



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting  
Historic Street Car Station  
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tuesday, June 18, 2019  
7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

- Action Item from Land Use: Hmong Festival sound-level variance
- Action Item from Land Use: Gabe's Mini Mingle sound-level variance

**I. Call to order**

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**II. Board Introductions**

Present:

Alexis Baker, Sara Benzkofer, Rebecca Calvo, Annie Huidekoper, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Amy Perna, Sarah Reuter, Amanda Rohrer, Marika Staloch, Debra Verber, Maggie Zimmerman, Cody Zwiefelhofer

Staff: Michael Kuchta

Absent: Thomas Coburn, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Jill Henricksen

Neighborhood Introductions

**III. Review, Amend agenda:**

**MOTION:** *Approve the agenda (Zimmerman/Perna) passes*

**IV. Community Section**

**A. Guest Presentation: Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen**

Introduced herself, her role, her family. She is Ward 5 (Ward 4 and Ward 1 are also part of District 10). She is open to questions.

She spoke about switching the way the City worked on the budget. This year, they started the budget process by talking about the priorities in the neighborhood. Community First Public Safety, Transportation Safety for Schools, Sales Tax Dollars increase - how do we divide that money equitably.

Wants to thank D10 for the amazing clean up event. Many people don't understand the bulky trash service that's part of our trash contract. Cities have to determine how to haul trash. Petition was filed about organized trash service based on the ordinance of how they collect the

money. Judge has said it will go to the electorate. City Council appealed. City Attorney says hold tight. Trash is messy.

Schiffman Fountain has been restored. Benefactors, City Council and D10 partnership helped restore the fountain.

Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) and Save Historic St. Andrews (SHSA): Council members were asked to sit aside because they were in a quasi-judiciary role. This was a challenge as a resident and community member. At this point there is a lawsuit outside of the city role, and she is now able to discuss the situation. Thanks for being good neighbors and facilitators.

Updates: When is Lexington Crossing coming? Working with Danner; hopefully will be a part of the Grand Round connection through the North End of Como between Western and Rice Street. Hopefully all will be completed this year.

Maryland - 11 houses being put up by Habitat for Humanity. Looking for volunteers - including 'women build' days.

D10 and D6 are working at Como/Front/Dale - Working with Rainbow Daycare, increasing Como, the Temple Facade work, parking for Aesop's Table.

Rice and Larpenteur: Maplewood, Roseville, two county roads, a lot of density. 2 pedestrian fatalities this winter. Changes coming this year..

Shooting at BP at Como/Front/Dale. Victim is not cooperating to talk about who was involved. Please report anything if you know/hear anything. Overall, this is an incredibly safe neighborhood.

Come see Amy Brendmoen - office hours at Rice Street Library, Lake Laps (about 300 since she took office), she will go in any weather - but will not run.

Mike Ireland had a question about the mediation (TCGIS/SHSA): Concerned about the mediator's report being bleak about resolving differences. Some folks are looking at D10 as also being part of the problem and now we are trying to be part of the solution. Her response: Mediator was seeking a zone of potential agreement. Positive at looking at a healing process with groups of neighbors that are willing to dig in and find opportunities to change the outcome in a meaningful way that works. Allow for people to have time to grieve. Mike encouraged to watch the entire city council meeting.

City Plowing Alleys questions: Only 60% of the city has alleys. The council member, Bostrom, who had this as his pet project is no longer a council member. Right now it's just being looked at. Issues are people sharing costs, having a hard time getting plows. Opt-in plowing program is an idea she's in favor of. Not a lot of appetite on the council to dig into this right now.

Alexis Baker asked for an update on Ford Plan, Saint Paul Thrive 20/40 comp plan. Ford Plan is moving forward with the developer. Thrive/Comp Plan vote is tomorrow. Participation rates were very high - got engagement from all populations.

Cody Zwiefelhofer had a question about what we should expect to see housing policy standpoint. 71 million dollars that the Mayor advanced is a three-year program. We have a very talented Housing Director, Kayla Schuchman, who rolled out different programs that are tying into the housing fund. Looking at a tenants bill of rights, working with Land Trust on some

pieces of housing, some changes for requirements for public funding on a policy level. Might be a good speaker to come in to a D10 meeting.

B. Board chair report (Melissa Liu)

Thanks to all that volunteered at the City Wide drop off. It was well run and most people were happy. Thanks to the folks at the fountain memorial and who are helping with the audit.

We are starting to plan a Board Retreat this summer to discuss how to take learnings from the Nexus trainings and move forward with them.

C. Treasure's Report (Mike Ireland)

Revenue

Miscellaneous income

\$388 for garage sale (budgeted income was 30 people @ \$15 = \$450)

\$731.80 income from sale of compost bins (net income was \$731.80-\$375 for expenses in April Sunday Series line item=\$356.80)

Expenses

Professional Services/Communications

\$196.70 Go Daddy 5-year domain renewal

\$378 Constant Contact annual subscription renewal

Insurance

\$322 Liability and Umbrella policy renewals

Miscellaneous Expenses

\$240 Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom plantings

Innovation Fund

\$905.87 Personnel (community organizer)

\$290.05 Food for NEXUS community engagement workshop

Community Garden

\$150 annual tilling

Sunday Series

\$120 The Good Acre rental

Recap	Month	YTD	FY Budget
Revenue	\$1,145	\$13,876.10	\$81,365
Expenses	\$7,202	\$33,202.81	\$81,345
Net income	(\$6,057)	(\$19,326.71)	\$20

D. Community Concerns:

Maintenance on boulevard trees: have to duck under low trees. Some residential hedges and trees are blocking some sidewalks. Alexis Baker and Michael Kuchta suggested calling DSI (266-8989) or Forestry (266-6400).

Adopt a Drain - people are adopting them but not actually taking care of them. Maggie Zimmerman says you can feel free to clean any drain. We are all in this together.

Bike Trail - What is D10's involvement in planning and input. How far is the planning? Concerned for boulevard trees. Big picture is it's going to happen. Question is: what is it going to look like? Michael Kuchta: Second open house. Updated proposal shows that they're listening: retaining parking and as many trees as possible. This will eventually be a part of the Land Use committee; this is the place where we weigh-in.

## V. Board Business Section

### A. Minutes and financial reports:

**MOTION:** *Approve May 21, 2019 meeting minutes and financial report (Zimmerman/Zweifelhoffer) passes*

**MOTION:** *Approve May 21, 2019 budget.*

*The D10 will adopt the 2019 amended budget. Motion Passes*

### B. Officers' Report: (Melissa Liu)

Amy Perna had staff credit card increased.

House Audit is underway.

Website Developer is currently working on new website.

### C. Committee updates

#### • **Environment** (Sara Benzkofer)

Changed meeting to 2nd Wednesday of the month starting in August. Planning pollinator garden tour of 10 gardens. Creating a map and flyer. Volunteers will be needed for that day. If you're able to help, contact Mike Ireland or Michael Kuchta.

Como Lake Cleanup on June 1, 30 participants (up from 15 the year before.) August 3 is the next one.

Next meeting is June 26 at 7pm. Russ Stark will present the Saint Paul plan to combat climate change.

#### • **Land use** (Maggie Zimmerman)

Quiet meeting this month. Updates on spaces in neighborhood. Como HS sound pilot is moving forward — they are hiring a sound engineer at this point; Como By the Lake senior living committee pedestrian - especially commute to the bus stop. The city has a threshold for the number of people who need to cross an hour for a marked pedestrian plan. The city's new pedestrian plan has provisions for dangers for set up - this will help us move forward.

TCGIS/SHSA: City Council declined to give historic designation, approved site plan. Got the site plan back on the table, which helped address a lot of issues of parking, traffic, etc. This site plan had components that both sides wanted, so a win. Accessory dwelling variance: ADU was approved.

**Action Item:** Hmong Freedom Festival sound-level variance

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Moved that the District 10 Como Community Council supports the sound variance for the 2019 Hmong Freedom Festival at McMurray Field on July 6-7, 2019, under the conditions set forth by the Department of Safety and Inspections. **Motion passes**

**Action Item:** Gabe's Mini Mingle sound-level variance

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The District 10 Como Community Council supports a sound variance and extension of service variance on its liquor license for Gabe's by the Park during its Mini Mingle event in July 2019. **Motion passes**

• **Neighborhood Relations and Safety (Alexis Baker)**

Upcoming Ice Cream Social, please volunteer if able to serve ice cream, gathering supplies, games, set up and tear down. Coolers and Lawn Games are being collected if you have them to borrow.

Como Connect is simultaneous with the Ice Cream Social we have 12 confirmed organizations including a D10 table.

Looking at food access in our community.

D. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Flyer to explain D10 helps explain who we are, what we get involved in and how folks can get involved.

Como Trail Open House was earlier today. Proposals are more refined and up on the website. There are tradeoffs on what we can do with space.

Looking into healing process to build toward in our community. Looking at what Frog-town District Council has done.

Nexus Community Engagement Training is complete. They are available to us as we try to implement some of the ideas that have come through these trainings.

E. New Business. None

VI. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm by Melissa by Melissa Liu. (Baker/Perna)

*Respectively submitted by Marika Staloch. These minutes are not official until approved.*

## **Como Community Council: Officers Meeting**

July 10, 2019 (Lake Monster Brewing)

Present: Melissa Liu, chair; Mike Ireland, treasurer; Marika Staloch, secretary; Michael Kuchta, staff.

### Events

- **Renters outreach.** Organizer Emily Rodriguez led a “cookies and conversation” June 22 at Hamline Pointe. Two primary takeaways: interest in a “slow roll” bicycle ride so newer residents can learn about the neighborhood, and desire for a “communal” garden and orchard in which residents could help themselves to food. This is similar to a suggested made a few years earlier by an unsuccessful board candidate, so we have done some research into stretches of Midway Parkway as a possibility. Unfortunately, just as in that case, no one wanted to take the lead in planning such a project. Emily is scheduling a cookout at California Drive apartments for late afternoon Tuesday July 23.
- **Upcoming events.**
  - Board Retreat: July 18
  - Renters Outreach: California Drive: July 23
  - North Dale Summerfest: July 25
  - Lake Clean-Up: Aug. 3
  - National Night Out: Aug. 6
  - Community yoga: Sept. 8
  - Lake Clean-Up: Oct. 12
  - TopLine Financial Seminar: Oct. 22
  - Community yoga: Dec. 1

### Community

- **TCGIS/SHSA.** Michael attended most of the 2-1/2 days of hearings in Ramsey County District Court on the preservation group’s lawsuit to block demolition of the former St. Andrew’s church building. School expects to have demolition permit from city sometime the week of July 15; Judge Jennifer Frisch says she will issue a ruling or temporary injunction before then.

### Communication

- **Website.** Designer Joshua Murray has built out more of the framework; you can view progress at <https://167d10cc.aeronauticvigilante.com>. Michael will meet with him on July 25. One immediate question: Do we want pink to be the dominant color?
- **Monitor newspaper.** Melissa and Michael met with new owner Tesha Christensen and business manger Denis Woulfe. Long-term, they are looking at phasing out free columns of news and events for district councils and other organizations in favor of reduced-rate “advertorial” space. They suggested a rate of \$500 for a half-page. Officers note that would be \$6,000 a year, which would pay for 35 weeks of our organizer. Officers want to investigate the effectiveness of their ads, wonder how the paper will get content if we can’t afford to pay, and how their deadlines affect our ability to communicate in a timely fashion.

### Financials

- **In-house audit.** Alexis Baker, Jill Henricksen, and Amanda Rohrer began the audit on June 23, but ran into procedural issues. Without violating transparency and safeguards, Michael and Melissa have attempted to answer questions they raised and provide more information and context so members can complete their work.

- **Contracts.** Our main city grants for 2019 -- Community Engagement and Innovation – are being routed for signatures at City Hall. Once final authorization is complete, we will be able to file for reimbursements for expenses from the first six months of the year.
- **Grant income.** Michael distributed an update on spending and revenue for all of our current grants. Current receivables are \$37,000.18.

### Organizational Business

- **Board retreat.** July 18 upstairs at Cozy’s Pub from 6-9 p.m. Use of space is free, but we will not have staff available to serve us. Michael will circulate menu to board members so we can order in advance. As is traditional, D10 will cover food; board members will cover their own beverages. Agenda:
  - Introductions and ice-breaker (Mike)
  - Basic board orientation (Michael). PowerPoint will give overview of operations, using board packet as framework.
  - Community survey (Amy)
  - Lessons from Nexus (Amy and Melissa). We will use Open Spaces techniques, with 3 tables and 2 rounds of 20 minutes. Discussion will focus on role of service, outreach, and authentic engagement in our work, and how our priorities, meetings, and structures fit into each model.
- **Ward 5 candidate forum.** No update. Still hoping for early fall event at Lakeside Pavilion.
- **Annual meeting.** Michael will check with other district councils who hold them for ideas on how we might revise ours away from simply an election and business meeting.
- **Board meeting July 16.**
  - Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali Nelson will be guest presenter.
  - Melissa will seek ratification of appointment of Jill Henricksen to Neighborhood Relations Committee.
  - Board chair report and treasurer’s report will move out of “community” section and into “business” section to reduce overlap. We’ll take a reading on how this works.
  - Cody Zwiefelhofer expects to be able to live-stream the meeting.
- **Future presentations.** Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo is scheduled for August. Michael will attempt to schedule Public Works director Kathy Lantry and Housing director Kayla Schuchman for September and October.
- **Leadership meeting.** We will shoot for September, with focus on discussion and potential implementation of ideas that result from board retreat. Michael will set up Doodle polls to seek best options for dates.

### Staff Report

- **State Fair.** Michael continues to talk with officials from DSI, parking enforcement, Saint Paul Police, and city attorney’s office about building on last year’s standards for consistent enforcement around State Fair issues. State Fair will not pay for the overtime for a dedicated parking enforcement officer beyond the weekend dates it now covers. City says it will attempt to dedicate an assignment, but it will be part of a regular shift. A potential new issue this year: Food trucks setting up on neighborhood streets.
- **Como HS.** Michael is supposed to meet this month with representatives of the high school, DSI, and local colleges to discuss the athletic field sound proposal for the school. DSI is still trying to schedule.
- **Como by the Lake.** Aeon, the property’s owner, plans a grand reopening July 30 from 4-5:30 p.m.

- **Copier.** Michael is working to sign and send all the proper paperwork to get the old copier shipped out and the new copier installed. This should happen in a few weeks.

Other Business

- **August meeting.** Will be rescheduled to Thursday Aug. 15.



# District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Agenda

June 26, 2019 at 7 pm

## PRESENT

Jennifer Victor-Larson, Sara Benzkofer, Thomas Coburn, Amanda Rorher, Bill Niebur, Mike Ireland, Erin Dooley, Mike MacDonald, Sam Holle, Tom Lucy, Jill Henricksen, and Michael Kuchta

## STANDARD ITEMS

- Committee Member and Guest Introductions, including City of St. Paul's Chief Resiliency Officer Russ Stark
- Review of Previous Meeting Minutes and the Agenda- None
- District 10 Board Meeting Summary -None

## PRESENTATIONS

- Russ Stark, Chief Resilience Officer, City of St. Paul had a powerpoint presentation summarizing the City's Climate Action and Resilience Draft Plan. The presentation was compelling as it showed the current effects of climate change on the City of St. Paul, identified the goals of being at 0 emissions by 2050, and identified strategies to reach the goal, including getting people to drive less and increase transit and biking, walking options, and identified partners including Xcel Energy, the Port Authority and libraries. After the presentation, there was considerable discussion on several topics including paying for this work through property taxes vs assessments and solar gardens or districts.

The draft plan is available <https://bit.ly/2K9pGsl>. You can submit comments on the draft before next Friday, July 5 here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/climate-plan-feedback>

## MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

- **Need Volunteer to Take Minutes:** Sara Benzkofer noted that Jill Henricksen has agreed to temporarily take minutes for the committee, but that the committee needs to identify another committee member to take minutes.

**Please reach out to Sara if you are willing to help out!**

- **2019 Legislative Summary**
  - The Year of the Bee!
    - New State Bee, Rusty Patched Bumblebee (only left in 10 states, including MN)
    - \$900,000 to Board of Water and Soil Resources for grants to homeowners who add pollinator habitat to their yards. The funding will reimburse 75 percent of the cost. Funding available Spring 2020.
    - Funding to continue a statewide survey of wild bees, including bumblebees.

- 35W Bridge lit up on June 17 for Rusty Patched Bumblebee and National Pollinator Week
- Office for Outdoor Recreation
  - Grant program called No Child Left Inside, aimed at getting kids into nature. It received \$700,000 and will be administered by the DNR.
  - Read more here: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/06/03/wolves-deer-and-a-new-state-bee-how-the-environment-fared-at-the-legislature>

## INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- **Bike Trail Amenities**—Amanda Rohrer reported that she contacted someone at the city about getting amenities on the Wheelock Bike Trail. The city staff informed her there was no funding available for this. Michael Kuchta is wanting to plan a Slow Roll bike ride between Lake Como and Lake Phalen and partnering with other District Councils and will work with Amanda to build momentum for amenities.
- **Como Connect-** Mike Ireland reported that we are in need of volunteers for the committee table at the Ice Cream Social/Como Connect.
  - Environment Committee Table; Need Volunteers, Discuss Handouts
  - Need Volunteers
- **Pollinator Garden Tour Planning** –Mike Ireland reported that they now have 9 gardens for the tour including private residential gardens and community gardens.
  - Clarify volunteer shifts & responsibilities: **Shifts are flexible. You can help set up and/or clean up or you can volunteer at one of the houses. To date they have only 2 volunteers and more are needed!**
  - Sign up to volunteer here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-kB6OYU7qcnw1hbsQdIxxpr46nvLbqRmGlFYyZhg6w/edit#gid=0>
- **Spring Café Receptacle Update**—Michael Kuchta reported that there is now 1 trash can at the lakeside area of the pavilion. More recycling and composting receptacles are needed. Michael K. will meet with the VP of Lancer to discuss this further.
- **Receptacles at Como Lake** --Mike Ireland reported that he had taken photos of areas around the lake that are in need of trash cans or dual trash/recycling that are clearly marked to avoid confusion. Mike will send his photos to Michael K. to follow-up with Parks and Rec.
- **Pumped Hydroelectric Energy Storage** - Bill Devroy was not in attendance
- **New Volunteers Needed: Adopt-a-Drain Challenge Campaign Strategy:** Numbers of drains being adopted has gone up, but more are still needed. Amanda Rohrer agreed to compare the map Andrew Gustin created to the map of drains still needed to be adopted.

	6/2019	5/2019	12/2018
Como	163	132	116
Hamline Midway	87	79	40
Mac/Groveland	51	46	12
Union Park	45	39	11
Highland	55	55	16
St. Anthony Park	13	13	5

## **ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- July 24, 6-9 p.m. 2 hosts needed for the Public Art Saint Paul event.  
Jennifer Victor-Larson offered to both open and close the building for this event.

## **SYNOPSIS OF RECENT EVENTS**

- Como Lake Cleanup—Mike Ireland reported that approximately 35 people volunteered and 50 lbs of debris was removed from the lake. Next clean up is August 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-12
- Citywide Drop-Off—Mike Ireland reported that the weather was good, approximately 50 cars shorter than last year, but they had 25 senior pick-ups, the highest number to date.

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

Master Water Steward classes are being held at the Capital Region Watershed District that will teach methods for improving water quality of lakes

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 3—Como Lake Clean-Up, 9-12

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Next NEW Meeting Time:** August 14 at 7 pm at the Streetcar Station, NO MEETING IN JULY