; issue will go to the City Council next week to determine the fate of the house.

Neighborhood (Melissa Liu)

- Ice Cream Social went well.
- Flags all installed at sponsored intersections. Thanks to Deb!
- Amy Perna may volunteer for the Northwest Como Rec Center's community event.

D. Staff report (Michael Kuchta)

ComoFest kick off at the Ice Cream Social went well. Monitor and Bugle ran articles about festival.

70 additional plants were purchased and placed in Churchill Gardens. Planting is now done.

City grant sent in last month.

COPP grant in the middle of two cycles. Filed applications for 2017-2018.

Crime Prevention meeting last night focused on reporting suspicious activities on social media.

E. New business

- **Office Lease:** In December 2015, board approved a 3-year lease. The city never responded so we've been renting month-to-month since then. Except for dates, terms are the same as

approved then. **MOTION** (PERNA): District 10 authorizes Ryan Flynn to sign a 3-year lease with the City for \$280 per month. PURSLEY seconded. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- **Greenway Extension:** Council received invitation to join Extend the Greenway Partnership. MEDEIROS raised the concern about risk of losing independent voice as partner in this project. Environment Committee will keep an eye on the initiative.
- **Public Art on Private Property:** Lucas Koski from Art Space wants to engage the community at large to commission art. The Knight Foundation offers challenging grants with matching funds. He wants a grant for \$30-50k for any resident who has land to commission art. An artist is matched with the resident to create the art. This would be limited to District 10. He wants a letter of recommendation or support from D10. FARROW asked if variances are needed for this. MEDEIROS asked why this was handled by Environment and not NRSO? It's due to time limitations.

MOTION: IRELAND moved to suspend the rules so we can debate and vote on whether to write a letter of support from the Board. PERNA seconded. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

After discussion, IRELAND made a **MOTION** that the board submit a letter of support to be included in Lucas Koski's application to the Knight Foundation. PURSLEY seconded. FARROW asked if the letter would require a future role in this process. Council may need to be fiscal agent. **MOTION APPROVED** IRELAND will write the letter and send it along.

Other Business:

- NESS NESJE made a **MOTION** to refer the issue of pavilion safety to NRSO. PURELY seconded. **MOTION APPROVED**
FARROW formal resignation was written effective 7/18/2017.
- IRELAND asked if we should take a position on the 1062 Front property. HEYER recommends to let the city handle the issue.

VI. **Adjournment**

PURSELY moved. FARROW seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm

Respectively submitted by Melissa Liu. These minutes are not official until approved.

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

July 26, 7 pm

STANDARD ITEMS

1. Call to order

2. Committee member and guest introductions

- Welcome new board member Cari Ness Nesje
- Sara Benzjofer; Mike MacDonald; Cari Nesje; Adina Weseman; Dawn Lamm; Andrew Gustin; Bill Devroy, Bill Sylvester, Courtney Ryan; Julie Wegscheid; Barb McGonical St.Dennis; Sarah Hustad; Lena Buggs; Mike Ireland; Michael Kuchta.

3. Approval of minutes - minutes approved without changes.

4. District 10 board meeting summary

- Adina, Erin, Maggie, Cari, Michael and Mike
 - Lexington crossing – funding for stage 1 of project secured, implemented this fall.
 - Greenway extension into St. Paul
 - Discussion on ordinance for temporary housing to allow for care of family members with health/mental health issues
 - Signage in parks by Parks & Rec. Mapping of neighborhood – Andrew Gustin.

PRESENTATION

- **Proposed city ordinance on restaurants using recyclable materials on take-out food** - City of Saint Paul staff person
- 2 current packaging laws impacting Saint Paul food establishments:
 - MN Statute 115A.151 – Recycling requirements
 - Requires businesses w/ more than 4 cubic yards of waste per week to offer recycling
 - Saint Paul Ordinance 236 – Environmental Preservation: Plastic Packaging (all food packaging) – in place since 1990, never implemented
- Current proposal:
 - Amend Ordinance 236 to apply only to “To Go” food packaging intended for immediate consumption
 - Require the use of compostable, reusable, or recyclable food packaging except in cases where there are no commercially available alternatives
- **Public Hearing: September 20, 2017.**
 - Expected effective date – Oct. 1, 2018
 - Lead time to allow businesses to learn about and secure new packaging as well as take advantage of the BizRecycling program
 - BizRecycling – grant program for businesses; joint effort with Ramsey County and Washington County.

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

1. **Curb cuts and residential interest** - Mike MacDonald
 - a. Mike has had discussions with Capital Regional Watershed District reps about the curb cuts.
 - b. If enough interest exists, CRWD can run the curb cut project in a cost-effective way.
 - c. Additional benefit is increasing the flow of storm water in the district.
 - d. A plan to gauge interest/recruit interested neighbors will start taking shape soon, with Mike MacDonald and Michael Kuchta to lead the project. Lena Buggs with Ramsey Conservation District has offered to be a resource for this process.

2. **Understanding recycling at Park and Rec sites and improving visitor participation** - Teri Alberico
 - Tabled for next meeting

3. **Como Regional Park Advisory Committee request for park signage research** – Michael
 - a. Andrew Gustin will help with process as he's been involved with mapping the area.

4. **CRWD evaluation of boulevard rain gardens** - Mike

5. **Grant consideration: “What am I not doing or what could I do?”**
 - Follow up discussion
 - Mike is consolidating feedback received from committee members.

6. **Miscellaneous Stuff** - Mike
 - St. Paul Climate Action Planning possible District 10 presentation:
 - [St Paul Climate Action Planning web site](#)
 - Presentations and minutes now available on the website.
 - Streetcar station event still in the works.
 - Energy Fair in St. Paul, MN at Harriet Island Park, September 9-10:
 - theenergyfair.org/about/
 - Event in the first year; free to attend.
 - Permeable driveways
 - Paver systems, interlocking plastic systems and metal systems infilled w/ pea gravel, various low-maintenance plants, permeable concrete and asphalt.
 - Friends of the Mississippi River storm sewer grate art update
 - Work in progress
 - Committee of 15 people met w/ artist a few weeks ago to brainstorm
 - Artist is working on design
 - City and Parks & Recreation have final approval

- Expected to be painted in August – event date pending.
- Public Art on Private Land (Lucas Koski initiative)
 - Brought before D-10 Board on July 18 for letter of support from D-10. It was approved and Lucas can submit with his grant proposal. No opposition from the committee.
 - Lucas is seeking grant from Knight Foundation. Grant funds would match the funds paid by individuals commissioning the project (e.g. bench, etc.) to pay the artist.
- Ramsey County's Recycling and Education Center tours: Second Tuesday (9 am and 6 pm) of the month that covers the basics of trash, which the facility shreds to convert to energy. To register, call 651-266-1199.
- Public Art Saint Paul – Bee Real Bee Everywhere
 - Handout
 - Bee house “high rise that will provide housing for wild bee species and other pollinators, such as butterflies.
 - A bike cart and related education materials to be distributed at public places (festivals, farmers’ markets, libraries, etc.)
 - Small bronze bees by sculptor Brad Kaspari will be given to bee advocates for their work to support bee habitats.
 - Party at intersection of W. Como Blvd, Nagasaki Rd., and Horton Ave. on August 16, 2017, from 6-7:30 PM.

7. 2017 Environmental committee initiatives review – Everyone

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

Updates from community partners (if present)

- **Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom** - Teri Heier and Susan Jane Cheney
 - National conference on Monday, July 31, 2017, 2:30 – 5pm.
- **The Mapping Tool** (<http://geopoi.us/freelance/>) - Andrew Gustin
 - Seeking introductions from board members/community to organizations with which Andrew could partner on the map project.
- **Como Regional Park Pedestrian and Bike Research** - TBD
- **Churchill Gardens** - Erin, Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist
- **Como Organic Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kutcha
 - Swap out large bin to smaller bin for the summer.
- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald
- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Como Community Seed Library** - Dawn Lamm

- Two successful recent events:
 - Seed exchange
 - Seed saving workshop
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **Greenway Extension** - Mike
- **Neighborhood resources fair** - Dawn Lamm and Mike
 - Narrowing down January 2018 dates
 - Working on finalizing a location
 - Looking for volunteers to organize event
- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people within District 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Como Community Parade (probably 2018)
 - D-10 Neighborhood Relations committee exploring possibility of partnering with Como High School's homecoming parade
- 2018 Neighborhood resources fair

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: August 30 at 7:00 p.m. (last Wednesday of each month) –
Guests - Bee Artists.

**Como Community Council--District 10
Land Use Committee
Monday Aug. 7, 2017
Streetcar Station**

NOTES

Present: Kevin Dahm, chair; Andrew Johnson, board; Bill Sylvester, community; Michael Kuchta, staff

Absent: Jon Heyer

Community: Kris Anderson, Doug Siekmann, Kathy Zieman, Shelley Harrington

Agenda

Residential

- 1004/1008 Lexington: There is an 8/14 meeting at BZA on the property boundary adjustment and related variances. We are cautiously optimistic that variances will be approved.
- 1062 Front: Work appears to be done; city council abated the nuisance property demolition order on July 26.
- 988 Argyle: Contractor is finishing required code work for absentee landlord; certificate of occupancy expected to be restored and property put up for sale
- 994 Idaho: Garage variance was denied. Property owner called us, but did not seek delay in hearing date in order to seek our support at this meeting.

Ongoing

- Sholom Home: Financing was supposed to close by end of July; we have not heard definitively from David Grzan. Graham Construction continues to work inside the building.
- State Fair parking/overlay: In response to our letter, DSI says it is scheduling additional enforcement at different days and times. Michael expects to go for a ride-along to learn the finer points of enforcement.
- Walking districts/lots on Front: No update. Darius has resigned, and it's unclear exactly what he had envisioned. Michael will try to compile list of vacant lots/properties.
- Rail Safety: Sent a letter for point of contact at city. Michael researching possible county person as well.
- Lexington Ave. crosswalk: Kathy Zieman voiced concerns over roll out of new crossing near golf course parking lot, adverse safety possibilities, and recommended a pause in construction for an updated traffic study. Michael found that the most recent one is from 2015. A pedestrian-activated light system is being considered and might come later; it would cost about \$15,000. Other ideas/concerns have been voiced and the city appears to be making an effort. Discussion continued on what would be ideal vs. what is achievable.

Old Business

- Delicata is open with liquor license

Active

- Standard letter for all actions not brought to committee: Michael to draft a letter to send for any actions that don't come before this committee. Discussion over how strongly to word and where it should fall on a spectrum of neutrality to outright opposition.
- Twin Cities German Immersion School:
- Sound level survey: DSI continues to say it is not their responsibility even though they signed off on the site plan. Michael will make another attempt to get DSI to do sound reading once

school resumes Aug. 28. **Motion (Kevin, Bill) to draft letter to send to 3 City Council members in District 10 and Mayor to encourage DSI to do a sound survey on TCGIS playground. Motion passed 3-0.**

- Fence replacement: No word at their last board meeting and no rep at this meeting. Kevin to follow up with Gael.
- Resident survey: Committee reviewed draft survey; will add line noting survey is two-sided, and add section for open-ended commenting. **Motion (Kevin/Andy) to print and distribute the survey to houses within roughly 2 blocks of the school. Motion passed 3-0** Andy and Kevin to meet at 6 pm at Streetcar Station on 8/14/17 to distribute.

Other Business

- Kathy Zieman reported and mini-golf lease in Como Park is not being renewed. Michael to follow up.
- Lack of TCGIS representation was noted. Kevin to follow up and see why they were not here.

Notes compiled by Andrew Johnson and Michael Kuchta
These notes are not official until approved.

draft

COMO PARK DISTRICT 10

NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS, SAFETY & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

MEETING; Tuesday 7/11/17 at 7:00 pm

- I. Call to order: 7:03pm
- II. Introductions: Debra, Bill, Haley, Darcy, Melissa, Michael, Debbie, Sarah, Jennifer
- III. Review of June minutes; approved.
- IV. Business;
 - a. **Ice Cream Social** – will be THIS Friday 7/14 here at the Street Car Station, from 5:30 to 8:30pm. We currently have about \$200 remaining in the budget that has not been dedicated. However, Michael still needs to purchase the compostable bowls and spoons for the event. The group decided against printing any flyers for the event. Also, some non-dairy or sorbet type treat should be purchased to have on hand. Ice cream and servers being provided by HHH Job Corp Center. A thank you card will be purchased and sent to them from our committee. Set-up will begin at 430pm. Debra will provide two large coolers to store the ice cream.
 - b. **Debbie Rosenauer**- from the American Brain Tumor Association, attended tonight's meeting to make us aware of the BT-5K that will be happening in October here around Como Lake. She has asked us to do as much advertising for this event as we can at all other upcoming D10 events we may have in order to get more of the local community involved in this event. We will provide additional flyers for the 5K run/walk at our D10 table at the Ice Cream Social.
 - c. **Safe Driving Campaign** – we still have the lawn signs from last year's campaign. Do we want to do it again this year? Yes!! Interested parties should get approval from their neighbors in order to place the series of lawn signs on a single block or intersection in order to bring attention to drivers to SLOW DOWN. Please contact Michael with your desire to have these signs placed near your home. The campaign will begin Aug 1st and go through November, or until the weather gets really bad or we run out of lists of volunteers. Michael will advertise this campaign in the Friday News Blast and will contact participants from 2016.
 - d. **Pedestrian Flag Sets** – we have installed 6 sets of ped flags (6 crosswalks) and there are 2 left to be installed. Debra will get these done by Sunday 7/16/17. We will then have 2 sets left to be sponsored before additional sets need to be made. We have received mostly positive feedback from community members, and the flags are being used around Como Park. There has been some negative feedback in regards to the flags possibly making pedestrians less-safe when crossing intersections. The list of the intersections or flagged crosswalks are listed on the D10 web-site. The list will be added to as we have additional community sponsorships roll in.
 - e. **Como Crime Prevention update** – there is a possible meeting scheduled at 6:30pm on Monday 7/17/17 here at the Street Car Station (SCS).

- f. **City issued alarm permits** – The city of Saint Paul is proposing an increase in the fee for an alarm permit required by the city from \$28 to \$58 per year. There will be a public hearing about this proposal at City Hall, at 5:30pm, on 7/19/17.
- g. **House Keeping items** –
 - i. We all want to thank Wes Farrow sincerely for his brief but dedicated service to our district council and to the NRSO committee. We are very sorry to see him leave.
 - ii. Debra will be taking meeting minutes for the NRSO meetings from July through Dec. Would LOVE someone to step-up and volunteer to take the mtg minutes starting in Jan 2018.
 - iii. In case of the chair being absent from a meeting, it is recommended that another Board Member take over chairing the meeting. At this point it would be either Haley or Debra.
 - iv. Any additional events the NRSO committee wants to take on this fall/winter 2017? Discussion focused around possibly joining with the Como HS Homecoming Parade in 2018 to grow this annual event to include other schools within out district and possibly other organizations or groups. More work will need to be done on this beginning in 2018. A leader will need to be found to coordinate this possible new event.
- V. **Community Member Section** – there was no additional community members in attendance.
- VI. **Upcoming events** – reminder that the City Wide Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 7th, 8am to 1pm at the State Fair Grounds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.