



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway N, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

- Action Item: Como Pathways recommendations (approved)
- Action Item: Ayd Mill Road (approved)
- Action Item: Como Active Citizens Network (approved)
- Action Item: State Fair Overlay District (approved)

I. Call to order

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Introductions (name and neighborhood)

Board Present: Alexis Baker, Sara Benzkofer, Rebecca Calvo, Thomas Coburn, Jill Henricksen, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Sarah Reuter, Amanda Rohrer, Marika Staloch, Debra Verber, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Maggie Zimmerman, Cody Zwiefelhofer

Board Absent: Annie Huidekoper

Staff Present: Michael Kuchta

64 community members signed the voter register. Two other guests were present.

III. Review, Amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda (first/second) passes*

IV. Community Section

A. Special Election: Vice Chair

Thank you to Amy Perna for her service as a very active member and Vice-Chair. Amy has resigned from D10 for family life/volunteer/work balance reasons, leaving a vacancy for Vice-Chair.

A. Adopt Election Procedures (first/second) passes

A. Alexis and Olivia are named tellers

B. Nominations:

On ballot: Cody Zwiefelhofer

Write in: Jon Knox

C. Close nominations (first/second) passes

B. Candidate Presentations

Jon Knox spoke on his candidacy. Barbara Clark spoke on his behalf.

Cody Zwiefelhofer spoke on his candidacy. Ben Siefert spoke on his behalf.

C. Voting

MOTION: Close voting (first/second) passes

MOTION: Reopen voting for three neighbors who arrived late (first/second) passes

MOTION: Re-close voting (first/second) passes

(Guest presenter spoke while tellers counted votes)

Tellers reported back: Cody Zwiefelhofer is elected. This leaves an opening in Subdistrict 4; special election will be scheduled for Oct. 15.

B. Guest Presentation: Public Works Director Kathy Lantry

Overview: Public Works is responsible for street design, mill and overlays, street lighting, street signs, stop lights, etc. Public Works is the largest city department by budget (\$162 million) and 370 full time employees. 9.6% of the general fund goes to public works (46% of that goes to street maintenance.) Within public works, about \$30 million is in general fund and 81.2% is special funds (54% going to sewers). Sewers are annually \$71 million: it's a utility worth about \$2 billion.

Garbage: Program currently has about 73,000 units in the program, 82% are single-family. 60,820,000 lbs. of garbage have been removed since October 2018. Bulky Item Collection is included: this is a large item that would not fit in the garbage bin. Missed collections: We're pretty good: .001% were missed. This does not include weather delays. Extreme cold, icy roads can delay service - this happened about 5 times. Complaints sent to haulers have been steadily declining. System changes of this magnitude causes growing pains.

Ordinance on Nov. 5 Ballot: Should Ordinance 18-39, entitled "Residential Coordinated Collection," remain in effect for residential trash collection in St. Paul? Ordinance 18-39 creates new rules for the collection and disposal of trash and payment for trash service; and requires that certain residential dwellings have trash collected by a designated trash hauler. A "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of keeping Ordinance 18-39. A "No" vote is a vote to get rid of Ordinance 18-39.

City is not allowed legally to advocate for or against referendum. Minnesota Supreme Court has not issued full written opinion. StPaul.gov/garbage can give some overall information. If the referendum is successful in repealing the ordinance, this will not repeal the contract. Will need to raise the levy to pay haulers. We see it as a public health issue.

Lowering Speeds on City Streets: State Legislature granted cities the authority to set speed limits on city-owned streets. Only applies to city-owned residential and arterial (main) streets. This does not apply to state or county roads (Snelling, Lexington, and Dale will not be touched by this ordinance.) City must conduct a safety, engineering, traffic study; use appropriate signage; communicate change to public. Research shows slower is safer. An information session will be Thursday October 3 5:30-6:30 at the Rondo Library.

PCI = Pavement Condition Index: ASCE Report Card based on a scale from 0 (Failed) to 100 (Good); Saint Paul earned a "C" (our average is 62). They assessed all Saint Paul streets. (Minneapolis averaged 69.) 40 or lower is when complaints start coming in. It would cost St. Paul \$46.5 million per year (\$24.5 million per year increase) to get streets to a 65 Overall PCI. To get to 70 Overall PCI, it would be \$51 million per year (\$29 million per year increase.). Residential seal coating occurs August-September every 8 years; arterials receive mill and overlay. Crews also do fall sweeping; pothole-patching is year-round. Upcoming projects in District 10: Como Trail (2020); Energy Park Drive (2020 – Ramsey County project); Wheelock-Grotto area residential reconstruction, scheduled for 2023.

Contact Public Works: 651-266-6100 or 651-266-9700 (after-hours/weekends). Email: publicworksinfo@ci.stpaul.mn.us Web: www.stpaul.gov/publicworks Twitter: @stpaulpublicw or @cityofSaintPaul

Community Questions/Comments:

Can city shovel crosswalks and other snow residue left by plow crews?

Kathy: There is pilot project with Metro Mobility to hand-shovel 15 locations; cost is \$50,000. To do that citywide would be extraordinary; the numbers start to add up really quick. If we were to hire 100 people, it's hard to know what to do with them at other times. Plows are in no-win situation: If they go too fast, they throw the snow and bury a sidewalk; if they go too slow, snow doesn't get to the curb.

Multiple questions and comments on traffic-calming techniques and 25 mph speed limits, some in support, some saying they reduce traffic capacity, cause back-ups and congestion, and force drivers onto side streets.

Kathy: We have changed how we do roads. We used to try to get folks through neighborhoods quickly. Now pedestrian safety comes first. Then bikes. Then bus riders. Then single-occupancy vehicles. Not doing this to cause traffic jams. This is different than we did years ago.

One comment challenged adding a bike lane to Ayd Mill, saying city cannot maintain what it has.

Question (Mike Ireland): Does Public Works have environmental requirements, expectations or goals built into their operational plans?

Kathy: Come Clean program run by recycling folks to clean up the neighborhood. Lot of outreach to multi-family dwellings. Recycling amounts are going up in those units. Sewer program has 'using water as a resource.' Alianz Field has a holding tank under the field to divert rain water to keep out of sewers. Site is 35 acres plus the surrounding area. Ford site uses water as an amenity.

Follow up: With Como Lake being an urban shallow lake surrounded by high tree density, it is disproportionately impacted by the high levels of phosphorus from fall leaves. Would Public Works doing a second fall street sweeping - targeted at the lake's watershed subdistrict - fit into your environmentally-friendly focus and, if so, would you consider doing this?

Kathy: Yes

Follow up: Who would be the best person for us to work with in Public Works?

Kathy: You can contact me.

C. Community Concerns

Meeting last night for the TCGIS parents last night and neighbors were told to come to D10 for a debrief. Neighbors were not allowed in. Debra spoke as a parent who was at meeting, saying the FBI was there to address concerns that the parents had about the safety of their children; same with police. Construction company was there. Other neighbor said to check out Amy Brendmoen's Facebook update on the Como Neighbors page. Maggie said she'd ask for an update.

V. Board Business Section

A. Minutes

MOTION: *Approve August 20, 2019 meeting amended minutes (first/second) passes*

B. Financial reports (Mike Ireland)

Notable Revenue: We were reimbursed \$3,338 through the COPP grant fulfilling our 2018-19 annual budgeted amount of \$4,724. The City is discontinuing the COPP grant program effective 2020 for district councils; therefore we will no longer budget for one

Since the end of August, we have been reimbursed \$29,200 from the Community Engagement grant for the first six months of this year. We also have accounts receivable from the city of roughly \$16,200 for July and August that we will submit for reimbursement from the Community Engagement grant, closing out 2018 for the Innovation Fund grant, and the Citywide Drop-Off

reimbursements. The CRWD will reimburse us over \$1,800 related to the Como Lake Cleanup thought the Partnership grant.

This totals approximately \$47,200 that, when added to the balance at the end of August (\$10,983.33), equals over \$58,000 in reserve

C. Board Chair and Officer's Report (Melissa Liu)

We have given the new website developer an October 15th deadline.

In-house audit should be completed and the report will come up next month.

Leadership meeting: Officers met with chairs. We spent the majority of the time digging into the community survey. Leaders were all present and looking ahead to take info from community and put it into practice.

Thanks to Mike for going on TV through SPNN to talk about work on D10.

D. Committee Updates

- **Environment** (Sara Benzkofer)

Como Pathways: Rebecca Calvo is chair of subcommittee that has come up with recommendations regarding signage. Kudos given to Rebecca for her work.

One question about wheelchairs on bike paths. Open houses were during snow events.

Perhaps we put the PowerPoint on the website.

- Action Item: Como Pathways recommendations

- Moved, that the District 10 Como Community Council approve the recommendations of the Como Pathways Project, to create a road map so that pedestrian and bicycle paths in Como Regional Park are more useful to more people more often. *Passes*

Ayd Mill: Sara spoke to the recommendation to support Mayor Carter's budget proposal to reduce Ayd Mill Road to the two motor vehicle lanes.

Question about traffic studies. Support for the recommendation to move forward and be considered. Question, can we change recommendation if engineers find that this will increase traffic congestion. If we support this, that means a letter will say we support this initiative.

- Action Item: Ayd Mill Road

- Be it resolved that the District 10 Como Community Council supports Mayor Melvin Carter's budget proposal to reduce Ayd Mill Road to the two motor vehicle lanes on the west side of the corridor and convert the eastern two lanes to a bicycle and pedestrian pathway. *Passes*

Como Active Citizens Network: Mike is part of the Como Active Citizens Network and they're leading a Como Curb Cleanup. This will help the health of Como lake by reducing the amount of phosphorus in the lake. They would like to have a non-financial (logo, participation) endorsement of this effort. Support from two members stating the benefits of this organization.

- Action Item: Como Active Citizens Network

- District 10 Como Community Council's non-financial endorsement of the Como Active Citizen Network's 2019 Como Curb Cleanup. *Passes*

- **Land Use** (Maggie Zimmerman)

Back to the 50s. Several Neighbors are interested in vending and parking for back to the 50s event (120,000 people attended on Saturday) so this is a similar sized event as the State Fair. Neighbors cover the weight of this, so they'd also like to benefit financially. It was fairly uniformed support for this from the neighbors that showed up to Land Use. D10 can help explore the options and pull together the people who would need to be a part of this conversation and support listening sessions to talk about the impact.

Question: regarding street parking. One-sided street parking? State Fair turns the neighborhood into a circus; is this making the neighborhood into a circus?

Maggie: This came from a hyper-local, and there will be more listening sessions needed.

Question regarding timing.

Maggie: Likely not for this June.

Question: This is just exploration, correct? Is this also an opportunity to talk about the other issues, like the State Fair shooting and trash?

Maggie: This is part of a constant, ongoing issue. A motion like this makes us bring this to the table when this isn't the months when we're directly dealing with it.

- Action Item: State Fair Overlay District
D10 will explore activating the State Fair Overlay District for vending and parking during the Back to the 50s event at the State Fair Ground happening the third weekend in June.
Passes

Shalom Home: Last owner did asbestos and lead remediation. Neighbors are exhausted with the constant fences going up, landscape upkeep, windows broken, etc. For the first time, the owner is local (Minneapolis). New owner came to talk about the plans, which are currently in pencil, so not formal. They'll focus on rentals, mostly studio and 1-bedroom units, around \$1000/month. This is considered affordable housing, but not section 8. They anticipate graduate students from the U of M, Hamline, and folks downsizing who want to stay. Issues anticipated: parking (15-40 space variance is expected), noise. They plan to come to October Land Use meeting with a more concrete plan and with architectural plans. So far, it's an open conversation with new owner and they acknowledged issues from the neighborhood. Goal is no surprises for neighborhood.

State Fair Debrief: Record attendance and significant violence. What does the State Fair do with people they're trying to get out of the Fair Grounds? Push them into the neighborhood? Who has enforcement rights? It's dark on Midway, so as people leave Fair, could there be directional, temporary lighting? Would vegetation around the Fair help? Persistent rumor that the last day, the last hour is free, which makes for a crush of people at the end. D10 has put together State Fair Dos and Don'ts lists, but now that people are getting shot outside the fair, parking is no longer our biggest issue. Neighbor stated that the jurisdiction of visiting law enforcement ends at the State Fair gate. Lighting idea was seconded by a neighbor. Suggested Saint Paul police on our side of the gates - it's been around in years past, but was not seen this year.

Mike asked about the tattoo shop that moved. Land Use has not heard anything.

Paid parking at public parks. Michael said the concept of has been looked at for years. Parks is undergoing a study about cost, rates, off-sets, effect on visitors. They said there will be a public survey as part of this study. They do not seem to have a timeline for the study. Como Friends sent a letter to supporters opposing it. D10 did not get that letter. A few neighbors wondered why they didn't hear it from us and thought we had seen it and did not share it; this was not the case, D10 did not receive the letter. We get a lot of information, and we are trying to publicize these when they're being processed even when public comment is not a part of the process.

- **Neighborhood Relations and Safety**

Attending the Western District meeting is helpful because neighbors can talk directly to Patty Lammers and the captains.

Fireside Stories at the fire pits: Jill is pursuing this. Discussed cultural awareness and bias training as part of a Sunday Series.

Discussed food insecurity and food shelves.

Welcome Kits are now ready. Postcards will go out letting folks know they can pick up a welcome kit: Booklet. Composting. Seed packets. Perhaps Tickets to the Zoo. Question: is this just property owners? Yes, but will make the offer to apartment management to offer this to new renters.

E. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Continue to be in contact with the city and TCGIS. As construction plans develop. it impacts parking, drop-off access, busing. City stopped all drop-off from happening in Chatsworth Woods, switched it to bus only. Buses are now back on Como. Cars are back to normal. Looking at where staff and volunteers are parking. There should be a painted crosswalk at Como and Oxford; engineer acknowledged that it should be installed.

F. New Business

Resident Cory Plath asked a series of questions about how many renters are involved in D10. Expressed opinion that board should dismiss organizer position and return money instead of doing renter outreach. Said renters receive exact same communication as homeowners; if they want to be represented, they can come down and get involved. Said Minneapolis passed an ordinance for rent control; he had asked a couple of months ago for D10 to take a stand opposing rent control in St. Paul. He said he does not want to go to committee meetings and jump through hoops to make this happen. Said he believes D10 is trying to build support from the ground up, so it can then say it's a groundswell of support.

Issue of rent control was referred to Neighborhood Relations committee; Olivia said plan all along has been to bring it up in fall.

Resident Dolores Rufenacht said that when she worked for D10, she started block clubs at apartment buildings. Are those still existing? I don't hear about them anymore.

Cory Plath asked for the final tally on the vote for vice chair. Melissa reported it was Cody Zwiefelhofer 35, Jon Knox 27.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm by Melissa. *(first/second) passes*

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

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019 at 7 pm, adjourned at 8:56 pm

In Attendance: Julie Wegscheid, Sara Benzkofer, Rebecca Calvo, Amanda Rohrer, Bill Devroy, Brian Dockstader, Tom Lucy, Susan Jane Cheney, Jennifer Victor Larson, Erin Dooley, Jeremy Stomberg, Ariel Kagan, Angelique Dahlberg, Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta

STANDARD ITEMS

- Committee Member Introductions
- Amend/Adopt the Agenda

Mike Ireland added action item about Como Active Citizens Network

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- Pathways Work Group Report—Rebecca Calvo

See attached presentation/report for details.

Recommendations from the committee included changing wording from underestimated to overestimated, clarification on bathrooms peak-season vs. off-season, questioning signage requirement for which path wheelchairs should use, specific questions on newly recommended paths, and changing bike trails to two-way.

Major points made were that the St Paul Grand Rounds Bike Trail is being built, now connecting to Como Lake on the Wheelock side and extending through the park on the Western side with construction beginning spring of 2020 but despite anticipated increases in traffic and visibility, Como Park trails are not well-connected and have some maintenance issues. By highlighting those concerns, they can be addressed when funding becomes available.

Recommendations for publicizing the report and simplifying it were also proposed: solicit the Midway Monitor for an article, video presentation of major recommendations, create a one-pager of recommendations, and add the PowerPoint presentation to the web for a more approachable summary.

MOTION: Moved, that the District 10 Como Community Council

approve the recommendations of the Como Pathways Project, to create a road map so that pedestrian and bicycle paths in Como Regional Park are more useful to more people more often.

Motion passes with no dissent.

- Ayd Mill Road Resolution Discussion (See resolution below)—Ariel Kagan

Ariel Kagan, a community member, requested that the District Council pass a resolution in support for Mayor Carter's Ayd Mill Road reconstruction plan.

Questions arose:

Where does the traffic go? Ayd Mill is a diagonal in a part of the city where most roads are in a grid - does it serve a unique purpose? Not definitively answered, due to lack of city planners present.

Why should District 10 weigh in? 1) Ayd Mill Road is the border of two District Councils and has no defenders, 2) City's climate plan requires real action to support alternate (bicycle and pedestrian) modes of transportation and this is directly a part of that, 3) the bike trails will connect to the network of trails that will ultimately go through Como Park and a strong network will affect the use in other parts of the city, 4) traffic and transportation extends beyond political jurisdiction boundaries

What is the potential opposition? The opposition is not well-organized, but concerns about where the traffic will wind up are the most likely arguments.

What are the differences in cost? Isn't paving roads similar to paving bike trails? While requested detail was not available, one of the significant costs of Ayd Mill maintenance is the intensity of use, so reducing traffic along it should cut the frequency of repaving.

Is it safe to have fast traffic alongside a park? There will still be a median, pedestrian and bike lanes will be separated and protected from the major traffic. There are concerns for how to configure pedestrian paths along existing on- and off-ramps of the road, but support doesn't mean doing the city engineers' jobs.

What is the deadline? The city budget will need to be passed in November and there is a potential for a lot of loud voices against the plan. A voice in favor before then encourages city leaders to stay their course.

MOTION: The Environment Committee endorses the resolution

and forwards it to the full board for consideration and confirmation.

Motion passes with no dissent.

- Midtown Greenway Coalition—Mike Ireland

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is an organization advocating for a bike trail connector between the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway and Saint Paul trails - the focus is on a train bridge crossing the river from Minneapolis to Saint Paul. The railroad wouldn't allow access to assess the quality of the bridge for the addition of a bike trail, but a drone study was commissioned and a report was produced outlining the options at different cost points.

- Brainstorm Ideas for CRWD Partner Grant Application—All

- o Application can be found at:

- <https://www.capitolregionwd.org/grants/partner-grants/>

Last year District 10 applied for a grant to add trash receptacles around the lake, lake cleanup, and signs for the Como Curb cleanup. Only the funds for the lake cleanup efforts were approved, which paid for many supplies that will continue to be useful for the coming year. Other parts were rejected because they were considered to be a city responsibility (trash receptacles) or because they were logistically unworkable (extra street sweeping, which required more detailed knowledge of when city street sweeping would happen).

There seem to be few constraints on what funds can be spent on, but grants are for \$2000-\$20,000 and can't be tied to private property (that has a different grant process).

Prior research has indicated that most of the litter comes from people walking around the lake, not road runoff.

Brainstormed suggestions:

Como Curb Cleanup Branded bags - either tote bags to advertise the program or leaf bags (maybe in the vein of Halloween pumpkin bags)

Educational materials for outdoor classroom - this has been discussed in the past, but there isn't any need right now

Sunday series speakers

Lake programs for kids - water sampling or other testing
Food incentives for Como Lake Cleanup next year
Address leaves in alleys - an often forgotten part of the problem.

Deadline: Halloween, but there should be a draft for the October full committee meeting

Michael Kuchta, Jennifer Victor-Larson, and Amanda Rohrer will brainstorm and put ideas together for next meeting.

- Update on Woodland Classroom—Susan Jane Cheney

There was a summer hiatus, but Series of Nature spring events were successful. Next focus will be on encouraging use by schools and other education groups, attracting new advisory committee members, and addressing buckthorn, which is making a comeback.

- Adopt a Drain Challenge Results Recognition – Mike Ireland

Gift cards to local businesses will be suggested for large adoptors - those households were identified and Mike reached out to contact at Highland council but communication hasn't occurred.

SYNOPSIS OF RECENT EVENTS

- CRWD Tour of Como Lake—Mike Ireland

The first event had 10 community participants despite a quick turnaround time and the next event will be September 25.

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

Como Active Citizen Network is a leadership team of four people which started as the Como Curb Cleanup to address the problem that Como Lake is not stream fed and all water comes from rain or road runoff with the result being that a lot of contaminants make it into the lake. In commemoration of the 10 year anniversary of this group the watershed district has volunteered to fund the mailing of a postcard to all houses feeding into the lake to alert them to the need to protect lake waters.

MOTION: The Environment Committee recommends District 10

Como Community Council provide non-financial endorsement of the Como Active Citizen Network's 2019 Como Curb Cleanup.

Motion passes without dissent.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- CRWD Tour of Como Lake, September 25, 6:00-7:30
- Como Lake Cleanup, October 12, 9:00-12:00
- CRWD Partner Grant due October 31, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

- **Next NEW Meeting Time:** October 9 at 7 pm at the Streetcar Station

Resolution on Mayor Melvin Carter's Ayd Mill Road Budget Proposal

Whereas Ayd Mill Road is largely used by drivers in the southeast suburbs to cut through Saint Paul from Interstate 35 to Interstate 94 for the purpose of more quickly reaching Minneapolis;

Whereas the City of Saint Paul spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to plow, fix potholes, resurface and otherwise maintain Ayd Mill Road;

Whereas removing two lanes of Ayd Mill Road from motor vehicle use would significantly reduce these annual city maintenance expenditures;

Whereas Public Works estimates that it has almost a billion dollars in deferred street maintenance;

Whereas the city lost over \$32 million in annual revenue from special assessments due to a state supreme court decision;

Whereas the Saint Paul City Council passed a resolution in the early 2000s supporting a two-lane Ayd Mill Road, as opposed to the four-lane road unilaterally imposed by mayor Randy Kelly;

Whereas a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Ayd Mill Corridor is part of the Saint Paul Bikeways Plan, the city's Comprehensive Plan and various District Council Plans;

Whereas the trail is envisioned on all these plans as part of an extension of the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway, across the Mississippi River into Saint Paul, and community groups in both Minneapolis and Saint Paul are trying to restart the process of building this Greenway Extension;

Whereas a previous attempt to build this trail by taking land from CP Railway failed in 2010 because it was in violation of a Federal statute that forbids cities, counties and states from taking railroad land by eminent domain, and prior negotiations with the railroad (beginning in 2003) to purchase the land also failed;

Whereas Ayd Mill Road narrows to one lane in each direction at both ends creating traffic backups on it as cars attempt to re-merge at rush hours to enter Selby Avenue and Interstate 35E;

Whereas reducing Ayd Mill Road to one lane in each direction would eliminate these re-merging backups and have little impact on the road's overall motor-vehicle carrying capacity;

Whereas a sector of the Saint Paul community has been advocating for a linear park along the Ayd Mill corridor for over twenty-five years;

Whereas there are not many large parks or continuous walking areas in this central corridor of Saint Paul;

Whereas making Ayd Mill Road more "street-like" and putting plantings and a walking and cycling path next to it would make it a more pleasant space;

And whereas this might enable a small amount of housing development on the west side, generating sale and tax revenue for the city;

Be it resolved that we support Mayor Melvin Carter's budget proposal to reduce Ayd Mill Road to the two motor vehicle lanes on the west side of the corridor and convert the eastern two lanes to a bicycle and pedestrian pathway.

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2019 at 7 pm, adjourned at 8:20 pm, Historic Streetcar Station

In Attendance: Susan Jane Cheney, Sara Benzkofer, Amanda Rohrer, Jennifer Victor Larson, Thomas Coburn, Michael Kuchta

STANDARD ITEMS

- Committee Member Introductions

- Amend/Adopt the Agenda

Sara Benzkofer added Initiative items for Como Curb Cleanup and Como Pathways Report

- Review September Minutes

Approved with no objections

- Board Meeting Update - Letter to City Council, Mayor about Ayd Mill Road

A copy of the letter was distributed, no discussion

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- Committee Budget Discussion—Sara Benzkofer

At the next (November) meeting the committee will need to propose a budget with line items. Last year's budget and expenses were reviewed to help identify needs and priorities.

2019 Budget - Environment Committee Initiatives	Used	Proposed
Community Garden	375.87	475.00
Compost Site Expenses	143.61	650.00
Wayfinding Subcommittee Expenses	0.00	300.00
Printing	74.76	1000.00
Technical Support/Research	0.00	1000.00
Watershed Partner Grant Projects	1811.79	2400.00
Other Initiatives	0.00	400.00

Watershed Partner Grant Projects: this will be dependent on getting the grant this year. Last year was funded for the Como Lake Cleanup and expenses represent supplies that were purchased and that can continue to be used.

Technical Support/Research was proposed as a means of paying Andrew for the GIS labor related to the Pathways project, but his involvement declined and funds were never dispersed.

Printing expenses may represent committee-level detail or may not, that's unclear. However, part of the reason committee budgets are laid out is to give committees authority to spend without getting approval from the board as a whole for every purchase - the Environment Committee has many projects that require printing and some allocation is necessary. The annual total expenditure may also go up as Como Pathways project presentations may require formal materials.

Compost site expenses were allocated for :

- Weed control
- Rock poured for puddles and mud control
- Snow removal - this is the major source of the difference between the proposed and spent numbers. The vendor hired to manage snow removal was inconsistent and therefore was not paid as expected. For this winter, discussions with the Humane Society about contracting for the services of the maintenance people who handle snow removal there have begun and are optimistic, but costs have not yet been determined.
- Bags are supplied by the county

The Community Garden is self-sustaining. Participants pay \$25/plot which pays for water, hoses, and tilling. Gardeners manage themselves (there was once a board representative but that hasn't happened in recent years) and payment of the water bills, collection of fees, and needed paperwork are handled by the district council office. The \$475 represents the collected fees, not an additional expense.

Wayfinding Subcommittee: the project has now been wrapped up. Discussion was of next steps and District 10's role going forward - The Como Regional Park Advisory Committee should be apprised of the report, but since they were somewhat involved it's unclear whether a presentation needs to happen for procedural reasons or if it can be passed forward without that process. After that it will go to parks, but their agendas are very full for the next two months and that may not happen immediately.

While specific actions are not expected in the short-term, the project was intended to have well-planned and researched projects available on short-notice should funds become available or if they can be tacked on to maintenance project work plans. The report does

not prioritize recommendations partly for this reason, so that the city can be flexible in their implementation.

While formal meetings with the Parks Department have not yet occurred, some city officials were involved and many protocol-focused inquiries were addressed. The goal was to follow city procedures as best as possible so that the results would be acceptable to the department. This is particularly relevant in signage recommendations - the design recommendations from the city's study have been pulled forward.

Other initiatives/ideas that should be added to the budget:

- Host a swap to divert goods from the landfill and encourage reuse. Jennifer Victor-Larson has been researching and while questions remain (how long to collect in advance, how to dispose of extra donations, costs to participants) a themed swap (media, fashion, kids, etc) could be put in the budget in a general way for next year
- Sunday Series topics could also be a budget expense - this leads to the next topic
- Sunday Series Topic Ideas—Sara Benzkofer

The Sunday Series is somewhat environmentally focused and mostly in the spring. History is a popular subject. Past topics include:

- Como Park history
- State Fair history
- Types of gardens
- Bee lawn presentation

Future topics that were suggested include:

- A local author who focuses on decluttering and has done other presentations about life stages and stuff management
- Sculpture restoration - the rededication was popular and could be expanded upon
- Pollinators and the bee sculptures in the park
- Equity - Neighborhood relations committee has been looking into this topic
- Ramsey County District Judge DeAnn Hilgers has reached out about how the judicial system can affect community initiatives and the role of the courts generally
- Eureka recycling - what gets into the waste stream and where does it go, what's the process and business model after recycling leaves our bins
- Como Connect - Neighborhood Relations Committee has absconded with the project with enthusiasm
- Bring more topics to November meeting
- Capital Region Watershed District Grant Proposal Review—Mike Ireland

MOTION: Thomas Coburn moved that the Environment Committee approve starting the application process for grant funding from Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD).

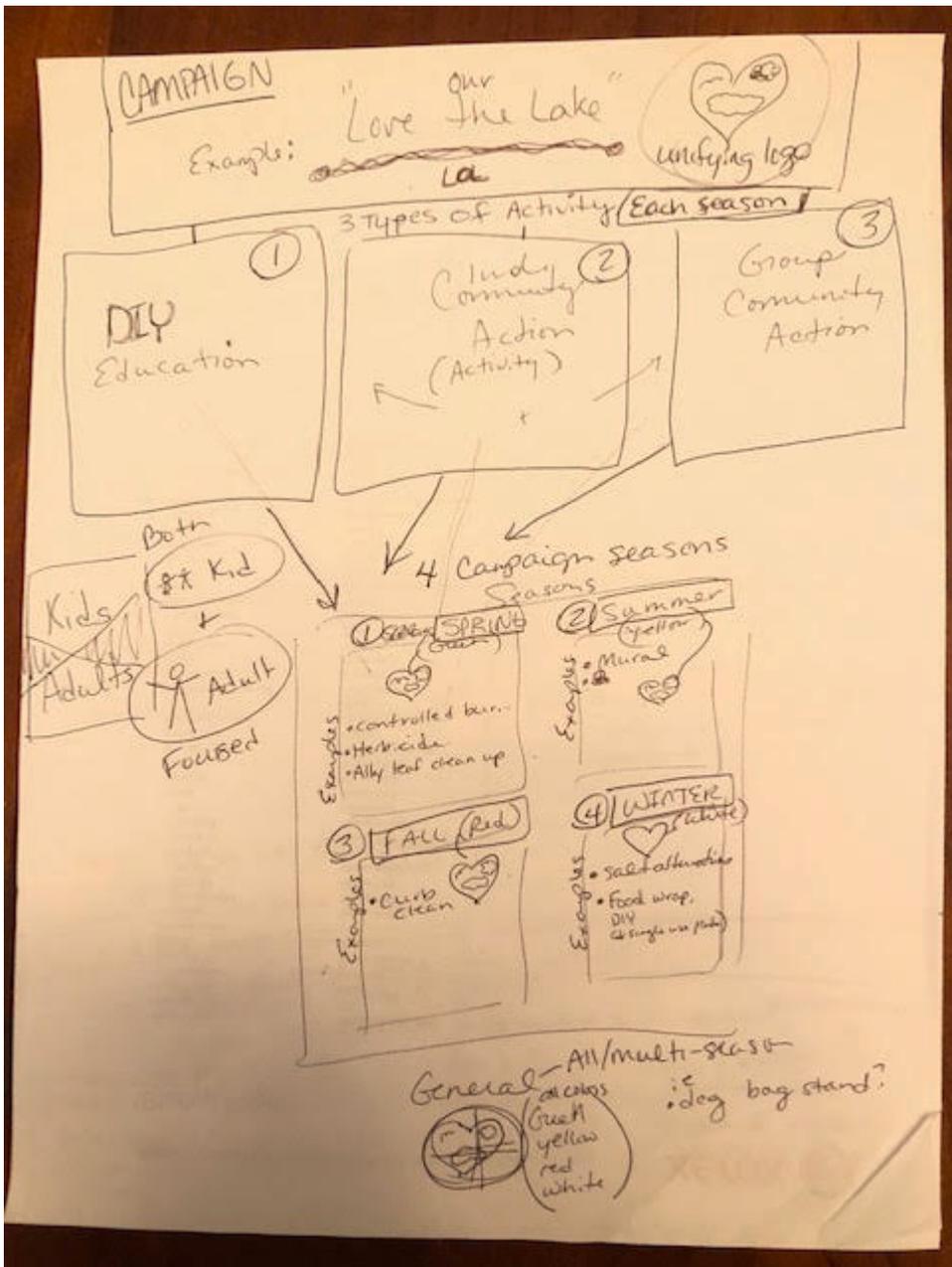
Motion passes with no dissent.

The idea suggested at the brainstorming meeting was of a broader campaign with different community events and components:

- 1) type of activity (DIY/individual education (ie Signs), Individual action/activity (or curb clean), Group activity (ie Sunday session)
- 2) broken out by season.
- 3) noting adult or child/student focused.

Each season would ideally have opportunities within each of these three components.

Costs could be in supplies for events, signage, website, and hiring an artist for branding of the overall campaign, but scope would have be determined after the grant award.



- Adopt a Drain Challenge Results Recognition—Mike Ireland

Mike was not in attendance, no participants had anything to add on this topic.

- Update on Reconstruction of the Organic Compost Site – Michael Kuchta

Ramsey County wants to reconstruct and reconfigure the organics recycling site - this would involve a concrete pad under the bins and reconfiguration that would make it easier for trucks getting in and out. These changes would help with logistics and hygiene. However, appropriate city officials are no longer responding to phone or email messages

on this topic. The last message (several months ago) indicated a decision needed to be made by the City Attorney's office. While that may be the case, the difficulty may be a lack of willing party to shepard the topic through the City Attorney's office rather than a negative decision.

The history of the organics recycling site was that it started as a District 10 project to help build the habit of organics recycling in the community and was quickly identified by the county as an ideal pilot for a 24-hour drop site for organics. They've found grants and funds to help with it, but District 10 is the go-between between them and the city. Parks owns the parcel, but Ramsey County wants to fund the improvements. Suggestions were made to explore using eminent domain as a point of leverage.

- Como Curb Cleanup (Sara Benzkofer)

Janna is still in need of demonstration houses! And there will be a link in the newsletter to sign up.

- Como Pathways - covered in the budget section

SYNOPSIS OF RECENT EVENTS

- CRWD Tour of Como Lake—Sara Benzkofer and Mike Ireland

Approximately 30 people attended, there were many great questions and great content offered by CRWD. Both tours went so well that more tours will be scheduled next spring or summer. Feedback suggested a need for weekend dates, as well.

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

Susan Jane Cheney pointed out that CRWD is having an open house showcasing their new facility this weekend and all are welcome to attend.

Thomas Coburn suggested we attempt to get a speaker for the next full board meeting (Next Tuesday 10/15) either opposing views or a neutral party discussing the implications of November's vote on trash collection. What does a yes or no vote actually mean? What are the contract implications? Michael will look into it - more information on the topic is needed but the time is short.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Como Lake Cleanup, October 12, 9:00-12:00
- CRWD Partner Grant due October 31, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT -
8:20 pm**

- **Next Meeting Time:** November 13 at 7 pm at the Streetcar Station
- Zero Waste St. Paul Presentation

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 1460 Almond Ave.

1. Call to order 7:02pm

Present: Maggie Zimmerman, Rebecca Calvo (minutes), Annie Huidekoper, Cody Zwiefelhofer, staff member Michael Kuchta, and about 33 neighbors and guests.

2. Land Use Voting Procedures Reminders

3. Amend/Adopt Agenda

Motion: Amend the agenda to make the first item of business the Firehouse/Canfield Vacation request, due to timing of availability of the owner of the Firehouse property via video conference. Then proceed with the agenda from the Midway Community Group Redevelopment Project onward. Motion seconded.

Discussion of motion: A neighbor raised the concern that the Sholom Home development project impacts the Canfield Ave. vacation request and the developer, Midway Community Group Redevelopment Project, should be heard first.

A vote was taken on the motion. The Ayes won the vote, with one Nay vote.

The motion passed and the amendment to the agenda was adopted.

4. New Business

a. Firehouse Canfield Vacation Request

Introduction: The Chair introduced the issue. She informed the Committee that William (Billy) Turner, the owner of 1290 Snelling Ave. N (the former fire house property), has filed a Petition to Vacate City Interest for the part of Canfield Ave. that borders his home. Mr. Turner was available via video conference to present his case and answer questions from the community.

Background: The Vacation request pertains to the region of Canfield Ave. that is bordered on the north by the former Sholom home property (see item 4b below) and on the south by Mr. Turner's property. Westbound Canfield Ave. dead-ends into Snelling Ave. with a sidewalk along the north side of the street providing walking access to Snelling Ave. In addition, this region of Canfield Ave. provides access to an alley for houses along west Snelling Ave. that connects to an alley for houses along north Almond Ave.

Details from previous meetings:

Mr. Turner filed a Petition to Vacate City Interest with the City Clerk on July 29. District 10 was not notified when Mr. Turner filed this Petition. The Land Use Committee did not meet in July; when the Committee met August 5, we were informed by the District 10 Administrator that Mr. Turner's Petition to Vacate City Interest would require a Hardship Waiver to file due to the absence of a signature from the former Sholom Home property owner.

At the District 10 Community Council meeting on August 20, District 10 learned that the former Sholom Home property had a new owner (who purchased the mortgages on the property).

The City Council granted the Hardship Waiver on August 21 that allowed Mr. Turner's Petition to Vacate City Interest to be filed.

On September 3, the Chair explained in an e-mail to the Land Use Committee that Mr. Turner's Hardship Waiver from the City released his obligation to obtain signatures of two-thirds of all immediate property owners (only the former Sholom Home property owner's signature is needed in this case) on his Petition, but made it clear that the City **did not** make a decision regarding Vacation.

The Hardship Waiver was awarded by the City due to extenuating circumstances, because at the time that Mr. Turner attempted to contact the owner of the former Sholom home property (May-June, 2019), its owner (David Grzan from Charter Midway) was not reachable or responsive to attempts to contact. The Committee was aware that the ownership of the former Sholom Home property was in flux and that Mr. Grzan was difficult to reach.

The passing of the Hardship Waiver by City Council is **not** a decision about vacating Canfield.

No decision on Vacation can occur until:

1. after a formal 60-day administrative process where the City researches the request and makes a recommendation.
2. 20 days' notice of a public hearing date before the City Council

Presentation by Mr. Turner and community discussion: The Chair recognized Karen and Maurice Turner (parents of Billy Turner, available on video conference) and Tom Betti, architect for Mr. Turner's Firehouse property.

While the video conference was being set up, Tom Betti explained Mr. Turner's intent to develop the half of Canfield Ave. that would become available to him in the event of a successful Vacation request. According to Mr. Betti, Mr. Turner would develop the former end of Canfield Ave. into a fenced-in yard and play area for his extended family, including dogs and children. The final area of Mr. Turner's property with the Canfield Ave. vacation would be approximately 3600 square feet. Mr. Betti showed a drawing of how Mr. Turner roughly planned to develop the street as well as how his property lines would change after Vacation.

Mr. Turner informed the Committee that his intent to pursue Vacation of Canfield Ave. came from his desire to make the area around his property safer for his family and surrounding neighbors. Mr. Turner described dealing with issues at or near his property, including:

- a) trash removal from Canfield Ave., including drug paraphernalia;
- b) snow removal from Canfield Ave., which isn't done by the City due to (c);
- c) nuisance from cars parked on Canfield Ave., including people living out of their cars and avoiding police enforcement.

Several neighbors said they deal with the same issues. Three neighbors said they live on Canfield Ave., 3 neighbors live on Almond Ave., and 3 neighbors live on Midway Parkway.

In response to questions from neighbors, Mr. Betti said:

- The parcel could be developed to add another building, but there would be issues with this (potentially related to lot coverage, lot setback, height variances, etc.)
- Parking would likely not be allowed in the region of Canfield Ave. that has been vacated, and users of the street would lose the ability to turn around in the dead-end region of Canfield Ave.
- The sidewalk along the north side of Canfield Ave. that provides walking access to Snelling Ave. would remain.

In response to questions from neighbors, William Turner said:

- He is not sure of the specifics around purchasing the property from the city, but would need to contact the utility companies and pay out of pocket to work with the utility companies and St. Paul Public Works Department to redirect utilities elsewhere. He said he has been in contact with Mr. Laux.
- He understood the constraints of the property when he purchased it, but that he is now addressing issues such as safety for his family members, lack of parking enforcement, and lack of snow removal that he became aware of since purchasing the property.

In response to questions from neighbors, Matt Privratsky, legislative and policy aide to Councilmember Mitra Jalali Nelson (Ward 4), noted:

- At the time the City Council voted to award Mr. Turner a Hardship Waiver on August 21, ownership of the Sholom Home property was still in flux. (Note: On Oct. 11, Ramsey Council property records still list Charter Midway LLC as the primary owner.)

In response to questions from neighbors, Chuck Repke, a representative from the Midway Community Group Redevelopment Project, said:

- The new owners would do whatever the neighborhood wanted with the access sidewalk to Snelling.

A resident stated it is a bad precedent to buy streets. The previous owners made two requests to vacate Canfield Ave. and we didn't support those requests. Jon Knox, a neighbor and former chair of District 10, said two requests for street vacation came through when he served on the Land Use Committee. One request was not given support by the Council; the other was given support by the Council because the promise was made to keep the sidewalk access to Snelling Ave.; neither request for street vacation was approved by the City.

- b. Midway Community Group Redevelopment Project (the former Sholom Home, located at 1554 Midway Parkway)

Mr. Chuck Repke has worked for several local development corporations, including the Northeast Neighborhood Development Corporation, and has been involved in several adaptive reuse/historic structure development projects in the Twin Cities. He shared preliminary architectural drawings and handed out an information sheet with this unit and parking breakdown:

Studio units (14.5%)	22 @ 400-500 ft ²
1 Bedroom units (65%)	97 @ 550-600 ft ²
2 Bedroom units (16%)	24 @ 800-900 ft ²
3 Bedroom units (4.5%)	7 @ 900-1050 ft ²
TOTAL # OF UNITS:	150
<hr/>	
Parking @ East Lot (existing):	20
Parking @ East lot (proposed):	10
Parking @ Middle lot (existing):	35
Building A (proposed indoor):	25
TOTAL PARKING:	90

The current proposal is to redevelop the 1554 Midway property by rehabilitating the interior of the existing structures into 150 "micro" rental units, marketed to empty-nesters, young professionals, and graduate students. (Mr. Privratsky questioned calling these "micro" apartments; he said they are some of the largest ones being built in Ward 4.)

There is no formal site plan yet; he is approaching the Community Council to inform neighbors about the plans and to determine what the neighborhood would like to see in the site plan in areas such as lighting, landscaping, noise abatement, etc.).

Mr. Repke stated the project will require a large parking variance and that there is no way to redevelop the property without that variance. He noted that the Metropolitan Council paid for the cost of removing asbestos, contingent on the structure remaining housing. He said it is not certain if the developer would have to repay that money if the buildings were demolished, even if they were replaced with housing. Main features of the initial redevelopment plans:

1. The Midway Parkway entrance would be the main entrance, with a parking drop off area.
2. The interior would include common areas for residents such as a workout room and media room.
3. The East parking lot would include a short wall around the perimeter that would function to screen parked cars and their headlights from the neighbors on Canfield.
4. Inside parking would be created in Building A (west building) that would be permit parking for residents only, included with the lease as an extra charge.
5. The building would be marketed to people more likely not to have a car or to require a parking spot. The goal is to maximize public transit options such as the A Line, and transportation alternatives such as an Hour Car location, a pen for scooters, and bike-sharing.
6. The owner would hire a professional management company.

In response to questions from neighbors, Mr. Repke said:

- Adding more two bedroom units would likely result in more families with children; it would be hard to provide enough green space and amenities for children on site.
- All apartments would be market rate and likely would not qualify under Ramsey County cost guidelines for Section 8.
- One or two people are allowed in a studio. Lease agreements would stipulate who is allowed to live in the apartment and place restrictions on subleasing.
- Parking is a huge concern. But the math only works with 150 units, that is the absolute minimum of rental units that would make this project feasible. Reducing the number of units is not viable.
- They could explore adding a visitor parking lot on Midway near Arona, though that would eliminate green space. [In a follow-up email to the District 10 office, he said adding a surface lot on the Midway side could, at most, add 9 spaces – but would create aesthetic, engineering and other obstacles that are unlikely to pass muster with the city.]
- Explore parking options with the State Fairgrounds.
- There is not enough width to install a functional parking ramp on top of the existing surface lots along Canfield.
- Provide whatever types of lighting the neighborhood preferred – globe lighting to brighten up some areas, directional fixtures to minimize light pollution and impacts on neighbors in other areas?
- Once variances are determined, developers will take community input on the design aspects of the project.
- Intent is to formalize a site plan by January 2020 and begin construction in Summer 2020. Construction is expected to take 9-12 months, which means tenants could be moving in by Fall 2021.
- Conversion into condominiums would be difficult. The building has a boiler for heat; condos require separate utilities, which is not feasible given the building infrastructure.

- For snow removal, residents typically are given a notice that parking lots will be cleared of snow on X day and they must move their car before that time. Lots would be plowed successively. Cars left behind would be towed.

In response to questions from board members, Mr. Repke said:

- Zoning would allow construction of a five-story building without seeking variances. That could accommodate all parking requirements and hold 400 units. The owners are aware of this possibility, though have not discussed it in great detail.
- Undergraduate students are unlikely to have the financial means to afford to rent an apartment here.
- They could explore restricting all surface lots to paid parking for tenants as part of their lease. That would require all visitors to park on the street.

A resident commented that the ongoing parking challenges could contribute to high turnover in the building, which would make it hard to build the sense of community the developers want. Suggested looking into parking agreements with local businesses.

5. Ongoing Business & Reports

- Former Buddhist Temple renovation: The new owner is renovating the building at 883 Front into commercial space in the front and an apartment in the back. Hopes for uses such as a coffee shop or salon.
- Frankson House (1349 Midway): Will become a women's sober home. Unable to connect with ownership so far, but will keep trying as we would like them to come and present at a future Land Use meeting.
- Updates/Staff Report
 - Como Park paid parking study: There is a study, it has no timeline. The goal is to gather data about the potential revenue that would be generated by having paid parking in Como Regional Park vs. the cost to the community and the usage of Como Zoo and the Conservatory. Exploring different ways that the revenue could be used and what the impact on park usage and parking in the surrounding neighborhood would be. District 10 will be able to share the survey with its email list; the email list was not shared with the people administering the survey.
 - Warrendale traffic updates: There are parking counts, but we were not able to address at this meeting. Come to the November meeting for an update.
 - The new Lexington Crosswalk will begin construction on October 14!

6. Coming events

- Next Board Meeting – October 15th @ 7pm – Streetcar Station
- Next Land Use Meeting – November 6th @ 7pm – Streetcar Station

7. Adjourn 9:00pm

District 10 Neighborhood Relations Committee

Tuesday October 1, 2019

I. A. Alexis Baker minute recorder

II. A. Call to order 7:03p

B. Introductions: Olivia, Alexis, Sarah R, Mike I, Michael, Deb, Betsy, Sarah W, and Jill (by phone)

C. Changes to agenda: Betsy wants to add to old business addressing State Fair/Tilden Park under "Old Business – E" and add to New Business "Census and Elections." Rescheduling next meeting to Tuesday Nov. 12 at 7p.

D. Committee Updates

1. Environment: Next Como Lake Clean Up is 10/12 9a-12p. Working on Capitol Watershed grant for lake education opportunities.

2. Land Use: Neighbors came to talk about criminal activities from state fair. Shalom Home new owners gave initial proposals for plans (rental property).

III. New Business

a. Community Cultural Awareness from Jill: WonderWeaver presentation seems the best fit for a discussion. Company owned by 2 women. They are interested and available for a talk in October. Inclusion theme with storytelling. She quoted \$350, which is negotiable. Participants limited to limitations of the space. Fire rings cannot be reserved in advance. We could use the Kilmer fireplace in the woodland, which is a circular set-up. Northwest Como has bonfire. Dates proposed Oct. 19th or Oct. 27th. Ideas to have a separate event on the east side of the neighborhood. There is funding in the innovation fund (~\$2k). Would have to get approved by the Board but could proceed with scheduling now. Leaning towards Oct. 27th. Betsy volunteered to get to the pit early. Decided on fire rings off Como. Need to talk to the Weavers about weather contingency plan. Could use the picnic pavilion. Provide smores. Close to Halloween; costumes optional. Bring your own chair/blankets. Leverage Emily for advertising at elementary schools, rec centers, apartment buildings. Wilder's plan is for cultural awareness so we'd need to think about how it fits in. How does WonderWeaver or Wilder fit in to our strategy? What is our strategy? Strategy is to engage community, to start building momentum. Betsy suggested involving Como HS. Alexis requests that there be one other scheduled on the east side of the neighborhood. Michael to reach out to Darcy about scheduling a November or December date for North Dale. Betsy will reach out to other professional storytellers.

b. Rent Control: There will be one, possibly two, speakers at the next NR meeting in November. One is an instructor at Mitchell Hamline with experience in rent control (specifically in Berkley, CA) and another from

University of St. Thomas. Speakers will not be discussing affordable housing. It's really about broad education for members of this community. This is resulting from a community member ask that the Board take a position on rent control. The goal is to learn more about the issue (rent control). Any community member can bring forward a motion to be voted on.

c. Census and Election: Betsy involved with Represent Us. Focus is on undoing corruption for better democracy. One issue that is coming up is State House having hearing on redistricting. Goal is to have a complete count in the census. Engaging with rural and urban areas. Betsy wants to bring this to the attention of this committee to see how committee could help. Help people to discern real and fake information. Goal is to require citizen input in redistricting. Betsy would like to come back with ideas of how District could help. Mail census switching to email. Enumerators then dispatched for follow-up.

IV. Old Business

a. New Retail Space: Olivia and Michael met with owner of future retail space on Front Ave. 2000 sq ft. Share retail survey that can be provided to any potential lessee. January 2020 is goal.

b. Welcome Kit Update: Michael building spreadsheet for new residents from first six months of the year. Possibly have a student service worker to help. Seed packets, lake clean up, etc. info all ready to go.

c. Food access: Potential topic for future Sunday Series. Travelling food social. In past, we've done at Orchard, ice cream social, Tilden Park. Olivia will reach out to Keystone. Perhaps couple with a food/money drive.

d. Long term initiatives: Tabling opportunity at fall festival at Kendrick McClarron complex on Energy Park on October 10 4:30-6p. Emily is trying to get the high schools engaged in youth summit. Como HS and Hmong Academy are onboard. Still working with Higher Ground, Great River, MN Deaf, and MN Connections Academy (online school). NR committee open to one or two schools being on board if others not interested.

e. Community Concerns: State Fair follow-up – Michael to follow up with Sgt. Bandemer for debrief meeting with law enforcement agencies who were at the State Fair. Dolores went to the September morning meeting at the Western District.

V. Meeting adjourned at 8:42p.