



District 10 Como Community Council Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
MINUTES

I. Call to order

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. In order to abide by pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, this meeting took place via video conferencing and telephone access.

II. Introductions (name and neighborhood)

Board Present (online): Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek, Jenne Nelson, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Maggie Zimmerman, Marika Staloch, Mike Ireland, Rebecca Calvo, Sara Benzkofer, Melissa Liu, Sarah Reuter, Jill Henricksen, Amanda Rohrer, Melissa Brannon, Dan Edgerton
Board Absent: Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Debra Verber, Rachel Bowers
Staff Present (online): Michael Kuchta
Community and Guests Present: Linda Freeman

III. Review, Amend agenda

MOTION: Approve meeting agenda (first/second) passes

IV. Community Section

A. Community Concerns: None stated

V. Board Business Section

A. Financial Reports (Mike Ireland)

Notable Revenue

- \$1,000 unrestricted donation from single donor who wishes to remain anonymous
- \$600 stipend from the Sanneh Foundation for our efforts distributing food on Fridays

Notable Expenses

- None

Other Highlights

- Our January 31 checking account balance was \$44,892.34
- Our accountant drafted our 2020 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990)
 - Michael noticed Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable were included for the beginning of 2020 and asked if these accounts should also be included for the end of the year, too. He was correct; our accountant revised and will file our 990
 - As a result, the December monthly financials have also been adjusted to reflect this
 - Our year end Accounts Receivables expected from our grants total \$16,581.31 and our year end Accounts Payables total \$1,545.05 (for organizer and administrative personnel expenses from the CRWD Partner Grant)
 - Michael applies these expenses toward last year's grants, when these occurred for reimbursement purposes. We will see this included in the accountant financials when these are actually received or paid out in the next month or two

- As noted in the officers meeting notes, the City has officially notified us the Community Engagement and Innovation grant amounts will remain the same as in 2020
- The monthly treasurer report is an internal oversight tool that has attempted to take the official accountant report and break it down to detail how we conduct our business. It has not done a good job of utilizing Michael's tracking against the budget and the timing of reimbursements
 - Mike revised the treasurer report to hopefully make it more visually understandable and usable
 - He will continue to base it on the accountant reporting and breaking it down into more detail to reflect how we conduct our business, but will attempt to align it with Michael's tracking layered with the different methodologies in reporting revenue and expenses
 - As the treasurer report serves the board, board member input into its design and data is appreciated

B. Board and Committee Minutes

MOTION: Approve January 2021 meeting minutes with the date changes:
 Noted the year was incorrect in two places — Date of meeting should read January 2021 (not 20210) and Minutes Approved were from December 2020 (not 2021)
(first/second) passes

C. Board Chair and Officers Report (Melissa Liu)

- Thanks to the Neighborhood Relations Committee who, despite the cold, had the vision for the shelter donations drive and saw it through to a successful finish. Congrats on filling a U-Haul full of donations.
- Next Thursday, we have our board session to talk about mission and vision statement.
- Michael's 2020 glowing review contained board member's words directly. He reciprocates those glowing review back to the board.
- It is time for our annual financial review. Amanda will be leading this work, and we need two more volunteers. Meeting will be at the Streetcar Station — maintaining social distance. Three hours is the maximum amount of time anticipated.
- We discussed the work plan. It was noted that it includes and reflects the work being done in the anti-racism workgroup.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: The Como Community Council Board adopts the attached work plans for the 2021 Community Engagement and Innovation grants with the City of Saint Paul, and directs the executive director to file the work plans and additional required grant application paperwork.
(second) Motion passes

The officers have been discussing the upcoming D10 elections, and how to run them by other than in-person voting yet again. This is largely due to the fact that we don't anticipate meeting in-person by April 2021.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- **Moved:** The Como Community Council:
 Allow two types of absentee voting in 2021:
 - Mail ballot
 - Electronic ballot, using Survey Monkey voting platform
- Schedule a virtual annual meeting and elections on Tuesday April 20 at 7 p.m.
- All absentee ballots must be received at Streetcar Station or through the electronic voting platform by that time. There will be no in-person voting.
 All community members must request a ballot in advance, either by online form or by phone.

The D10 office will send a paper ballot or a link to an electronic ballot to qualified community members. (*second*) **Motion passes**

D. Committee Updates

A. Environment (Sara Benzkofer)

MN Pollution Control Agency is looking to adopt pollution-control standards for cars. This is good for our health, consumers, health of planet, and will help bring more electric cars to the Minnesota market.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: District 10 Como Community Council supports submitting the letter below to the Administrative Law Judge overseeing the rule-making process that the MN Pollution Control Agency is undertaking to adopt clean car standards in MN. **Motion passes**

B. Land Use (Maggie Zimmerman)

Land Use did not meet this month due to a lack of agenda items. A written staff report was filed instead. A question came up about discussion of the closure of Como Lake Drive, Mississippi River Parkway, Cherokee Parkway, and road on east side of Lake Phalen. They were the four parkways that were closed during the pandemic. District councils have moved forward seeking long-term closure on Mississippi River Parkway; Michael wanted to give a heads up that this could accelerate the discussion on whether or not to seek seasonal or permanent closure of Como Lake Drive.

Asked for an update about the Shalom Home. There is still movement toward the plan they announced. They will keep the shell of the building (there is internal demo). There are lights on the top floor. The developer is spending about a million dollars on demoing the inside in order to get a clean construction shell. This includes cleaning out windows with asbestos. Developer is optimistic. Anticipating filing building permits later this month or next. Progress one month at a time.

C. Neighborhood Relations (Sarah Reuter)

Shelter drive was successful — filled a truck full of socks, blankets, gloves, and other cold-weather gear. Bethesda was grateful. Raised about \$2,600. It was cold, but no one had frostbite. Had 20 awesome volunteers. One group came out and donated 40 quilts.

Sanneh Foundation is running through February. We still haven't heard about whether they have funding beyond February.

Working on an organization scorecard for Neighborhood Relations so they can rank organizations as they work with them more. Helping know if they align with our values.

Know Your Como — 24 submissions to name the ant. The winner will be announced soon.

Working on competition of getting a mascot for D10.

Anti-Racism Workgroup:

Mitra Jalali spoke about the crisis of housing and people experiencing homelessness. She gave ideas of what we can do as a district council. She sees us having the power of bringing in community experts/speakers to educate our community about affordable housing and unhoused people. This was recorded — it's recommended you listen.

All are welcome to attend and join work group. Last Wednesday of each month. Next meeting, they'll reconvene and talk about the work plan and ideas for moving forward. CM Brendmoen has been invited to the February meeting.

Michael wanted to tie it together about The Neighborhood Relations supply drive and anti-racism group taking on affordable housing as a human right. Together, those are building a database of people who support people in housing crisis. It's building strategically, so it builds long-term as an organization. Long-term goals are looking into this. CM Brendmoen helped pay for the truck (out of her own pocket).

E. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Humphrey Job Corps Center is changing the management company running that organization on March 1. It's mostly a change in federal oversight; it's believed/hoped the local staff will remain constant.

Public Works are trying to figure out whether to have citywide drop-off events. Perhaps two smaller events (no concrete or scrap metal) later in the summer, likely September after The Fair shuts down. There was a question if they are planning on having the reuse area, Michael will check on this.

Michael will be on vacation next week, starting February 22.

Please help recruit people to the board in April, especially remembering our diversity goals. If your term is up, please let Melissa know if you're planning to run again.

F. New Business (Board Members)

None stated.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm by Melissa Liu. *(first/second) passes*

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

Action Item

DATE:

Feb. 16, 2021

FROM:

Officers

ITEM:

2021 City Grant Work Plans

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: The Como Community Council Board adopts the attached work plans for the 2021 Community Engagement and Innovation grants with the City of Saint Paul, and directs the executive director to file the work plans and additional required grant application paperwork.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The district council is eligible for two City of Saint Paul grant programs: Community Engagement (\$63,978) and Innovation (\$6,049). The work plans establish goals, priorities, and commitments by the Board and staff under these grant programs.

Upon City approval of our applications, and our filing of proper receipts and other documentation, the City will reimburse the district council for personnel costs and expenses the council incurs for activities related to implementing its work plans.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The executive director will file both grant applications by March 31, 2021, after officers have the opportunity to review and authorize of the entire application package. Budget allocations in the grant applications will be based on the 2021 annual budget that the Board approved in Dec. 2020.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

Any revisions that the board wishes to make to the drafts.



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

**City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

FY 2021 WORK PLAN

Refer to your Statement of Work/Scope of Services when completing this form. Your Work Plans should expound on your Project Summary AND address the needs identified in the Statement of Opportunities and Challenges including how you plan to encourage active participation by all members of your community, including those from traditionally underrepresented groups. Please complete a Work Plan for each Goal and make additional copies of this form as needed.

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal One: We strive to be an organization with integrity and transparency, an organization that community members can easily access, and a responsive organization that seeks ways to work in partnership with community members to achieve their vision for a neighborhood that provides more opportunities for more of our neighbors. We will actively keep residents informed about and provide ways to involve them in key city, institutional, and private-sector initiatives and projects that affect our neighborhood and their lives. We will provide a forum for residents to learn about and provide feedback in time to influence decisions and yield successful outcomes.

Activities, tasks, strategies to achieve the stated goal: *Please provide a detailed description of each activity, task, and/or strategy, the anticipated outcomes (e.g., predicted number of participants, frequency of the activity, impact on neighborhood, etc.), the time frame in which it will occur, and the person(s) responsible. You will use the Achieved Outcomes column to report on each activity at the end of the year.*

Activity/Task/Strategy Provide a <u>detailed</u> description.	Anticipated Outcomes Number of participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes	Achieved Outcomes To be completed as part of the year-end report
Strive to be an organization with integrity and transparency, an organization that community members can easily access, and a responsive organization that seeks ways to work in partnership	Hold open, accessible, well-publicized monthly meetings of the community council board and our standing committees: Environment, Land Use, and Neighborhood Relations. Continually inform community members that our bylaws offer them voice and vote at <i>all</i> committee	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

<p>with community members to achieve their vision for a neighborhood that provides more opportunities for more of our neighbors.</p>	<p>meetings without barriers, and the ability to voice their opinions and concerns at monthly board meetings. Archive minutes and decisions from the board and committees, and post recordings of key presentations. Make all of these readily accessible on the council website, so community members can track our discussions and actions.</p>	
	<p>In preparation of the end of pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, explore technology and processes that allow community council meetings to blend in-person and remote participation. At the very least, enhance our capabilities during the live-streaming of monthly council meetings beyond what we carried out before the pandemic.</p>	
	<p>Examine our bylaws, policies, use of parliamentary procedure, and operations to identify, modify, or eliminate practices that unnecessarily favor white, middle-class norms but limit participation or create unwelcoming perceptions for other community members, especially from under-represented constituencies.</p>	
	<p>Explore and implement absentee ballot options for annual elections, and use polling and advisory voting on other community issues, as appropriate.</p>	
	<p>Seek stronger engagement with under-represented community members, including by increasing diversity of the board and its committees through intentional recruitment.</p>	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

	Continue development of a new strategic plan and mission, vision, and values statements for the district council.	
	Encourage community members to pursue racial, economic, and environmental justice initiatives; support these initiatives through our organizational capacity and by building connections among like-minded residents; and leverage the privileges and resources of our community to make positive impacts.	
	Support the work and vision of our Anti-Racism Work Group – and expand its membership and scope as appropriate – to explore and recommend ways for the district council to share information and address historical and ongoing systemic forms of discrimination, injustice, and exclusion in our community. We anticipate much of the focus will be on food insecurity; unhoused residents, including those being sheltered in our neighborhood at Bandana Square and Booth Brown House; and local and citywide housing and zoning policies. Potential projects include a “equity walk” through parts of the neighborhood; art installations highlighting the history of exclusionary housing; and exploring the potential of returning vacant houses to the marketplace, mapping vacant lots and underutilized land, and support for the development of mixed-use and “missing middle” housing to increase density and affordability. (This work also will be supported by Innovation grant funding.)	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

	Continue to sponsor a community garden, organize food and meal distribution, and seek to create a new community garden in South Como.	
	Continue to operate a community food scraps recycling site, serve as lead organizer for a citywide drop-off at the State Fairgrounds (in conjunction with Public Works), and pursue other waste reduction and reuse activities. Organize resident clean-ups of Como Lake and its shoreline (in conjunction with Capitol Region Watershed District; Community Engagement grant funds will not be used for this project). Seek opportunities to engage in other activities beyond our immediate neighborhood that address climate-related topics.	
Actively keep residents informed about and provide ways to involve them in key city, institutional, and private-sector initiatives and projects that affect our neighborhood and their lives.	Publish email newsletters at least 50 weeks in the year. Post and archive these newsletters on our websites, and post highlights from these newsletters on social media.	
	Maintain an up-to-date website that serves as a clearinghouse and archive of key neighborhood issues. Maintain a visible presence on Facebook and Next Door (and other platforms as seems prudent) to promote community events and information. Launch a new website that is more mobile-friendly.	
	Use fliers and direct mail in targeted ways to ensure we reach community members directly	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

	about issues in their immediate part of the neighborhood.	
Provide a forum for residents to learn about and provide feedback in time to influence decisions and yield successful outcomes.	Focus monthly committee meetings when appropriate (or hold additional community meetings) on specific topics of urgent interest, such as development proposals, institutional activities, crime concerns, or initiatives from community members. When pandemic restrictions on public gatherings ease, hold these meetings whenever possible in geographic locations and at times that make the most sense to attract community members most affected by the topics.	
	Expand the annual meeting in ways to increase community dialogue and participation beyond elections.	
	Utilize online and face-to-face surveys as an additional tool to gather resident feedback and ideas, and monitor resident concerns.	
	Begin the groundwork to update the District 10 neighborhood plan, explore possibilities for the Energy Park "opportunity node" in the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and draft local development and equity scorecards to standardize criteria on how the board and its committees assess projects.	



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

**City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

FY 2021 WORK PLAN

Refer to your Statement of Work/Scope of Services when completing this form. Your Work Plans should expound on your Project Summary AND address the needs identified in the Statement of Opportunities and Challenges including how you plan to encourage active participation by all members of your community, including those from traditionally underrepresented groups. Please complete a Work Plan for each Goal and make additional copies of this form as needed.

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal Two: We will continue to seek opportunities to build community cohesion and to partner with resident, private-sector, and institutional initiatives as effectively as possible. We will be driven by the approach "What can we do together?"

Activities, tasks, strategies to achieve the stated goal: *Please provide a detailed description of each activity, task, and/or strategy, the anticipated outcomes (e.g., predicted number of participants, frequency of the activity, impact on neighborhood, etc.), the time frame in which it will occur, and the person(s) responsible. You will use the Achieved Outcomes column to report on each activity at the end of the year.*

Activity/Task/Strategy Provide a <u>detailed</u> description.	Anticipated Outcomes Number of participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes	Achieved Outcomes To be completed as part of the year-end report
Seek opportunities to build community cohesion and to partner with resident, private-sector, and institutional initiatives as effectively as possible. We will be driven by the approach "What can we do together?"	As pandemic guidelines allow, hold social events for community members. Possibilities include restoring past events such as the Ice Cream Social and Como Connect (as part of ComoFest) and monthly yoga, and exploring or expanding new events such as holiday decoration "competition," a "kite fly," or Harvest parade and festival. Recognize positive contributions by community members through	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

	such means as the Neighborhood Honor Roll and "Know Your Como" profiles.	
	Hold educational presentations online (or in person as pandemic guidelines allow). These could include discussions of city initiatives such as zoning revisions, Sunday Series topics on racial inequities, resources for bridging divides and strengthening relationships within the community, environmentally focused activities such as a Tree Trek and garden tour, and other topics of community interest and relevance. Attempt, when possible, to hold these presentations at venues in different geographic sectors of the neighborhood.	
	Partner with other organizations to provide opportunities for community members to address urgent needs such as food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, and environmental degradation.	
	Serve as the umbrella agency for ComoFest, including recruiting sponsors to hold events in every geographic sector of the neighborhood.	
	Fulfill a fiscal agency role by welcoming outside grant opportunities to resource small-scale neighborhood and business initiatives. (No Community Engagement funds will be used to advance this initiative.)	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

**City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

FY 2021 WORK PLAN

Refer to your Statement of Work/Scope of Services when completing this form. Your Work Plans should expound on your Project Summary AND address the needs identified in the Statement of Opportunities and Challenges including how you plan to encourage active participation by all members of your community, including those from traditionally underrepresented groups. Please complete a Work Plan for each Goal and make additional copies of this form as needed.

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal Three: We will continue to be a go-to source of accurate information; convene forums to provide information, build connections, and encourage conversation; and seek community-based consensus and solutions to ongoing and emerging issues.

Activities, tasks, strategies to achieve the stated goal: *Please provide a detailed description of each activity, task, and/or strategy, the anticipated outcomes (e.g., predicted number of participants, frequency of the activity, impact on neighborhood, etc.), the time frame in which it will occur, and the person(s) responsible. You will use the Achieved Outcomes column to report on each activity at the end of the year.*

Activity/Task/Strategy Provide a <u>detailed</u> description.	Anticipated Outcomes Number of participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes	Achieved Outcomes To be completed as part of the year-end report
Be a go-to source of accurate information; convene forums to provide information, build connections, and encourage conversation; and seek community-based consensus and solutions to ongoing and emerging issues.	Maximize the use and strength of our existing communication platforms – both within and outside the district council – and integrate additional platforms as feasible or as needed.	



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

	Continue to provide a voice for residents, and work with various jurisdictions to address ongoing impacts on the community of State Fair and Como Regional Park activities.	
	Work actively to engage community members in discussions about institutional growth and developers planning new business, residential, and other projects in the neighborhood, especially at the former Sholom Home site, in and near Bandana Square, and in South Como.	
	Actively pursue community interests in city policies and infrastructure projects, including Como Regional Park and the future of Como Lake Drive.	



City of Saint Paul, Minnesota

FY2021 INNOVATION FUND: DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Equitable engagement is a deliberate approach to ensure that all community members have access to a District Council's decision-making, planning, and programming. Equity work uses research and community engagement to better understand the nature and extent of inequalities, and the historical decisions that led to the emergence of disparate opportunities and results. Equity becomes a key value as District Councils evaluate actions and outcomes.

Racial equity should be at the core of this work. But efforts also should address additional disparities that councils encounter in their neighborhoods. Examples could include disparities based on income, age, gender, immigration status, or among renters and homeowners.

The goals in your work plans should include how your District Council will improve in each of these three levels of equitable engagement:

- Your District Council staff and volunteers will more accurately reflect the communities you serve.
- Your District Council will review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for residents who currently are under-represented.
- Your District Council will pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents who have been historically under-represented

Additionally, your Work Plans must include a goal for participation in a peer support/best practices network composed of district councils or similar grassroots, place-based organizations in the region.

Activities, tasks, strategies to achieve the stated goal: Please provide a detailed description of each activity, task, and/or strategy, and the anticipated outcomes (e.g., predicted number of participants, frequency of the activity, etc.). You will use the Achieved Outcomes column to report on each activity at the end of the year.



City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY2021 INNOVATION FUND: DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal 1: Participate in a peer support/best practices network composed of district councils or similar grassroots, place-based organizations in the region.

Activity/Task/Strategy <i>Provide a detailed description of each activity, task and/or strategy</i>	Anticipated Outcomes <i>Number of Participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes</i>	Achieved Outcomes <i>To be completed for end of year reporting</i>
Continue to share a community organizer with District 12 (Saint Anthony Park).	Organizer will work 10 hours a week in District 10.	
Continue to seek and build relationships with D10-based organizations such as Muslim American Society of Minnesota and other faith communities, International Institute, Humphrey Job Corps Center, Salvation Army’s Booth Brown House, block nurse programs, Lyngblomsten, and local rec centers.	Individual and organizational meetings among staff and leadership, including building personal and institutional relationships and initiatives on which to cooperate. Partnership, support and cross-promotion of each other’s events and clientele, including tabling by D10 representatives at partner organizations’ events.	
Participate in joint training, education, planning and other activities, as appropriate, with North End Neighborhood Organization, Saint Anthony Park District Council, and other district councils.	Leveraging resources, cooperation, coordination, and convening power among district council staff and board members.	



City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY2021 INNOVATION FUND: DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal 2: Take deliberate steps to connect with members of the District 10 community whom we do not currently reach.

Activity/Task/Strategy <i>Provide a detailed description of each activity, task and/or strategy</i>	Anticipated Outcomes <i>Number of Participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes</i>	Achieved Outcomes <i>To be completed for end of year reporting</i>
While pandemic restrictions remain in place, continue to provide full remote access to community members interested in participating in district council board and committee meetings. When on-site meetings can resume, live-stream monthly board meetings and other events as appropriate, seeking to blend participation options for those attending in-person or remotely. Record sessions as appropriate and make available for later viewing.	Allow more residents to stay connected with district council actions and decisions on their schedule, not ours.	
Increase intentional recruitment of candidates for board and committee participation, including by seeking recommendations from partner organizations.	Board and committee membership that includes more people of color, broader range of skills and life experiences, and more accurately reflects the demographic mix of the neighborhood.	
If pandemic restrictions on public gatherings ease, resume “eat and greets,” listening sessions, and other activities at rental communities in neighborhood.	Establish connections with residents and property managers/owners, uncover and act on issues of concern to them.	
If pandemic restrictions on public gatherings ease, engage with high schools in the neighborhood.	Establish relationships with faculty members and/or key student groups in each of the 6 high school programs, with the goal of hosting a community-wide youth summit for students who attend school in the neighborhood.	



City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY2021 INNOVATION FUND: DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal 3: Review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for residents who currently are under-represented.

Activity/Task/Strategy <i>Provide a detailed description of each activity, task and/or strategy</i>	Anticipated Outcomes <i>Number of Participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes</i>	Achieved Outcomes <i>To be completed for end of year reporting</i>
Allow absentee voting in board elections, whether or not in-person voting is available.	Increased participation in annual elections for board members, especially among community members who cannot attend in person at 7 p.m. on a weeknight.	
Use strategic planning practices, the Nexus community engagement assessment tool, or similar methods to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses in service, outreach and engagement.	Strategically implement outcomes from the assessment into strategic planning, with the goal of incorporating more-equitable practices into the structure of our organization, meetings, and priorities. This could include changes in how, where and when our committees and board meet; in how meetings are conducted; in the communication tools we use; and in how we take on tasks.	



City of Saint Paul, Minnesota
FY2021 INNOVATION FUND: DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Applicant: Como Community Council

Goal 4: Pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents who historically have been under-represented.

Activity/Task/Strategy <i>Provide a detailed description of each activity, task and/or strategy</i>	Anticipated Outcomes <i>Number of Participants, frequency, and/or other measurable outcomes</i>	Achieved Outcomes <i>To be completed for end of year reporting</i>
Pursue strategic partnerships and actions to address food and shelter needs among seniors and other vulnerable residents.	Mobilize community members and their resources for food distribution, supply drives, and policy changes to prioritize basic human needs.	
Organize community members who want to use their personal and our neighborhood's positions of privilege to address systemic examples of racist outcomes in Como and Saint Paul.	Utilize our Anti-Racism Work Group to identify areas and issues to prioritize as an organization and as a community, provide opportunities for education and action, and support others' efforts for a broader impact, especially in areas of housing and public infrastructure.	
Monitor and engage in plans to open family shelter and day center in Cameroon Community space at Bandana Square.	Work with county, Interfaith Action, nearby residents and businesses, and community members at large as plans develop.	

Action Item

DATE:

Feb. 16, 2021

FROM:

Officers

ITEM:

2021 District 10 Annual Elections

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved, the Como Community Council:

- Allow two types of absentee voting in 2021:
 - Mail ballot
 - Electronic ballot, using Survey Monkey voting platform
- Schedule a virtual annual meeting and elections on Tuesday April 20 at 7 p.m. All absentee ballots must be received at Streetcar Station or through the electronic voting platform by that time. There will be no in-person voting.
- All community members must request a ballot in advance, either by online form or by phone.
- The D10 office will send a paper ballot or a link to an electronic ballot to qualified community members.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the May 2020 D10 board meeting, the board ratified changes to the bylaws to allow absentee voting in annual elections. Because of ongoing state restrictions on public gatherings in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we anticipate that an in-person annual meeting and elections will not be permitted in April 2021, or will be avoided by a significant number of community members because of health concerns.

Similar to what occurred in 2020, options for absentee voting will create the opportunity for adequate community participation in the annual elections. In 2020, the availability of absentee voting led to record participation, with 429 community members requesting ballots, and 275 of them casting a vote.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Procedures for mail and online voting will be similar to what occurred in 2020. (See minutes from the May 2020 board meeting for detailed election procedures.)
- Tentative timeline:
 - Tuesday, Feb. 16: Board adopts Action Item that authorizes voting options.
 - Tuesday March 2: Community-wide postcard and mailing list will be sent to printer.
 - Friday March 5: Filing period opens for candidates.
 - Friday March 5: Community members can begin requesting an absentee ballot via an online form or by telephone.
 - Tuesday March 9: Estimated date community-wide postcard gets mailed.
 - Friday, April 2: All ballot requests received by this date will be processed in time for first distribution of ballots.
 - Sunday April 4: Filing period for candidates closes.

- Friday April 9: Paper ballots are mailed in bulk to residents who requested a paper ballot.
- Friday April 9: Link to electronic ballot is emailed in bulk only to residents who requested an online ballot.
- Wednesday, April 14: Last day to request mail ballot.
- Tuesday, April 20, 5 p.m.: Latest time to request electronic ballot.
- Tuesday, April 20: Annual meeting (held remotely). All ballots must be in hand by 7 p.m. “In hand” for electronic ballots means submitted through electronic platform by that time.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

- N/A

Action Item

DATE:

February 16, 2021

FROM:

Environmental Committee

ITEM:

Clean Cars MN Letter

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: District 10 Como Community Council supports submitting the letter below to the Administrative Law Judge overseeing the rulemaking process that the MN Pollution Control Agency is undertaking to adopt clean car standards in MN.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The MN Pollution Control Agency is seeking to adopt two new emission standards.

The first applies to low-emission vehicles (LEV). The LEV standard regulates the amount of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutants that new cars and trucks can emit. The federal government adopted this standard in 2012, so all new cars sold in Minnesota have been abiding by these regulations. But President Trump proposed rolling back the standard, and its yet unclear how the Biden administration will proceed, so this will provide certainty.

The second standard applies to bringing more zero-emission vehicles into Minnesota, which are harder to find because we haven't adopted these clean car standards.

The deadline to submit comments is March 15, 2021.

You can read the full rule [here](#).

IMPLEMENTATION:

The letter will be submitted to the administrative law judge, and it will be publicly available.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

None.



District 10 Como Community Council
1224 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, MN 55103
651.644.3889
district10@district10comopark.org
www.district10comopark.org

Re: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Cars Rulemaking

February 16, 2021

Dear Judge Palmer-Denig,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Clean Cars initiative.

The City of St. Paul's District 10 Como Community Council strongly supports the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's plan to adopt clean car standards. Transportation is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, both nationally and in Minnesota, making the sector a significant contributor to climate change. Adopting a Clean Cars program will reduce air pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save consumers money, and increase the number of electric vehicles available to Minnesota residents.

Car companies already are seeing the demand and making proclamations of their own -- like General Motors, which intends to be all-electric by 2035. Also, 14 states and the District of Columbia already have adopted these standards. Let's not get left behind on supporting these standards and the required infrastructure and policy needed to make them successful.

Reduce Air Pollution

Gasoline and diesel vehicles emit harmful air pollutants. Every year in Minnesota, poor air quality contributes to thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of hospitalizations. These impacts are not distributed equally. Vehicle pollution has a disproportional impact on communities of color and low-income households. This is unacceptable. This is first and foremost an environmental justice issue.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

To reduce the impact of climate change, it's critical that we make substantial progress in reducing our emissions. Our winters are warming and extreme weather is becoming more frequent.

Save Consumers Money

Electricity is a less-expensive fuel source, the pricing is more stable than gasoline, and it's more efficient, all resulting in drivers saving thousands of dollars over the lifetime of the vehicle.

Increase Number of Electric Vehicles

Minnesota has limited electric vehicle options because automakers prioritize states with advanced clean car standards. From 2011 to 2016, the number of plug-in electric vehicles sold annually in the U.S. increased tenfold. The states that have adopted the Zero-Emission Vehicle standard account for one-third of all electric vehicle sales in the U.S., according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. By adopting these standards, we'd have more options to choose from.

Even if this proposal is adopted, it is still two years away from implementation. We can't delay. We need to pass these standards now for the health of our planet and our communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Kuchta
Executive Director

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

March 8, 2021 / Zoom 5:30 p.m.

Present: Melissa Liu, chair; Olivia Morawiecki, vice-chair; Marika Staloch, secretary; Mike Ireland, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, executive director.

Events

- **Food Distribution.** We are set with Sanneh and the temple to distribute food boxes every Friday through end of April. Boxes are no longer meal kits with specific recipes, but now general fresh food supplied by USDA Farmers to Families program. Still includes meat, produce and dairy, including milk. To relieve weekly time commitment for Michael, he will recruit board members to set up, break down, and oversee each shift. Board members used to be required to staff Streetcar Station every Sunday, so this is an equivalent. Olivia will continue to pick up boxes for Como by the Lake, deliver to apartments.
- **Sunday Series.** Presenters of two of the three events that were cancelled by the pandemic in 2020 – criminal justice reform and “Nature in Your Backyard” – are not able to do a presentation this spring. However, the local media panel of representatives from the Star Tribune newsroom union, the Monitor, and the Park Bugle are scheduled for May 2. Extensive discussion about Read Brave options. We will partner with a Saint Anthony Park group, which has scheduled an author talk April 22 with Marcello Hernandez Castillo (“Children of the Land,” his memoir of undocumented immigration). Michael will contact Ceiba Forte, a neighborhood law firm, to seek recommendations for an immigration attorney who might be able to lead a broader community discussion on Sunday April 18 or April 25. Michael will order hard copies of the book for residents to read, and get information on how residents can obtain ebook versions.
- **Citywide Drop Off.** Public Works continues to lean toward smaller events with fewer types of items accepted, which would cut back on need for volunteers. June and September dates are available at the Fairgrounds; officers recommend September, which will give more people time to be vaccinated and be comfortable in crowds, which increases possibility of involvement.
- **Garage Sale.** We have budgeted for this and typically organize in May. We will put out a poll on whether we should plan for May, June, or later in the year.

Community

- **2021 elections.**
 - **Postcards.** Are at the printer and expected to go in the mail this week.
 - **Candidates.** Melissa, Marika, Amanda, Sara, and Debra are not seeking re-election. Sarah, Ben, and Maggie are. We have not heard Jennifer’s intentions; Mike will connect with her. Officers discussed possibilities of current board members filling vacant officer and committee chair seats; Melissa will contact them to gauge their interest. Also discussed possibility of changing bylaws so officers are not elected at large, but appointed by other board members.
 - **Drop-in sessions for potential candidates.** We will move forward with idea, where interested residents can get information and answers from current board members. Michael will send Doodle poll to board members, then line up 2-3 one-hour sessions online after March 16. We will track questions potential candidates ask, so we can prepare FAQ for future.
- **“Board buddies.”** Discussion put off until April.
- **2021 annual meeting.** Intent is to prepare and record online presentation similar to last year. Michael will draft script for officers and committee chairs, based on year-end reports

Next meeting: Tuesday April 13, 5:30 p.m.

filed with city. Michael will try to find viewership stats from last year. (Answer: 57 unique users.)

Communication

- **Website** (draft site at <https://167d10cc.aeronauticvigilante.com>). Catchafire volunteer has added newsletter archives dating back to 2016. Still need to figure out what forms to use on site, and bring content up to date.

Financials

- **2021 work plans.** Board approved work plans at February meeting. Michael still has to complete report from 2020 city grants as part of submitting 2021 agreements. They are due March 31. We have received reimbursement checks from all outstanding grants: Community Engagement, Innovation, and CRWD.
- **Audit committee.** Amanda has committed. Melissa will seek two other board members so we can abide by timeline in bylaws. Michael will make sure paperwork is ready for review.

Organizational Business

- Board Meeting (March 16).
 - **Presenter.** Jenne and Ben will do presentation on ideas generated by their Neighborhoods Now training. 30 minutes total, including room for Q&A.
 - **Action Item.** Audit Committee (Mike Ireland)

Other Business

- **Strategic planning.**
 - **Mission, Vision Statements.** Next steps: Michael will prepare survey for board members, with 3 options each for Mission and Vision statements, which Barbara Rudd and Jill culled from drafts generated at Feb. 25 workshop. Survey will be sure to explain difference between Mission and Vision. We will wait to see results of survey to determine if we need another meeting on those statements. Only reason to do it would be if there is no consensus, because another meeting could make it too easy to over-analyze every single word. Most of the people at the discussion were continuing board members, which makes likelihood of consensus higher. Survey will include fill-in option.
Values Statements. Barbara culled four “pillars” of values based on Feb. 25 workshop; she recommends small group develop those further.
 - **Organizational Goal Setting.** Will follow completion of Mission, Vision, Values statements.
- **Emily’s resignation.** Emily’s last day as Organizer will be March 18; they are hoping to pursue career in construction. Michael and D12 executive director Kathryn Murray will re-draft Organizer job description to reflect current needs and priorities. Hope is that newer emphasis on anti-racism work will attract interest from qualified candidates. Discussion of whether it would be worth appealing to HS seniors in community to apply. Michael will ask Anti-Racism Work Group members what they need for administrative support in interim. It is also possible to ask board members to fill in during interim, rather than have Michael staff that work.

Other Business

- **Chauvin trial.** Michael has been sharing “situation” updates with board that city send out. He will monitor city web page (www.stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/chauvin-trial-information); when there is timely information posted, he will link from our website.
- **Vaccination clinic.** Living at Home program (umbrella for block nurse programs) can get 100 vaccinations for 65 or older if we can find a space. Olivia says most people NESCBNP works with already have shots. If Aeon rejects Como by Lake as option, she wonders if we could use Streetcar Station (hypothetically). NESCBNP would work on driving people, etc. Not clear how big space needs to be, or what kind of layout, how can we handle waiting period. Other locations (upstairs at Pavilion, gymnasiums at rec centers) also have space advantages, disadvantages. Olivia will keep officers up to date; she is not sure what timeline is.

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 10 2021, 7:00 p.m. Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/95701783379?pwd=QVppN2QrR09uNXFUL2ZEMmNwSzh5UT09>

Dial in: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 957 0178 3379

Passcode: 134640

Attendees: Mike Ireland (board), Sara Benzkofer (chair), Dawn Lamm, Bill Nieber, Jennifer Victor-Larsen (board), Michael Kuchta (executive director), Susan Jane Cheney, Janet Pope, Annie Levenson-Falk (presenter), Sandy McDonald, Jim Stevens

STANDARD ITEMS

- Welcome and Introductions
- Amend/Adopt the Agenda

COMMUNITY SECTION

PRESENTATION

- Annie Levenson-Falk, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) of Minnesota

Annie presented the [Consumers Plan](#), an alternative to Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan, and took a number of questions from board and community members.

NEW BUSINESS

- Citywide Spring Clean-Up (Mike Ireland)

Tricia Wehrle continues to plan for the cleanup event on April 24. Social distancing guidelines will determine the specific format of the gathering but at a minimum the current plans call for a safe, contact-free process. They still want us to host the event as we previously agreed to support.

- Como Lake Community Update Meeting (Mike Ireland)

The Capitol Region Watershed District is holding a virtual community meeting on March 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to share what early data is showing about the lake's water quality after several different treatments. The presentation will be recorded and posted online following the meeting. <https://www.capitolregionwd.org/event/como-lake-community-update-meeting/>

- Como Lake Clean-Up Planning (Mike Ireland)

Discussed having an all DIY clean-up event this weekend, March 13-14, since the snow has mostly melted and garbage is showing itself. Jennifer Victor-Larsen and other committee members will meet Thursday morning to discuss further. If they proceed, DIY event information will be included in Friday's newsletter.

We also discussed when to have the first formal lake clean-up event. Decided to do a hybrid event in early May, where we'd host an in-person event on a Saturday, but provide tools for community members to participate throughout the week. Tentatively planning for May 8-May 15.

- February's Seed Library Cyber Seed Crawl (Dawn Lamm)

Seeds can be found in Little Free Libraries in 12 St. Paul locations. Find locations here: <https://www.stephaniehankerson.com/blog/welcome-to-outplanttheoutbreak2021>

- Community Garden (Michael Kuchta)

Deadline for renewal is March 15; so far: 15 have paid to renew, 3 more say they will renew, 6 unknown, 1 not returning, 7 on waiting list. Coordinators are looking at some modifications of garden rules; I hope to have those codified for approval at April committee meeting.

- Organics Recycling Site (Michael Kuchta)

Parks and Rec say they expect to have language from City Attorney's office by this Friday to present to Ramsey County for rebuilding the site at approximately 1111 Beulah Lane. (photo below). In the meantime, we have increased pickups to 3 times a week to meet demand -- M, W, F.



- Tree Trek (Michael Kuchta)

Forestry has assigned urban forester Brianna Bacher to work with us. She has looked at the list of new trees to tag that were suggested by Stephanie Mirocha, and has added 10 more to consider. Quick summary: There are 18 trees currently identified, but approximately 6 are missing tags. Stephanie has identified 13-19 additional species; Brianna has identified 10. Of those suggestions, the company that produces the tags has about 25 in stock; we would have to have as many as 10 custom-made. In-stock tags cost \$3.20-\$4.70 each; unsure of cost of custom tags. And Brianna says we have to use hot-dipped galvanized nails, with specific instructions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Virtual D10 Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting Time

- Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council – 3/3/2021 – Minutes

1. Call to order on Zoom at 7:03pm

Present: *D10 Board and Staff:* Maggie Zimmerman (chair), Rebecca Calvo, Benjamin Kowalski-Grahek, Michael Kuchta (director)

Presenters: Michael Mechtenberg, Program Manager for Better Bus Routes (Metro Transit)

Community Members: Rich Fundakowski, Suzanne Rhees

2. Amend/Adopt Agenda

Agenda passed without amendment.

Rebecca Calvo appointed to take minutes. *Minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Information on upcoming meetings is at the end of the document.*

3. Land Use Voting Procedures Reminders

4. New Business

- a. Metro Transit - Route 3 bus line improvements, Michael Mechtenberg
<https://www.metrotransit.org/better-bus-routes>

Focus is on low-cost, common-sense improvements. Previous projects include Route 2 (Fall 2018) and Route 63 (Fall 2020), with new projects anticipated every 1-2 years. Key considerations include route ridership levels, key transfer points, adjacent land uses, and limited mobility boardings. Routes and schedules will be simplified when appropriate; however, increasing the number or frequency of buses is not as easily managed. Buses will be given priority at transit signals/traffic lights to streamline service.

Goals for Route 3 include improving speed and reliability of service, quality/location of bus shelters, bus stop accessibility, consolidation of bus stops (optimally, 1/4 mile apart), and customer/bus operator satisfaction. One major change would separate the 3K route into another service line and realign the segment of the route through downtown Minneapolis along Washington Avenue. An extension of the 3 Route will be added to serve the North Loop in Minneapolis. Full details of proposed changes are available at the website.

In District 10, there are 7 locations identified (3 on Energy Park, 2 on Como Ave., 2 on Front Ave.) that will receive ADA-compliant concrete pads to improve stop accessibility. Some additional stops will receive other improvements to shelters or location. Stops at Como/Albert, and Como/Arona already have been eliminated.

Q: Will there be fewer buses on Route 3?

A: No – goal is to carry as many or more riders than today.

Q: Concerns about reduced service at the Como/Front/Dale intersection and proposal to eliminate the stop at Front/St. Albans and others. Why?

A: We welcome suggestions on areas where consolidating stops would result in diminished service quality for riders, and that's why we're doing this community outreach now. Those stops were probably eliminated due to low ridership numbers.

Mr. Mechtenberg subsequently provided this information on ridership along Route 3 in D10 during the weekdays (data from October 2019):



Q: If the goal is to save time by speeding up service along the route, what is the estimated amount of time saved with these improvements?

A: We don't have a number currently, but it will be reflected in updated schedule. From other projects, we expect somewhat modest time savings (10-20%),

Q: Will you reduce or increase overall bus frequency along Route 3? Sometimes the buses bunch together at major transfer points like Como/Cleveland. Do you propose to eliminate sub-service lines such as the 3S?

A: We haven't made decisions about the 3S (sub-service line) yet. We would not look to decrease the overall frequency of buses along the route, but we're not going to add buses either.

Q: Your proposed target date for implementation is August 21, right before the State Fair, which could cause confusion or chaos for riders. Why this date?

A: Drivers must choose their routes by August 21. Ideally, we would be finished implementing these changes by the time that drivers are starting their new routes. Also, we don't want to implement the changes in winter.

5. Staff Reports, Michael Kuchta

a. DEVELOPMENT

- **Banfield Pet Hospital.** Site plan has been approved. It appears the stand-alone driveway access on Dunlap south of Larpenteur will be removed.
- **International Institute.** Interior demolition on building is under way. They are not sure when exterior construction of building addition will begin, but expect to reopen by end of November. Services are relocated to Saint Anthony Park for the time being.
- **Essence Event Center.** This new venue in Bandana Square expects to begin hosting some events in June, though does not expect to be up to full speed until 2022. We should see applications for liquor and entertainment licenses in a few months.
- **1554 Midway Parkway.** Nothing new from the developer, but work clearly is moving forward.
- **Hmong College Prep Academy.** Michael is still trying to obtain the draft of the traffic management plan, so we can weigh in to address the bus queues eating up parking, blocking access to Como Park Apartments, and causing traffic congestion and safety concerns.

b. PROPERTY ISSUES

- **671 California Ave.** Still trying to address complaints from surrounding neighbors that tenants are running a recording studio in this single-family home, with music penetrating neighbors' walls most evenings as late as 10 p.m. After an initial conversation, DSI has not followed up on pursuing on what may be an illegal "home occupation." We had discussed a combination of approaches, including working with the landlord, tenant education, or potential

enforcement to resolve the situation. There has been no response.

- **Duke's Car and Towing.** DSI says business returned to compliance after violations were found during a Jan. 13 inspection.

- **Cedar Transportation:** Bus company operates a small garage at Breda and Winston, south of State Fairgrounds. During cold snap in February, resident across the street complained about diesel buses idling for hours on end, causing serious noise and air quality issues. City says there is no zoning violation, and that it has no ordinance prohibiting activity. (Minneapolis does have an ordinance that prevents buses from idling for more than 5 minutes in 60-minute period). Michael is checking with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to see if activity might violate state standards.

c. LICENSES

- **978 Barrett.** The resident has applied for a backyard chicken permit. Typically, these receive routine administrative approval. However, one neighbor called stating opposition. Michael steered him to DSI to find out if there is recourse.

- **982 Como Ave.** The property owner has applied for a short-term rental license. Typically, these receive routine administrative approval.

- **Half Time Rec.** No update on what, if anything, DSI is doing in response to possible Covid and license violations during and after a private retirement party for a police sergeant on Jan. 29. DSI said they typically do "education" for a first violation. Also, no update on timing for City Council approval of the new license conditions we negotiated last summer. As part of that agreement, we are supposed to hold a community meeting before April 30. Also, that agreement requires the bar to "go back" to a 1 a.m. closing time beginning April 15 (though the current 2 a.m. closing time is wiped out by Covid restrictions).

- **K&L Sales.** The second-hand dealer's license for this used-car lot at Como and Arona is up for renewal on March 29.

- **H&M Auto Body.** The auto repair and paint shop licenses for this body shop at 867 Dale are up for renewal on April 18.

- **Como Park Golf Course.** The liquor, Sunday liquor, and entertainment licenses are up for renewal on April 18.

- **Gabe's By The Park.** The liquor, Sunday liquor, entertainment, 2 a.m. closing, patio, and gambling licenses for the restaurant at Lexington and Energy Park Drive are up for renewal on May 5. Additional note: DSI says they also received a complaint about potential Covid violation at Gabe's; no update on that, either.

d. OTHER

- **Bole Ethiopian Cuisine.** Restaurant, whose University Ave. location was burned down during last summer's riots, expects to open on Pascal (in old Fox Trot etc. space) the week of March 16.

- **Dock & Paddle.** Restaurant will reopen on weekends beginning March 19. They expect to hold a music series beginning in May. Tony Arvidson says that once they reopen, he wants to begin work on the annual performance metrics survey required in the lease.

- **Hmong Freedom Festival.** Will be cancelled for 2021.

- **Twin Cities German Immersion School.** I have asked Traffic Engineering to monitor the traffic impacts of the school's vehicle queues, especially in the afternoon.

e. OTHER PENDING COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Back to the 50s.** No update.

- **State Fair Street Parking Study.** Still needs to be analyzed.

- **East Como Lake Drive.** No update.

- **Comprehensive Plan.** Adopted in 2015, work began in 2012.

- **Saint Paul Parking Study.** City staff are still holding work sessions with the city's

Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee on proposed revisions that would reduce or even eliminate off-street parking requirements in many situations.

● **Saint Paul Intent of Zoning Study.** City staff are undertaking a general review of the city's zoning code, much of which dates to 1975. Michael is waiting to find out the timeline of when they begin public engagement on this.

- **Infill Housing:** City staff are examining options for allowing smaller multi-family construction in zoning districts that now allow only single-family homes. Options could include duplexes, 3- and 4-unit buildings, and cluster, cottage, and courtyard projects. Among potential goals: updating the city's housing stock, and increasing density, affordability, home ownership opportunities, and community and individual wealth.
- **Family:** City Council was scheduled to hold public hearing March 3 on the redefinition of "family" in the city's zoning code. The proposal all but eliminates the term "family" in city zoning codes and replaces it with "household." In most circumstances, the new proposal then allows no more than six adults "and minor children in their care" to live in a dwelling unit.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. Next Board Meeting – March 16th @ 7pm – Virtual
- b. Next Land Use Meeting - April 7th @ 7pm – Virtual

7. Adjourn 8:15pm

District 10 Como Community Council
Neighborhood Relations Committee
Tuesday, March 2nd 2021 @ 7:00pm Online

I. OPENING 7:00- 7:10

A. Call to order and introductions: Appointed board members Sarah Reuter, Jenne Nelson, Jill Henriksen, Melissa Brannon

Community: Laura Oyen, Paul Czarnecki, Darcy Rivers

Other D10: Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta

1. Finalize and approve Como Mascot- Good to go; Michael will announce in Friday newsletter

2. Public Art. Continue to develop the anti-racism work groups idea to have a public art project around the theme of Home. Talk to Springboard to see what resources are available. Talk to Chelsea heights and Northwest Como about a mural on the side of the building.

3. Philanthropy.

- Food distribution with Sanneh. We will be able to work with them through March and April, working with Farmers to Families, No longer food kit, It will just be a mix of produce, meat, and dairy. Temple will let us use the lot again. Michael put out a call for volunteers and will have shifts covered. There will be at least one board member present for each shift.
Logistics- Have a list of people who can take extra boxes at the end of the shift. In order to help Michael can we have someone do data entry, and have a board member set up and break down the site?
- Scorecard: Create a process to accept and work with organizations
 - This was created from the conversations happening within the committee for the last month.
 - A polished version will be sent to the Environment committee because that committee would be able to utilize a similar score card.
 - Will be bringing this to the board for approval so we as a committee can be more nimble
 - Some notes about the scorecard
 - For the official form, have it be formatted in text boxes or some sort of google form
 - For the Scorecard, this will help us evaluate each organization, how it worked, the benefits for our organization and the neighborhood
 - Will help us keep records and build organizations
 - Why call out BIPOC organization? Because our neighborhood has historically done damage to that group and we need to start rectifying that.
 - Consider how we want to weigh the numbers.
 - Approval voting method- St. Louis example, vote for all candidates you approve of, top score goes onto win, use with multiple partnership requests
 - Is there a way for us to gauge or figure out the specific scope of the project? At the moment it is too hard
 - Have a space for us to debrief how an event went, what we need to do better, tactical
 - Get a survey from the partner organization

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 6, 2020 @ 7:00pm - Online

ARWG 2/24 Meeting
7-8:30 pm

Present: Jenne Nelson, Sarah Reuter, Jill Henrickson, KC Harrison, Janet Pope, Betsy Wehrwein, Dan Edgerton, Brianne Blake (?) (Emily Rodriguez)

Summer Art Project: Home

- broad spectrum of artists and perspectives to span across the neighborhood
- How can we incorporate youth involved through schools in the neighborhood?
 - potential for partnership with schools, plan with teachers and art departments
- Could we also interview people about their feelings on an art piece? How can we utilize different mediums for maximum impact and inclusion?
- Travelling pieces/permanent pieces
- We should plan to use a Sunday series to incorporate a more robust discussion into this project since the heart of it is to generate conversation around "Home" in the midst of evictions, displacement, and racist housing structures that we see in Como
- The timeline will coincide with the grant money/timing

Grants:

- UofM has a new community building art grant**
- AARP**

Neighborhoods Now Update:

Jenne is training at the UofM on community engagement and organizing

- Committed people to carry out the work, we need more outreach
- Basebuild
- Be specific, use the term "reparative justice" rather than "racial equity"
 - Can we quantify the accumulated white wealth and then calculate reparations?
 - Make short-term, mid- and long-term goals
 - Plan to deep canvass for the spring
 - Interrogate how neighborhood groups historically and currently have maintained structures that enforce white supremacy
- Luis Pereira noted that recommendations from District Councils are very powerful when it comes to zoning

Tasks

- Formation of guidelines and planning- Sarah, KC, Jill, and Dan
- Jenne can help with grants
- Recruitment in the newsletters
- Next meeting will encompass mostly "Home" project planning, short term and needs immediate attention and focus

District 10 Como Community Council
Neighborhood Relations Committee
Tuesday Feb. 2, 2021 @ 7 p.m. online

Call to order and introductions

Sarah Reuter, Jill Henricksen, Melissa Brannon, Jenne Nelson, Mike Ireland, Betsy Wehrwein, Amy Brendmoen, Todd Levig, Michael Kuchta

Add to the agenda:

Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen gave a brief update on the conversion of the former Bethesda hospital as a step-up homeless shelter. Great use of facility: residents have individual rooms and bathrooms, locked rooms, etc. She noted that local resident Jess Rose, who works in homeless services for Ramsey County, posted on Facebook seeking games and got great response. Amy wonders if we can arrange supply drive for other needs residents have; Jess has extensive list. Committee thought it would be better to focus on most crucial needs, which seemed to be winter socks and gloves, and blankets or quilts – full or twin size. Could tie it into Valentines weekend (warm hearts) and collect donations outside Streetcar Station. Could also take cash donations for care package, including through D10 PayPal account. Michael will contact Jess and verify most critical needs, and publicize in Friday newsletter and website if it seems doable.

Kiwanis:

Todd Levig of North Suburban Kiwanis of Saint Paul discussed possible partnerships with D10 in 2021. We partnered for Thanksgiving baskets in 2020 for about 3 dozen families. He suggested Easter hams; that could run into dietary restrictions among participants. Could partner on meal project again, designating \$25 gift cards for needy families identified through block nurse programs; Como HS and Elementary, Higher Ground Academy, Hmong College Prep Academy; and shelter residents at Bandana Square, and Luther Seminary. Could bring in District 12, collect donations through PayPal again.

Also talked about having Kiwanis table at Como Connect portion of Ice Cream Social in July. Todd also said they'd like to do a kite fly; are working with Roseville and St. Louis Park to see how it goes. We could look into reserving open field in Como Park; what would be capacity? Is interested in working with us on harvest parade. Kiwanis raises money through malt stand at State Fair; if you volunteer for four-hour shift, get free admission.

Como Mascot:

Need to get the word out. Open to community ideas and community vote. There is a neighbor, Sally, who is a seamstress to approach about making costume.

Sanneh food distribution:

Continuing on Feb. 5, 19, 26 (can't get parking lot on 12th because of Lunar New Year celebration at temple). Averaging 75-100 boxes a day.

Philanthropy scorecard:

Draft is in Google Drive. Jenne will work on it, have update by end of February. Goal is to have transparent way to select and prioritize activities and requests so decisions are mutually beneficial. Application form/scorecard should be approved by board.

Anti-Racism Work Group:

There is recording on website of discussion with councilmember Mitra Jalali about homeless encampments, shelters, and affordable housing. Look at options for affordable housing:

accessory dwellings, density and zoning changes, tiny homes like Settled villages that churches are setting up, more utilization of Energy Park, etc. Need more education of community and neighbors, work with city (council members, office of financial empowerment), strategic planning (jump start D10 comprehensive plan), work with groups such as Isaiah, Micah, St. Paul Association of Responsible Landlords,
Looking for more possibilities to partner with D12 and bring in more speakers. Wants to get word out that more people are welcome; publicize meetings in newsletter

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 7:00pm - Online