



District 10
Como Community
Council
Special Election Guide

Oct. 16, 2018
7 p.m.
Como Park
Streetcar Station

Introduction

When vacancies occur on the Como Community Council Board of Directors, our By-Laws require that we hold a special election at the next regularly scheduled Community Council meeting. The Oct. 16 special election is to fill a term that expires on April 23, 2019.

A vacancy exists for one representative from Sub-District 4. The procedures for nominations, elections, candidate eligibility, and voter eligibility are governed by the Bylaws of the District 10 Como Community Council. The complete Bylaws can be found on our website.

Elections

Elections take place by secret ballot before the monthly District 10 meeting.

When: Tuesday Oct. 16, beginning at 7 p.m.

Where: Como Park Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway N (at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton)

Below is the list of community members who will be on the Oct. 16 ballot. These candidates submitted their names by the ballot deadline. Other candidates may be nominated from the floor during the meeting; they will be considered write-in candidates.

Voting

All residents age 18 or older who live in Sub-District 4 are eligible to vote. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in Sub-District 4. Sub-District 4 is commonly known as South Como and Energy Park. The boundaries are Dale on the east, Snelling on the west, and the two sets of BNSF railroad tracks on the north and south. In addition, the District 10 Bylaws allow all seated Board members to vote in all elections.

Community members must vote in person; there is no absentee or proxy voting.

Candidate Statements

Candidates submit their own statements for the positions they are seeking. These statements are reprinted below, with only minimal editing for clarity and consistency. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

If you have questions about voting or the elections, contact the District 10 office at 651-644-2889 or district10@district10comopark.org.

Candidate Statements

Office: Sub-District 4

Candidates

(vote for 1)

Alexis Baker

Ryde St.

My name is Alexis Baker. I live in SubD. 4 with my husband Steve. Originally from Des Moines, we moved here three years ago for work opportunities. Steve works in the bike (bicycle) industry, repping brands to stores all across Minnesota, and I have worked in human resources and labor relations for over 8 years. I am currently working for Metropolitan Council in Labor Relations, supporting harmony in the Council's relationships with its organized work force and the unions who represent them. Prior to working for Met Council, I worked in human resources for St. Paul Public Schools and state government in Iowa. I am an active volunteer, having volunteered for Breaking Free, Melvin Carter's campaign, and Meals on Wheels, among others.

As a public servant, I know first-hand the power public organizations have to impact real change for the citizens it serves. I also know first-hand how bureaucracy, politics, and mismanagement can derail good intentions. I am running to be elected to District 10's Council as a representative of Sub-Division 4 to serve the interest of my constituents while also reaching compromises, balancing budgets, and making thoughtful policy changes that are sustainable for the future. I believe strongly in equity, in acknowledging and undoing systems of oppression, and in access for all. While I have many passions and interests, I believe zoning and planning initiatives are critical for supporting our neighborhood-for-all. I envision increased public transit access, affordable housing and food, community employment and engagement resources for under-served populations, and ongoing beautification of our (already beautiful) schools and community gathering places.

We love our street, our neighbors, and Como Park. We're often out and about, biking, taking a yoga class at Como Park Yoga, or walking our fluffy black doodle Ashworth around the lake (he's hard to miss). Serving on District 10's board would be an opportunity to join a truly amazing group of concerned citizens and community members who share a passion for serving their neighbors.

Angelique Dahlberg

Burgess St.

I am a new homeowner in South Como, although I grew up and spent nearly all my childhood in the Como neighborhood. My husband and I bought our first home this past summer and are excited to be a part of this community. I have a B.S. in Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin Madison, a M.S. in Integrated Biosciences from the University of Minnesota Duluth and am currently a fulltime PhD student in the Conservation Sciences program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I started my PhD program this *(continued on next page)*

past September; before that I worked for four years at the St. Croix River Association as their Invasive Species Program Lead, and for one year before that for the Cook County Invasives Team as their Invasive Species Coordinator.

I have experience both reporting to and being a part of a Board; my career thus far has been working entirely for non-profits, and I have served on the Board of Directors for the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (2016-2018) and on the Leadership Team for the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (Co-chair 2017, Chair 2018, Past Chair 2019). In my free time, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, walking around Lake Como, and visiting different parks throughout the metro and state. As a natural resources scientist and outdoor enthusiast, I am passionate about connecting people to their outdoor public spaces, and about fostering relationships and growing communities through access and use of those places.

Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek

Como Place

I have lived in St Paul for the last 8 years, and live now with my wife and our puppy Napoleon. I'm a digital marketing and business development manager for a business over on West 7th. When I'm not doing that, I'm working in our little urban orchard and vineyard and brewing all kinds of beer.

I also work with refugees with a program called Paper Airplanes, which helps recent refugees from around the world learn English as a tool to help them in their future.

I'm currently on the exploratory sub-committee for the potential Dog Park in Como Park.

Love being involved in the community and I want to help by serving in whatever capacity I can.

Election Procedures

The following election procedures shall be presented to and approved by a majority of members present and voting at an election for the Board of Directors, before nominations begin.

1. A Director may not preside over the election to an office for which the Director is a candidate.
2. As the first order of business, the Board will appoint at least two tellers to collect, maintain, and count ballots. The tellers must not be running for office or be a member of the household of any candidate.
3. There will be separate ballots prepared for each office up for election. Members will receive their ballots when they sign the voting roster.
4. Members will receive ballots to vote for Officers and for At-Large Directors. Members will also receive ballots for their specific Sub-District. Directors will receive ballots for all positions for which elections are being held.
5. Members and Directors may cast their ballots at any time after tellers are appointed. Ballots will be collected in separate ballot boxes or envelopes for each office up for election.
6. Candidates who have put their name into nomination sufficiently in advance of the meeting nomination will be listed in alphabetical order by last name. Additional candidate may be nominated from the floor as write-in candidates.
7. Members may nominate themselves or other members. A member nominated by another must accept the nomination in person or in writing before becoming a candidate.
8. Nominations and voting for each office will take place in the order the vacancies are listed in Article VI, Sections 3 & 4 of the Bylaws.
9. Nominations for each office will remain open until closed by motion or by unanimous consent.
10. After nominations for an office are closed, all candidates will be given the opportunity to speak on their own behalf, and to have one additional supporter speak on their behalf. Speeches will be limited to 90 seconds each.
11. Voting for each office will remain open until closed by motion or by unanimous consent.
12. After voting is closed on an office, the tellers will count ballots and report the winning candidate for each office to the Chair or to the chair pro temp. Candidates may request to observe the count, or have a representative observe the count on their behalf.
13. A plurality vote is sufficient to elect a candidate, except where the members have by motion decided to proceed through preferential voting, in which case the procedures in Rule 4 will be followed to determine the winner of an election.
14. In the case of a tie vote between two candidates, the Chair or the chair pro temp will flip a coin to determine the winner.

Preferential Voting

Subdivision 1. If the members have by motion decided to proceed through preferential voting, then the votes will be tallied in the following manner:

1. Each member shall indicate by number on the member's ballot the order in which the member prefers the candidates for the office.
2. In counting the ballots, the tellers shall first arrange the ballots into piles according to the first preference indicated on the ballots;
3. The tellers shall count and record the number of ballots in each pile;
4. If after counting the ballots one of the piles contains a majority of the ballots, then that candidate is declared the winner;
5. Otherwise, the ballots from the pile with the fewest ballots are redistributed according to the next-lower preference indicated on each ballot. The tellers shall set aside any ballots that fail to indicate a next-lower preference. If two or more candidates are tied for the fewest ballots, all of the tied candidates are eliminated and their ballots redistributed. The steps are then repeated beginning at Step 3.

Subdivision 2. If, after eliminating all but two piles, there is a tie for the winning candidate, then the winner shall be the candidate who received the strongest preference, as indicated by the record of the first-round vote count. Further ties are broken by referring progressively to the subsequent rounds of vote counts. If reviewing all rounds of vote counts fails to break the tie, then the Chair or the chair pro temp will flip a coin to determine the winner.

Subdivision 3. If more than one vacancy is to be filled for the same type of office, then the same counting procedure is followed until a number of piles remain equal to the number of vacancies to be filled. If a round of eliminations would bring the number of candidates below the number of vacancies to be filled, then that round of elimination will be resolved as if it were a tie between candidates being eliminated, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Step 6.