



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

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ryan Flynn called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:07 pm. 65 community members registered.

Elections

**MOTION:** *Approve the election procedures (Farrow/Pursley)* **Passed**

**RESULTS**

Chair – Ryan Flynn

Secretary – Tim Post

Sub-District 1 – Cari Ness Nesje

Sub-District 2 – Maggie Zimmerman

Sub-District 3 – Mike Ireland

Sub-district 4 – Andrew Johnson

At Large – Wesley Farrow, Haley Fruen, Adina Weseman

Special Election – At Large Vacancy – Kevin Dahm

**MOTION:** *Authorize the amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of District 10.*  
**Passed**

Board chair annual report

Ryan Flynn reports that the board's committees are active, with new project initiatives coming forward, and the board reevaluating the work it does. This year, D10 will continue events such as the ice cream social, neighborhood garage sale, Como Fest, and the citywide drop off.

Over the last year, visits to D10's website increased 34 percent, with 140 new subscribers signing up for the D10 weekly newsletter. D10's Sunday Series hosted a

number of speakers on various topics, the board assisted the community with several projects, and will continue working closely with the city and county as well as Dockside.  
Treasurer's annual report

Amy Perna reports that D10 has a modest surplus of \$175 for 2016. 84 percent of D10's revenue comes from the city, Perna recommends D10 diversify its revenue through fundraising and grant-writing.

Audit Committee report

Board members Wesley Farrow, Melissa Liu, and Adina Florea Weseman spent four hours recently digging through D10's financial reports. They found D10 in good financial shape.

Community Concerns

A D10 resident expressed concern over pedestrian safety in light of traffic in Como Park. Michael Kuchta reminded residents that they should report any concerns to St. Paul Police, with specific information, so the department can send officers to the location if possible.

Other residents expressed concerns over the loss of many neighborhood trees due to emerald ash borer infestations, and the lack of tree replanting.

Chair Ryan Flynn called the Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

**District 10 Como Community Council Monthly Board meeting**

**I. Call to order**

Chair Ryan Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:51 pm

**II. Board introductions**

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

Staff: Michael Kuchta

**III. Review, amend agenda:**

**MOTION:** *Approve the agenda.* **Passed by acclamation**

**IV. BOARD BUSINESS SECTION**

A. Minutes and financial statements

**MOTION:** Approve April 2017 meeting minutes and financial statements.

*(Farrow/Heyer) Passed (Abstention: DeBoer Massoudi)*

B. Officers' report Joao Medeiros says D10 officers spent their last meeting preparing for the annual meeting.

C. Committee reports

**Environment** Mike Ireland reports the next Sunday Series is May 21 at Orchard Rec Center; it will focus on lawn and garden landscaping, 1-2:30pm. The spring Como Community Seed Library event follows from 2:30-4 pm.

Planting and mulching takes place at Churchill Gardens on the morning of April 29. The citywide clean-up is on April 22.

The next environment committee meeting is April 26. The Friends of the Mississippi River want to do a storm drain mural on east parking lot of the Como Lake; the environment committee will look into that.

**Land use** Kevin Dahm said the committee discussed the Lexington Avenue survey at its last meeting. Nothing yet to put into a motion, but that conversation will continue at the next meeting.

The committee also discussed the noise and traffic complaints from neighbors near the German Immersion School. Citing some significant issues, the committee is putting itself forward as a mediator between the school and neighbors, and wants to move forward with some official action.

The committee will look into the State Fair overlay at its next meeting, as well as grouping of railroad cars in Como.

The committee has surveyed neighbors on the south side of Como Lake about a dog park. Most people are in favor, except the neighbors directly across from some proposed sites. Locations are still being scouted.

**MOTION:** *D10 is in favor of investigating the creation of an off-leash dog park in the Como Park neighborhood.* **Passed**

**Neighborhood Relations and Safety** Melissa Liu said the committee didn't have quorum at its last meeting, but had a good discussion. The Como Neighborhood Garage Sale is May 20. The committee heard an update on safety flags and their potential usage at crosswalks.

Liu said there is a national orienteering competition coming to Como Park on April 28. The committee's next meeting is May 2.

D. Staff report

Michael Kuchta reports that he's nearly back to full hours after his medical leave.

After last year's garage sale, some residents requested more publicity, perhaps lawn signs for participants. At their last meeting, the D10 officers suggested taking the issue to the board, since the cost to print 100 signs would be \$330-\$360. Board members discussed and decided that instead, D10 should send a PDF so those involved can print their own sign.

Michael has been watching the variance issue with parking at the Falls Events Center, the German Immersion School parking issues, and handling logistical work around the planting of community gardens and the Sunday Series.

## **VI. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm by Ryan Flynn.

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

## Como Community Council Officers Meeting

May 10, 2017, Historic Streetcar Station

The meeting began at 7:05 pm.

Present: Ryan Flynn, chair; Joao Medeiros, vice chair; Tim Post, secretary; Amy Perna, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, staff.

### Events

- **Garage Sale.** About 40 residents have registered, which is down about 10 from 2016. Debra Pursley has begun building the map.
- **Sunday Series.**
  - The residential landscaping session on May 21 has five confirmed panelists. We are coordinating with Dawn Lamm of the Como Community Seed Library, who will hold a plant and seed exchange immediately afterward. We are working out logistics to have the parks department deliver additional tables to Orchard Park Rec Center. We will also need to haul a screen and projection equipment; Amy volunteered to provide a vehicle and help with that.
  - Capitol Regional Watershed District will give a Como Lake water-quality presentation June 11 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Como Dockside.
- **Ice Cream Social.** Neighborhood Relations has begun planning more details; event will be similar to last year, with tables for community partners and lawn games. A Saint Paul fire truck and bicycle police officers will attend if possible. Additional entertainment will be provided with face painting and the “Bubble Baron.” We are waiting on Jon Heyer to respond about whether his band is willing to perform again. We are still looking for an ice cream donation; Amy says Schroeder’s no longer does this.
- **ComoFest.** Planning continues. Our Ice Cream Social is the first event July 14. The art fair and a new block party hosted by Beloved Studios are July 15; Lyngblomsten’s Mid-Summer Festival and North Dale’s movie night are July 21; the Block Nurse Program’s walk/run is July 22; Northwest Como’s campout is July 28, followed by an adult kickball tournament July 29. TopLine holds an event July 29, possibly in connection with Gabe’s; details are still being finalized. In addition, M Studio Fitness will offer a free yoga class in coordination with the art fair and walk/run.
- **Como Neighborhood Social.** Haley Fruen has taken the lead in planning this June 4 event at Orchard Park. She has food trucks and other activities lined up. A flier, a website story, social media events, and other publicity is under way.

### Community

- **Churchill Gardens.** Volunteers put in another work day April 29, adding about 140 new plants, mulch, and a new sign (which required a city permit). Plants cost about \$300; we will be reimbursed by Capitol Region Watershed District.
- **Community Garden.** Six plots were available for this season; Barb Clark is working through the waiting list. Plots have been marked and tilled, and compost delivered. The board still needs to appoint a board member to serve on the leadership team.
- **Como/Snelling business district study.** Sarah Arnold delivered the first draft of her report. She and Michael met to revise it and identify gaps. The biggest

challenge is meeting with more of the business owners in the area. Sarah has hours left, so will be more aggressive in trying to schedule interviews. We will tentatively ask her to present to the full board in June.

- **Como Park Senior Living.** Michael will invite CEO David Grzan to the June officers meeting for an update.
- **1062 Front.** May 1 was the halfway point in the city's 120-day extension to bring the property up to code. We have gotten conflicting information from DSI and the Ward 1 office about any progress. Michael will continue to follow up.
- **Lexington Parkway.** Land Use will bring an action item urging the full board to pursue the traffic and pedestrian changes supported by residents in our survey.
- **Safety flags.** Neighborhood Relations will try a pilot project installing safety flags for pedestrians to use at high-risk intersections in the neighborhood. The committee will bring an action item to approve the cost of materials.
- **Twin Cities German Immersion School.** Land Use has devoted most of its past two meetings to collecting and discussing issues that neighbors have raised in five areas: traffic, parking, noise, the rubber material in the playground, and the school's inconsistent communication and outreach. These issues are discussed in a Monitor article; D10 is mentioned but was not contacted. Goal is to find solutions to put in place for the new school year.
- **Temporary Family Health Care Dwelling Units.** Land Use intends to bring an action item urging Saint Paul not to opt out of a state law allowing homeowners to use RVs and similar vehicles for these purposes on their property. The City Council is scheduled to vote May 17, so there is no time for a D10 community survey. Joao and Ryan discussed the controversial history of this legislation.

### Communication

- **Website.** Panod has transferred all the files to AWS. After initial testing found some glitches, he made adjustments. Michael has not had a chance to test the latest version. Because of the upcoming Garage Sale, Sunday Series events, and June 4 Community Social, we will not switch servers until after those events are over, to avoid having a website inaccessible. Officers also began discussion of how to thank Panod for his work.

### Financials

- **2017 work plan.** Michael has not completed this yet. Amy volunteered to help.
- **Grants and fund-raising.** Amy has scheduled a brainstorming session for officers and committee chairs to discuss additional projects the council could take on, and how we might fund those. Session will be May 24, probably at 7 p.m., location to be determined. Results will be discussed at board retreat.

### Organizational Business

- **Board retreat.** Amy will talk with Debra Pursley about whether and when Summit's training room might be available. Agenda will include: Michael giving an overview of the board packet; Joao giving an overview of parliamentary procedure; discussion of results from the grants and projects discussion.
- **Board meeting May 16.** Michael will try to schedule a guest presenter, possibly Mark Lindeberg from MnDOT to discuss their final proposal for expanded pedestrian and bicycle facilities Snelling Ave. between Midway Parkway and Hamline University. Joao noted that neither the bylaws nor the articles of

incorporation state the external boundaries of D10, and wondered if we need a “sense of the board” resolution to codify those. Officers decided that is unnecessary.

### Staff Report

- Michael reported on these topics:
  - **Soundset.** He has talked with Fairground management about changes being made at this year’s festival, which is Sunday May 28. Adjustments will be made in stage location, sound monitoring, traffic flow, transit routes, parking restrictions, and other areas raised by District 10 in 2016. Michael will post a comprehensive article on the website and link to it from the Friday newsletter.
  - **Trees.** City Council votes on additional funding May 17 for stump removal and replanting. On an unrelated tree topic, we have received some complaints and questions from residents west of the park about work being done by the private contractor hired by Xcel. Concerns focus on debris and lack of notice. Michael talked with John Marshall from Xcel, and questioned whether current notification procedures are adequate and effective. They will continue these discussions.
  - **Safe Routes to School.** Michael attended a review session April 19 on the draft Safe Routes to School plan for Chelsea Heights Elementary. Implementing some of the ideas likely will exceed the capacity of school staff and require neighborhood involvement.
  - **Edible Gardens.** Michael followed up with Robert Wright, who raised the idea at the Annual Meeting of establishing public orchards and other garden space in Como Park. City policy forbids those uses in “regional parks” such as Como, but allows them in other public space. In addition, Environment Committee members suggested a half-dozen projects in the Twin Cities that address similar goals. After an initial flurry of emails, Michael has not heard back from Robert.
  - **Stop for Me.** The first event of the year in D10 will be Sunday May 28 from 5-6 p.m. at Como and Pascal.
  - **Public Involvement.** Michael has been involved in a city Innovation Grant project team researching the district council system in Saint Paul and similar systems in Boston, Portland, and Seattle. The initial reports were presented to the City Council and other district council staff. Phase One focused on the capacity, priorities, and accomplishments of district councils; Phase Two will focus more on challenges and improving effectiveness of district councils. Simultaneously, the city has a work group examining how city departments conduct their community engagement efforts. It seems clear that one outcome of the efforts will be a requirement that district councils more effectively reach and involve their entire communities, especially communities of color and other under-represented residents. In D10, that largely would mean more effective engagement with renters. Ryan also noted that although some district council staff meet regularly, there is no similar connection among board chairs or officers, for example.
  - **Rent.** Nothing new to report on our lease. We continue to go back and forth with the city on whether we own them an additional month’s rent or not;

our records show we are up to date and that they misapplied a payment in 2016.

- **Organics Recycling.** Hanson Bros., the company that installed the fencing at the dropoff site, says the reason the gates seem to be sagging is that both posts have been hit. Repairs would cost \$570. Consensus is to delay repairs to see if the problem gets worse. Also, this could be a fund-raising opportunity.
- **Traffic.** Michael has been in contact with public works, traffic enforcement and the Ward 4 office over the impact of drivers diverting from the Snelling construction zone through residential streets in the neighborhood. MnDOT has posted some barricades in the hopes of dissuading this traffic. Consensus of officers is that temporary speed bumps are probably the only effective solution.

### **New Business**

- **North End.** Officers discussed the Pioneer Press story about the turnover in leadership in District 6. Ryan will follow up in a few months, if the dust settles, to see if there is interest in cooperative efforts around Dale St. or Como, Front and Dale. Discussion also noted some of the broader dynamics in play, including a generational shift and the need to ensure that people can have a say and know they are heard, even if results don't go their way.
- **Ash Trees.** Ryan is scheduled to meet with parks director Mike Hamm to follow up on the processes for replacing ash trees. In particular, he will focus on making sure city FAQ sheets address residents' likely concerns and questions, and that there are clear and available processes in the permitting process if residents want to plant their own replacement trees, or if residents want to pay for larger replacement trees.
- **Ad Hoc Committee.** Ryan intends to appoint an ad hoc committee to follow up on Melissa Liu's suggestion that D10 set up designated liaisons with institutions in the community. The committee will have to decide issues such as how to choose institutions, and the expectations for the liaisons.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

*Notes taken by Michael Kuchta*



## **District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 pm

### **Minutes**

#### **Present:**

Mike Ireland, Bill Sylvester, Michael Kuchta, Erin Dooley, Maggie Zimmerman, Mehr Aslani, Adina Weseman, Dawn Lamm, Bill Niebur, Terry Chaney, Terri Alberico, Julie Wegscheid

#### **STANDARD ITEMS**

- 1. Call to order 7:17**
- 2. Committee member and guest introductions**
- 3. District 10 board meeting summary – Erin, Maggie and Mike**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

**1. Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC) Presentation - Terry Chaney**  
He was also present last summer. They are a local nonprofit that works with Excel Energy to do audits and energy savings strategies and materials. Residents could choose either install or audit, now they are recommending the “enhanced” program, which does a quick installation of simple items – weather stripping, low flow water faucets, light bulbs, etc. and an audit, plus they can recommend contractors for energy efficiency upgrades. They are about to merge with Center for Energy and the Environment, which works in the west metro with Centerpoint Energy. CEE has a policy team, research team, commercial partners. The Home Energy Squad will still remain in St Paul on University and Wheeler, but the merger will allow the new conglomerate to work more out state.

Cities can work to monitor energy usage and create plans to cut carbon emissions. NEC is focused on residential efficiency, rather than solar/other alternatives. Combined service includes blower door, examination of insulation, infrared (temperatures permitting), bulbs, etc. The audit takes approximately 2 hours with blower testing and infrared.

**2. Annual Spring Seed Exchange event on May 21 - Dawn Lamm**

The event is taking place at the Orchard Rec center in conjunction with the Landscape Sunday Series. There are opportunities to come early and do some sprucing up. There are several electronic media contacts happening (next door, community facebook pages), as well as 2000 cards for committee or D10 members to disburse. There is a link to a google doc to sign up for volunteering – greeters, plant ID, etc. with the D10 newsletter.

**3. Neighborhood resources fair - Dawn Lamm**

**4. Churchill Gardens update – Erin**

The spring planting and maintenance event will be this Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (Sunday as a

rain delay alternative), beginning at 10:00 (but 9:00 is an option) and going until noon or so. Volunteers are still needed. Snacks will be provided.

#### **5. Climate Action event held on 2/27 - Bill Devroy**

#### **6. Minnesota State Science Fair Awards - inviting students to the June Sunday Series (consider if they could have a table and discuss their projects) – Erin**

We have two students so far from each Murray Middle and the Friends school who can share their boards at the June Sunday Series.

#### **7. Sunday Series – Everyone**

- **U of M Monarch Butterfly Lab – April 2** debrief

Approximately 36 attendees, presenter made accommodations for children attending. It was a hit.

- **Landscape and Garden Design – May 21**
  - Orchard Rec Center
  - Como Community Seed Library's "Como May Share Plant and Seed Exchange (2:30 pm to 4 pm)

We have the site from noon until 5:00. Volunteers are needed.

- **Shallow Lake Ecology – June 11**
  - Possible location: Lakeshore
  - Capital Region is looking at a new presentation
  - Como Active Citizen Network is willing to coordinate

AV system is all set. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the pavilion.

#### **8. 2017 Environmental committee initiatives discussion – Everyone**

The draft of the Initiatives should be looked over and feedback given at that point.

#### **9. Miscellaneous Stuff - Mike**

- Minute taker needed for our July meeting
- City of St. Paul LED streetlight test and feedback (until May 17)  
[peakdemocracy.com](http://peakdemocracy.com) (LED survey)
- Support Water Quality Standards Based on Expert Science and Public Input (email from Michael): [mepartnership.org](http://mepartnership.org)
- MacGroveland Community Council's "Water as Our Resource: 2017 Workshop Series" (email from Michael) <http://macgrove.org/waterworkshops>
- Organic compost site new hauler and bag rotation supplies
- Friends of the Mississippi River storm drain "mural" in the Lake Como eastern parking lot



## **COMMUNITY SECTION** – open for community input

- Healthy Hives Healthy Lives event put on by Beyond Pesticides happening this Friday and Saturday at the Humphrey school, registration is \$45.
- Pollinator Garden on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers needed.
- Controlled burns have happened around the lake. Improving habitat for dragonflies and other.

### **Updates from community partners (if present)**

- **Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom** - Teri Heier and Susan Jane Cheney
- **Como Compost Subcommittee** – Michael Kutcha
- **Pollinator and Traffic Triangle Garden** – Maren Swenson, Sandra Peterson, and Bonnie Youngquist
- **Capital Region Watershed District** - Mike MacDonald
- **Como Active Citizen Network** - Janna Caywood
- **Como Lake Pollinator Garden** - Angie Sechler
- **Garden Skillshare and Harvest Exchange** - Dawn Lamm
- **Como Lake Cleanup** - Jacki Morrison
- **Clean Energy Resource Team** – Bill Devroy
- **“CARS” Update** - Cathy Velasquez
- **Transition Twin Cities** - leveraging resources and people within District 10

### **Upcoming events and dates to remember:**

- May 20 Como Area Yard Sale
- May 21 Landscape and Garden Design Sunday Series (1 - 2:30 pm)
- May 21 Annual Spring Seed Exchange “Como May Share’s “Plant and Seed Exchange” 2:30 - 4 pm
- June 4 South Como Community Building Event
- July Como Fest on the weekends
- July 14 District 10 Ice Cream Social
- Fall Como Community Parade

### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** May 31 at 7:00 p.m. (the last Wednesday of each month)

**Como Community Council--District 10  
Land Use Committee  
Wednesday May 3, 2017  
Streetcar Station**

**NOTES**

**Present:** Kevin Dahm, Darius Massoudi, Michael Kuchta (staff)

**Absent:** Jon Heyer

**Community:** Kris Anderson, Doug Siekmann, Bill Sylvester, John Carlson, Josh Dworak, Linda Koskela, Arturo Sanchez

**Call to Order:** Kevin Dahm called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Agenda

**Temporary Medical Dwelling Units.** Kevin reported that Saint Paul plans a hearing May 17 on whether to opt out of a state law allowing temporary medical dwelling units. City is concerned about fire safety and the costs of an unfunded mandate. Members discussed the city's position and the use these dwelling units are likely to receive. **M/S/C to send letter in support of allowing temporary medical dwelling units in Saint Paul.** This will be advanced as an action item at the May 16 board meeting.

**Lexington Parkway Survey.** Members discussed results of the Lexington Parkway survey. **M/S/C to recommend that District 10 adopt issues supported by residents, and pursue implementation with Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Saint Paul Parks, and MnDOT, as appropriate.** This will be advanced as an action item at the May 16 board meeting.

**Dog Park Working Group.** No update.

**Como Snelling Business District.** Michael reported that roughly 375 residents completed the online survey. Intern Sarah Arnold completed the first draft of her report, and is now going back to fill in gaps and attempt to interview more of the business owners. Findings from this survey could be a foundation for similar work on the business districts near Front and Lexington and Como / Front /Dale. Darius suggested that reports look at possibilities for rezoning in those areas that would allow for more development options and density.

**Twin Cities German Immersion School.** As a follow-up to April meeting, committee members continued discussion with those neighbors present over their concerns about the impact of school operations on nearby residents. Many believe school is getting too big, and have fears of impact if enrollment continues to increase. (School website now lists enrollment at 477 students.) Specific concerns break down into these issues:

**Noise.** Noise from children playing during recess has a serious impact, especially for houses to the east of the school, which are separated only by an alley. However, neighbors on Van Slyke also say they cannot open their windows because of the noise. This happens at numerous times of the day: 8, 10 and 11 a.m., noon hour, and from 3-5 p.m. One neighbor has recorded consistent levels of 70-85 decibels, using a smartphone-based app; says city code allows only 65 decibels at peak. Some neighbors raised concerns about health impacts of that level of noise. Discussion yielded these potential approaches:

- Get city to take official noise readings
- Encourage school to continue researching installation of sound-deadening, anti-echo material on exterior of building

- Have school install a baffled sound barrier between playground and nearby residences
- Have school install sound-proof windows and doors in affected residents (similar to what airports are required to do)
- Count how many pupils are on playground at various times; limit the number allowed at any one time
- Split the playground or move the playground (though some residents note this may not solve the problem, only move it to other neighbors)
- Ask school to hold recess in Como Park more often

**Traffic.** A high percentage of students arrive in private vehicle, rather than in buses, which causes traffic congestion, safety issues, and parents who sometime block driveways, alleys, and bus stops during morning dropoff and afternoon pickup times. Discussion yielded these potential approaches:

- Require school to use Como Pool parking as drop-off point; school then would run shuttle buses or vans to and from school. There should be little conflict, because school year and pool operation do not overlap.
- Ask police to enforce violations in queues (cars too close to driveways, intersections, alleys, bus stops, etc.)
- Ask school to set up more bus routes.

**Parking.** When school opened and built addition in 2013, it was required by city to have 32 off-street parking stalls, which meets city code requirement of 1 stall for each staff member. School meets that requirement: it currently has 35 off-street stalls. However, school website says school now has 64 staff. That means many staff are now parking on nearby streets. This often makes it difficult for neighbors to park in front of their own houses.

School staff are able to use the lot at Mission Presbyterian Church two days a week (this lot has 15 stalls). A rough survey shows there are about 50 on-street parking spaces on streets adjacent to the school: Van Slyke, Como, and Oxford.

School superintendent has asked staff not to all park on Van Slyke. As a result, there is some improvement, neighbors report. However, they say same thing happened in 2013, and they fear backsliding. Discussion yielded these potential approaches:

- Reach agreement with school that staff will park in dispersed locations around neighborhood.
- Create lawn signs in which neighbors ask "Please leave me a spot"
- Create lawn signs in which neighbors say it is OK for school staff to park in front of their house
- Ask police to enforce parking violations (too close to driveways, intersections, alleys, bus stops, etc.)
- School encourages staff to car pool, use alternate transportation, or use public transportation. School can encourage this by participating in Metro Transit's discounted MetroPass program for employers.
- When school lots are full, require staff to park at Como Pool lot. School can run shuttle van back and forth.
- Set up residential permit parking area. (Linda Koskela will investigate process for doing this.)

**Playground.** In addition to noise, neighbors are concerned about the rubberized playground material, which emits an odor, often blows into alley and nearby neighbors' yards, and may be a health hazard and threat to water quality of Como Lake.

**Communication.** Neighbors say that since the previous community outreach committee disbanded, they feel the school ignores their concerns. If they go to the school board meeting, they are given two minutes to make a statement and receive no feedback. They say that because of leadership turnover at the school,

previous agreements with neighbors no longer are enforced. Discussion yielded these potential approaches:

- Re-establish community outreach committee, or assign one school staff person to address neighborhood concerns
- Establish an email hotline where neighbors can send concerns to same person and know it will be answered
- Contact school's authorizer (website says it is Germanic American Institute).

Darius urged neighbors to reach consensus on what their priorities are, so we know how to focus our energy. Kevin urged them to continue to work through District 10, so there is a unified approach. Goal would be to do work that is necessary during remaining month of school year, then reach agreements to be in place for next school year.

- Michael will contact city about parking requirements and noise levels.
- Kevin will contact superintendent, invite to next meeting, and discuss community relations in general.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday June 7 at the Streetcar Station, 7 p.m. Committee will invite in city staff to explain State Fair overlay districts.

Kevin noted that he will be absent for the July 5 meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Notes compiled by Michael Kuchta

*These notes are not official until approved.*

Como Park District 10's Neighborhood Relations, Safety, and Outreach Tuesday,  
5/2/2017 at 7:00 pm  
Agenda - Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

PRESENT: Haley Fruen, Debra Pursley, Melissa Liu (Chair), Bill Sylvester, Jennifer ?, Wesley Farrow, and Michael Kuchta (Executive Director)

#### II. Introductions

#### III. Review of 4/4/2017 minutes and overview of April full board meeting

A. Welcome to Haley Fruen, at-large member of the Board and Andrew Johnson SubDistrict 4 rep! (These two have attended other NRSO meetings.)

#### IV. Business

A. Guest presenter: Tamara Larsen, Community Prosecutor for the St. Paul City Attorney's Office

"As you may know, community prosecution is about working with the community to identify concerns about public safety and crime and to develop and implement strategies to address the problems that are the community's highest priorities. Our goal is to reduce and prevent crime and to ensure that the justice system works for all members of the community."

KUCHTA - Highlighted that D10, as a relatively low crime neighborhood, works largely with traffic, pedestrian and public safety concerns. There are some forced entry property crimes, but most are opportunistic.

FRUEN - Concerns about drugs in the neighborhood, particularly as it relates to landlords who fail to responsibly manage properties. LARSEN to follow up to see if she can help with a particular property.

LIU - Hopes that we are the most boring district. Some garage break-ins, some drug issues, but otherwise most community issues are not severe crime related. So perhaps D10 can play a unique role in seeking to proactively address community issues of racial equity, community engagement, etc. Highlighted that Nextdoor can be an amplifier of local issues. Perhaps STPD bike patrol and/or horse patrol could be helpful in and around Como Park.

SYLVESTER - Mentioned that car break-ins rise considerably in the summer months, and tend to be non-residents visiting Como Park.

LARSEN - Highlighted the importance of calling the police first; before posting to Nextdoor, Facebook, etc. to try to figure out what happened. Police can be strategically responsive to reports, so the more info they have directly the better they can do their jobs.

JENNIFER - Highlighted concerns about State Fairgrounds increased people and car break-ins without sufficient patrolling, particularly around evening hours.

#### B. South Como Community Planning

1. Answers to March's questions

2. Signing up volunteers and getting the word out

-Scheduled for Sunday June 4th from 4pm to 7pm

-Plan to advertise throughout District 10, with a focus on Subdistrict 4

-Set-up to start at 2pm

### 3. Update from Haley

-Taco truck, hot dog cart, cravin' pies, and milk mart ice cream truck all lined up

-Parks and Rec planning to set up table with activity info, District 10 table and also Block Nurse Program table also in the works

-Blackhawks offering use of 4 tables and 70 chairs, KUCHTA can order additional chairs and tables from Parks and Rec and will ask about garbage cans and recycling (there are dumpsters on site)

-Blackhawks offered to set up kids soccer games, plus FRUEN and PURSLEY have access to a couple sets of bean-bag toss, FRUEN will look into a bubble-guy, PURSLEY to look into slack line

-Water to be sold for \$1 a bottle, PURSLEY can do water

-Committee decided to skip a Bouncy House for this year, since it's hard to manage and may cause liability issues

-DJ available for discounted \$150

-KUCHTA clarified that we have an umbrella policy so we contact the insurer for each event with a basic scope

-Nametags to be included

-Total budget looks like it's under the \$500 amount, so remainder can go toward street-crossing flags to be announced at the event

-St Paul Pedestrian Safety Advocate will be invited to event for street-crossing flags kick-off

-FRUEN plans to get decorations from Dollar Store, plus she has lots of sidewalk chalk

-FRUEN, PURSLEY and FARROW to help set up at 2pm on June 4

-FRUEN got boys and girls soccer volunteers for the event

### C. Community Yard Sale 5/20

1. The committee decided to forego the specialty signs but want to have a PDF available for the sellers to download and print on their own as needed

2. Map? Other considerations?

-PURSLEY to take on the map (only 12 sign-ups so far)

### D. Ice Cream Social

-Friday July 14th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm

1. Plans for the tables, layout, and activities

-Learn from and copy the Como Neighborhood Social

-Police bike squad and Fire Dept truck are invited

-LIU to invite Como Block Nurse Program and contact Mike Ireland at Environmental Committee

-KUCHTA to invite Park Bugle

2. Have the 20 tables reserved from Parks and Rec, 2 bike racks need to be reserved from a nonprofit

3. Recruiting help from D10 board members

-Board meeting in two weeks will include a sign-up sheet

-LIU may be able to get Church to sponsor ice cream and/or toppings as well as volunteers



-Jon Heyer's band might play, Underground or high school bands might also be options

#### E. Fall Parade

-Overall direction is unclear, as there have been many conversations about various ways of approaching a parade-type event

##### 1. Update from Amy Brendmoen

-LIU in contact with Brendmoen's office, KUCHTA can further conversation in his meeting with them next week

-SYLVESTER suggested that this committee has done enough this year, and the committee seemed to agree. A parade concept may develop organically over time.

#### F. Safety Flags

##### 1. Update from Sara Wein and the Snelling "flag guy"

-Thorough background on "how to" and what is required

-List of intersections generated by residents for last year's stop for me campaign is available as a starting point for identifying intersections for pedestrian flags

-Discussion of identifying about 5 intersections for pilot before expanding

##### 2. Budgeting and funds available

**MOTION - District 10 will purchase and NRSCO will coordinate the placement of pedestrian safety flags at five pilot locations within District 10.**

V. Community Member Section (This is the time when members of the community can raise questions, concerns, or ideas for the committee to hear.)

VI. Next meeting on 6/6/2017 at 7:00 pm (Melissa Liu will be out of town and Wes Farrow will likely conduct the meeting.)