



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday October 17, 2017
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Special Election

Election procedures adopted by board without objection

Candidates for Sub-district 4 seat:

- James Sadkovich
- Dunette Combs (nominated by Deb Pursley)

Combs elected

I. Call to order

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

II. Board introductions

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

Absent: Amy Perna

Staff: Michael Kuchta

III. Review, amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda (amended to include discussion of email in regards to Minnesota Council of Nonprofits leadership vote). (Heyer/Pursley) Passed*

IV. Community section

A. Special presentations

Travis Bistodeau, Department of Safety and Inspections rail safety

A few months ago, a railcar decoupled and blocked an intersection at grade in the Como neighborhood. The Land Use Committee contacted the city to ask if a single point of contact could be developed for rail issues. Bistodeau says the city has limited ability to direct rail companies, but can reach out for information. The city held a meeting to discuss rail safety, and representatives from a number of railroads were there. It helped the city develop a list of contacts. But there is still no single point of contact within city agencies if there are concerns about railroad issues in the neighborhood. He recommends that anyone with immediate concerns about life safety issues, accidents, or derailments call 911. Other issues should go to 651-266-8989. He says the railroads

have offered a verbal commitment that they'll do a better job of communicating with the city in the case of future incidents.

Susie Odegard, Parks and Recreation

The city is proposing an extension of the management contract for Como Golf Course with Envision Catering, to be known as Foursome in the future. The company says it will invest \$800,000 in golf course facilities in the future.

MOTION: *D10 will send a letter of support in favor of the extension. (Dahm/Heyer) Passed*

B. Board Chair Report Chair Ryan Flynn

Appointments:

- Flynn nominates Dana Hageman for the Como Dockside Evaluation Committee.

MOTION: *Approve the appointment (Nesje/Zimmerman) Passed*

- Flynn nominates Tim Post to chair the subcommittee on evaluating paths in Como Park.

MOTION: *Approve the appointment. (Pursley/Dooley) Passed*

- Flynn recommended a core group of members to the subcommittee; more members will be appointed in the future.

MOTION: *Approve the appointments of Teri Alberico, Tom Beach, Andrew Gustin, Richard Herriges, Michael Kuchta, Jess Landgraf, Jenny Larson, Don Magnuson, Dan Marckel, Jenne Nelson, Suzanne Rhees, Cody Zwiefelhofer. (Pursley/Busian) Passed*

C. Treasurer's Report Amy Perna is absent; Michael says there's nothing new to report and that D10 is coasting to the end of the year financially.

D. Other Community Concerns

Schiffman Fountain Restoration: Resident Ann Schrooten was concerned with the condition of 120-year old fountain. She was prepared to start a fundraising effort, and had intended to ask D10 for help. She called the city and found out that two organizations have already offered to fund the sculpture's renovation, a process that will start as soon as the conservators are able to get the project on their schedules.

V. **Board Business Section**

A. Minutes and financial statements

MOTION: *Approve September minutes and financial statements. (Heyer/Dahm) Passes*

B. Officers' report

Ryan Flynn says the D10 executives discussed the latest on the Como/Front/Dale project at their last meeting. The city has updated their plan and it doesn't appear to live up to what neighbors in D10 had hoped for. Ryan is hoping there will be a chance for more public input on the project and perhaps D10 can work with District 6 to push a plan to reinvigorate the intersection. The execs also discussed live-streaming D10 meeting, an action item that is in New Business. Ryan is preparing to do Michael's review, and appoint three new board members to committees before the end of the month.

C. Committee reports

Environment: Mike Ireland reports the Como Curb Cleanup began recently. He reminds members who are a demonstration house to put up their signs and rake the leaves out of their gutters. The Como Active Citizens Network is considering what its next project may be. The

pollinator garden fall clean-up took place last week; three volunteers showed up. The storm grate mural in a parking lot on the north end of the lake was completed.

Action Item: D10 gives Como Connect: A Neighborhood Resource Fair a non-financial endorsement, and gives permission for organizers to reference the endorsement and use D10's logo in marketing and advertising for the event. *Passes*

Land Use: Kevin Dahm says the former Shalom Home project's financing in London has fallen through, but the project's organizers hope to find other funding by year's end. The Falls Events Center is on hold for now while the company works on other projects. Bill Sylvester is looking at the State Fair Overlay District; Maggie Zimmerman will be the point person for Lexington Ave. related issues. The proposed Lexington Ave. crosswalk near the golf course entrance will not be built this fall, which gives D10 more time to discuss the project. The potential for a dog park is still being discussed by the committee.

Action Item: Resolved, that the Como Community Council Board authorize Land Use Committee to send the attached letter to the Board of Zoning Appeals whenever a property owner in District 10 does not present his/her variance or zoning request directly to the Land Use Committee. *Passes*

Action Item: Resolved, that the Como Community Council Board authorize Land Use Committee to send the attached letter (amended to specify use of shorter version -- Pursley/Dooley) to our local City Council members, asking them to require the Department of Safety and Inspections to take appropriate readings of sound levels at properties adjacent to the playground at Twin Cities German Immersion School. *Passes*

Neighborhood: Melissa Liu says 41 people came to the recent crime prevention meeting and that more such meetings would be welcomed by the neighborhood. The citywide drop-off was a big success. There is talk of work on improving a crosswalk outside Chelsea Heights Elementary through Safe Routes to School. Committee is still considering cards that introduce D10 to new neighbors. The committee is working on developing comfort cases for foster children in the D10 neighborhood. A holiday yoga event with coffee is planned for Dec. 3.

D. Staff report Michael Kuchta says much his report can be found in the officers' meeting notes. Other updates: no work on Lexington Ave restriping, and Michael has yet to see some of the changes D10 has asked for in the engineer's plans; he is pushing for a public presentation on the project. He's expecting to receive a market analysis for all of D10 soon, and there will be a presentation at the November meeting. He's working with Ward 5 and District 6 on a presentation on Como/Dale/Front. He will be on medical leave beginning Oct. 31.

E. New business

- Tabled until November meeting: Discussion of Hazzard House (Cari Ness Nesje) and Action Item on streaming D10 meetings (Tim Post).
- Michael will poll board members to get their preferences on language to use on a sign for D10 outside of the Streetcar Station.
- **MOTION:** D10 authorizes the chair to vote for candidates for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits boards pursuant to the results of a poll of board members. (Zimmerman/Dahm) *Passes*

VI. **Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm by Ryan Flynn.

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

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2017 at 7 pm

Present:

Mike Ireland, Susan Ireland, Bill Sylvester, Bill DeVroy, Mike MacDonald, Erin Dooley, Andrew Gustin, Cari Nesji, Joe Mueller, Adina Weseman, Michael Kuchta

Action Items and Highlights:

- **Budget Request: the committee came up with several projects that could benefit from funding, including Wayfinding Subcommittee support, CACN support, donations to Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, and helping to fund educational programs.**
- **Curb Clean-up is underway, we have 11 new members and 84 returning.**
- **The Energy Fair had many worth while workshops.**
- **We selected a location for the Skyrise Bronze Bee.**
- **Como Connect Fair is coming – February 10.**
- **Storm Sewer Art installation is complete.**

STANDARD ITEMS

- **Call to order**
- **Committee member and guest introductions**
- **Approval of minutes and agenda**
- **District 10 board meeting summary**
 - Adina, Erin, Cari, Michael and Mike

PRESENTATION

- None scheduled

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

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

This year's budget came in on track, as it was \$0. If we have any upcoming projects, etc., that would require funding, we should ask for some. One suggestion: Wayfinding committee funds for kiosks/increased signage, supplies that they would need, etc. It was decided to ask for \$500, to include cost of a survey, on line and/or with QR codes for visitors, materials for the subcommittee to use in information gathering. Most projects that we have taken on in recent history have been funded through outside agencies, not our own grant. We could ask for funds to support the compost site – bags, fence, rocks, etc.

Bill Sylvester asked whether the subject of Fiscal Agent/Sponsor issue had been resolved so that individuals can use funds from outside grants. We remain an agent,

which would work for projects that come through our committees would be covered, but changes will probably not be forthcoming.

The CACN group no longer has the large bags, some neighbors don't like them anyway. They are hoping for the project to be self-sustaining. They will continue to share signs.

There is already a map for the trees in Como that could be added to an app.

Susan Jane has submitted a letter requesting \$150 for bare root shrubs for the Como Woodlands, as the Parks and Rec department does not have funding at this time. The shrubs would be part of an upcoming community planting event.

Also proposed: funds to attend various environmentally related workshops, classes, etc., which can add up.

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

In the past, the grant covered \$40 per barrel per participant. There is no deadline for the grant. It could be a Sunday series event (maybe April?).

- **Other grant ideas for the CRWD's Partner grants** - Mike and Mike

Deadline 10/27

- **Capitol Region Watershed District nominations** - Mike and Mike

Due by Oct 31. Citizen – individual award, Partner – organization, and Connection of organization and people, Youth, and Lifetime. Ideas – Churchill Garden group (already awarded and funded through Cap Region), Courtney Ryan's work for her masters program.

- **2017 Como Curb Cleanup and Como Active Citizen Network's future direction** - Janna Caywood, Courtney Ryan and Mike

Nearing the end of the first week. Building from the 108 demonstration sites, who will post their signs and recruit neighbors. 84 have opted in so far, and 11 new members have also joined. Mike has additional signs. Erin suggested schools take on being a demonstration site and will contact local schools.

- **Update on the Bethel Lutheran Church Environmental Symposium** - Courtney Ryan

It was well received, and they will continue to reach out for programs.

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

Stalled for now, but there is still interest.

- **Energy Fair in St. Paul, MN at Harriet Island Park**- Bill Devroy

September 9-10. The workshops themselves required membership, but the fair had a lot of exhibits. Bill was not able to spend full days there, so he did not purchase a membership. Energy tax credits for solar can cover everything, including (as he was told) structural additions to facilitate. He had to leave early, but thinks it was worthwhile, it seemed to have a lot of information. He would/will go again.

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

The committee has around 15 members and 9 from D10, plus there are additional people interested.

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

Progress is being made; they will be meeting next week. Bethel will be hosting, Feb 10, 10-2. We would like to use the “traditional” advertising routes, but may want to expand to reach the target audience – older residents, who may not have internet or may not be receiving the newsletter.

We are able to use D10 name and logo for the event.

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

Received for out advocacy of this project. It will be placed on one of the exterior rocks near the office door – visible, but not easily reached. There will also be an informational sign.

- **Miscellaneous Stuff** - Mike

- Reaching outside the Environmental committee for assistance with single one-time efforts
- Update on the fall Pollinator Garden cleanup

Michael received a call from a group that donated money for the garden, and wondered if they had responsibility for upkeep, etc. The first fall clean-up was not well attended, there may be another.

- Friends of the Mississippi River storm sewer grate art update

It's smaller than many expected, but meets the city requirements. People have been stopping by to look at it. It doesn't have quite as much detail as in the prototype. There is paint left over, so there may be an additional installation at some point.

- Public art on private land (Lucas Koski)

He was awarded \$36,000 for this project. He has also checked to see if we can be a Fiscal Agent for this project, but will probably use the Knight Foundation.

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

Bethel Lutheran does a live Nativity scene every year. Dec 16 6-8 p.m. This year it will include a petting zoo inside, and vendors. Volunteers are being sought. Theme is still in development.

PARTNER UPDATES

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

Susan Jane dropped off a thank you letter for the reprinting funds as well as general information on current work.

- **Como Park Wayfinding subcommittee** - Teri, Andrew and Michael
- **The Mapping Tool** (<http://geopoi.us/freelance/>) - Andrew Gustin

- **Churchill Gardens** - Erin, Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist
- **Como Organic Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kuchta
- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald
- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Como Community Seed Library** - Dawn Lamm
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **Master composter/recycling program** - Teri Alberico
- **Greenway Extension** – Mike

The board chose not to participate directly with this project. The kick-off meeting is this Thursday, to discuss the path, funding for a study, etc. Minutes will be shared with Mike.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

- **Next Meeting:** November 29 at 7 pm (last Wednesday of each month)

Como Connect Tentative Organization Listing

Tier 1

- Book Mobile/Story Telling Bus
- Capitol Region Watershed District
- City of St. Paul/elected officials
- Community gardens
- Como Active Citizen Network
- Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program
- District 10
- Frogtown Farm
- Hmong Farmer's Association
- Hubert Humphrey Job Corps Center
- Lyngenblomsten
- Meals on Wheels
- North Dale Rec Center
- Parent Aware/Child Care Aware
- Saint Paul Tool Library
- Salvation Army/Booth Brown House
- St. Paul Police Crime Prevention
- Transition Twin Cities
- International Institute

Tier 2

- Animal Humane Society
- Como Regional Parks Volunteer Outreach
- Como Zoo and Conservatory
- Fresh Energy
- Neighborhood Energy Connection
- Public Art St. Paul
- Ramsey County Planning on Healthy Aging
- Schools (Chelsea Heights, Como Elementary, Como Senior High, Ag School, Hmong Academy)
- St. Paul public library
- St. Paul's Climate Action Planning
- University of Minnesota Cornucopia Student Garden
- Wag and Whiskers
- YEP at Como Zoo and Conservatory

Missing organizations helping underserved who are:

- Renters
- First generation immigrants
- Single parents
- Unemployed
- At or below the poverty line
- Organizations or the community nearby D10 borders
- Needing financial assistance and/or advice
- Needing yard work, housework, maintenance assistance
- Without health insurance
- Caregivers
- New to the neighborhood

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council - 11/1/2017

1. **Call to order 7:02pm**
2. **Present:** Kevin Dahm, Maggie Zimmerman, Bill Sylvester, Joe Mueller, Doug Siekmann, Kris Anderson
3. **Amend/Adopt Agenda - Approved**
4. **Full Board update**
 - a. TCGIS sound-monitoring letter approved by board and sent out to local councilmembers. Waiting for response.
5. **Residential**
 - A. 1483 Huron (Revocation)
 - B. 1060 Avon (Nuisance)
6. **Ongoing**
 - A. Sholom Home (Kevin)
 - a. Reports funding by the end of the year, no action right now
 - B. State Fairgrounds and Overlay District (Bill)
 - a. Expanding parking overlay parking and lawn parking district
 - b. Michael created a list of potential parking spaces and opportunities for additional park and ride
 - c. Bill doesn't see need for additional parking options or increase in size of overlay or special parking regions.
 - i. Reports that autonomous cars will relieve parking need within 1-3 years
 - ii. States that interests of those who live in current overlay area must be protected as fair parking is a part of their annual income
 - iii. States he has concerns about who is voicing issues with parking congestion
 - iv. States that previous overlay planning was time intensive and difficult to achieve
 - d. Disagreement in committee over need for additional parking and overlay expansion
 - C. Walking districts and vacant lots
 - a. No report
 - D. Rail safety (Kevin)
 - a. Presentation given at full board October meeting
 - i. Call 911 for Safety Issues
 - E. Lexington Ave, golf course crosswalk etc. (Maggie)
 - a. Reports no golf course crosswalk and median this year. City will bid it out again next year. Committee discussed again the potential for connecting the crosswalks along the west side of Lexington. Consider advocating for slower plan that is more comprehensive.
 - F. Dog Park (Kevin)
 - a. No report
7. **Active**
 - A. TCGIS & Neighbors
 - a. Parking is degrading again with colder weather. Neighbors seeing the "habitual parkers" again, where the same car is parked all day in front of the houses each day. Several days where there was no parking at all in front of the 5 houses across the street.
 - b. TCGIS self-report:
 - i. School sees no new issues with playground cover material
 - ii. School believes drop-off and pick up runs smoothly. School asked parents again to not park on Van Slyke. Teachers are receiving reminders on Nov 3rd to leave at least once space in front of each house. Neighbors hope for direct responses from the school instead of only funneled through Kevin.
 - iii. Nov 14th at 6pm is a facilities meeting at TCGIS.

- iv. Expansion plans for the school are underway.
 - v. No plans for physical noise abatement or playground reconfiguring.
- B. Guest speakers list
 - a. Dispute Resolution and Arbitration services and processes within the city (<http://disputeresolutioncenter.org>)
 - 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. Snelling and Como Commercial district
 - a. Suggestion to have intern communicate her study with the local business owners
- D. Adjourned 8:36pm

**Como Park District 10's
Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach
Tuesday, 11/7/2017 at 7:00 pm**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order – 702pm
- II. Introductions – Melissa, Debra, Haley, Mike Ireland, Bill and Jennifer
- III. Review of 10/3 minutes if they are available – not available.

IV. New Business

- A. Como Connect Update from Mike Ireland; this event to be held at Bethel Lutheran Church on Saturday, 2/10/2018; child care being arranged for the event (10am to 2pm); Mike provided a tentative list of organizations that could be present, but they are still looking for more contacts for organizations or groups that represent underserved communities within Como Park and the City of Saint Paul.

- B. Attacks on 2 women near Como Lake - Take Back the Night or “Take Back the Lake”; an in-depth discussion about the two attacks that took place near Como Lake recently; does D10 want to help organize or support an organized event like the Take Back the Night events done around the country? Amy Brendmoen was contacted and would be willing to support a more “grass roots” event organized by members of the community. Since it has already been about 3 weeks since the events had occurred, our discussion focused more on preparing an event that could be rolled out quickly IF any other attacks happen in our community. If it is a sponsored/organized event, D10 would need to pull a permit from the city (\$250); this could take some days to get. We decided that an “official” event sponsored by D10 was not the best route to take. If need be, some community members would just send out Facebook and Next Door notices about an informal, more grass roots event to take place on a spontaneous basis and encourage community members to attend. D10 would not officially be involved.

- C. Increased gun shots in the area; calls to police have increased and awareness is up. Many neighbors are reporting hearing more gun-shots in our community.
 - a. What can we do? Have a second Crime Prevention information night!

- D. Another crime prevention meeting specifically for the Dale/Orchard Park area; it was suggested and discussed if we should host another Crime Prevention meeting and the committee agreed that this would be a good idea. This second event would be held at North Dale or Orchard Rec Center we would again invite SPPD to present and be available to answer questions; we would also try to partner with D6 in order to bring in community members from the district to our east. It was decided that things are just too busy now moving into the holiday season, so we will plan this next event in early 2018.

- E. Package theft; In addition to holding packages at the FedEx or UPS stations, Amazon now has a locker service where you can have a package held in a public locker; some

are in the Rosedale Mall, the Mall of America and other locations. Ask Michael to include a paragraph in the Friday News Blast to remind our neighbors to be mindful of their and their neighbor's packages.

F. Block Club Leaders – Is this community outreach tool outdated? We continue to have trouble maintaining existing and recruiting new Block leaders in our community. With all the new forms of Social Media and more efficient ways to contact our community member, do we really need to be as concerned about trying to maintain this program? We will continue to try to reach out to existing Block Leaders and try to enroll new ones by using our Friday News Blasts to spread the word.

V. Old Business

A. Crime Prevention meeting was held on 10/10/17; about 40 people attended; Patty Lammers from the SPPS presented and answered questions; there was a request for a second meeting focusing on the area near Dale and Orchard Park; specifically the corridor on Dale from Larpenteur to Maryland.

B. Pedestrian Safety Flags; replacement flags are made and all crosswalks have been re-stocked. Please report any missing flags to the NRSO committee.

C. City Wide Drop Off; this event was held on Sat 10/7/17; it was VERY busy, higher participation than in 2016. Amy, Debra and the representatives from the city will meet and discuss ways to improve things in 2018.

D. District 10 - Welcome to the Neighborhood Cards; Melissa and Michael have worked up the first version of this new outreach tool (attached). This card will be revised and the committee will decide on the size of the post-cards. The goal is to get this new program started in Q1 of 2018.

E. Comfort Cases; Melissa and Haley will champion getting the first few cases done and forwarded to Ramsey County to distribute to the foster kids in our district.

F. Holiday Yoga; this event is happening!!

- a. Sunday, Dec 3rd – 9am set-up and sign-in participants
- b. Yoga from 930-1030am
- c. Breakdown and cleanup from 1030-11am
- d. NRSO cmte members to provide; coffee, apple cider, breakfast snacks
- e. Participants to provide; mat or blanket, comfy clothes, donation for the event
- f. Event will be advertised in; Friday News Blasts & Facebook
- g. Event will be limited to the first 30 people to signup
- h. Yoga Instructor will be Meghan Hill from Como Yoga & Wellness on Front Street

V. Community member section – no additional topics presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.