



District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
7:00 PM
MINUTES

Meeting conducted online using Google Hangouts Meet due to the extraordinary situation of the Coronavirus. Also streamed live.

I. Call to order

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at **7:04** pm.

II. Introductions

Board Present (online):

Thomas Coburn, Jill Henricksen, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, Sara Benzkofer, Amanda Rohrer, Debra Verber, Annie Huidekoper, Rebecca Calvo, Sarah Reuter, Marika Staloch, Maggie Zimmerman, Juan José Miranda Ruiz

Board Absent:

Cody Zwiefelhofer, Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Alexis Baker, Jennifer Victor-Larsen

Staff Present (online):

Michael Kuchta

Neighborhood Introductions (online):

Participating via videoconference/conference call were Jim LaValle, Jeff Wrede and Elizabeth Keefe (sp?) from Bandana Square project; Brad Griffith, Janet Pope, and Charles Norman. Meeting also was available streaming online for other community members; participation could not be tracked. The link was available on the D10 website, calendar, Facebook, Nextdoor, and newsletter.

III. Review, Amend agenda

MOTION: Approve meeting minutes (first/second) passes

IV. Community Section

A. Community Concerns: None stated

V. Board Business Section

A. Financial reports (Mike Ireland)

Notable Revenue

- The only revenue received in February was \$25 from Sunday yoga registrations

Notable Expenses

- \$122.80 paid on the “Phone” line, which should be our final Centurylink monthly phone expense
- \$138.99 on the “Printer” line was for our printer lease and flyers for Land Use neighborhood communications
- \$183.24 on the “Communications and Technology” line was for monthly website hosting and Comcast installation fee
- \$186 on the “Postage” line was spent for a Land Use mailing and postage for mailing Welcome postcards
- \$569.90 on the “Accounting” line was for January and February invoices
- \$250 on the “Sunday Series” line was prepayment for an honorarium and space rental for the March 15 presentation, which was canceled

Other Issues

- Due to the timing of the last payroll period’s check request to the accountant, Michael’s second salary period, both of Emily’s paychecks and the associated payroll taxes will be reported on March’s financials.
- Last month, Mike shared that we received \$2,011.59 for reimbursement of the 2019 CRWD Partnership Grant in January that was in the “accounts receivable” line and thought it would be reflected in February’s reporting. As it was not in February’s numbers, Mike called the accountant. As this was reimbursement for expenses incurred in 2019, it would not be in their 2020 numbers. Mike asked if they reopen their 2019 books to apply it and since the council’s numbers should balance to the accountants, how would I reflect this? She will research it and respond to Mike.
- This will be a similar issue for March, as we just received \$13,000.28 for reimbursement from the 2019 Innovation Fund and \$6,049 for reimbursement from the 2019 City Engagement Grant.
- Last March, we received reimbursement from the 2018 City Engagement Grant that was reflected in March’s financials, so there is an inconsistency. Mike will pursue this issue.
- We are still waiting on \$1,700 for reimbursement for the 2019 Tier 1 and 2 City recycling program to complete our expected 2019 reimbursements
- Our federal and state tax reports were filed.

B. Minutes

MOTION: Approve February 2020 meeting minutes (first/second) passes

C. Board Chair and Officers Report (Melissa Liu)

Officers spent a lot of time talking about the annual meeting. The possibility of us pushing this back is legitimate, so board will discuss later. Proud of neighborhood; we are looking out for each other. We will be seeking input on how to move forward later on.

D. Committee Updates

Environment (Mike Ireland)

Did not have quorum. Talked about the annual meeting and ideas for dot democracy voting. Talked about April 19 spring fashion swap. If it is still happening, will need a lot more volunteers.

Planning for summer Garden Tour is progressing. Citywide Cleanup is April 25; if still happening, we will have table for this event. One person is excited about helping organize the Como Lake Cleanup, but would welcome additional help.

Action Item: Moved: Como Community Council will support and endorse a Como Park Tree Trek on Saturday June 13 led by Stephanie Mirocha. (seconded) (motion passes)

Land Use (Maggie Zimmerman)

Hmong College Prep Academy wants to expand on existing land. The K-12 charter school wants to build a new middle school and outdoor area on the vacant land it owns. Construction is likely starting this summer and go through 2021. They will seek D10 support for their request for conduit revenue bonds from the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

There are more buses on Pascal and Jessamine than projected; this is causing congestion and safety problems on those streets, and access problems for residents of Como Park Apartments. Construction traffic also will be an issue for residential parts of neighborhood.

Pacific Ramp LLC proposes to build a 150-unit apartment building on top the existing, decrepit parking ramp at 1015 Bandana Blvd. Rezoning is needed because commercial parking facilities are not allowed under the current zoning.

3 members from this project participated in the meeting: Jim LaValle, Jeff Wrede and Elizabeth Keefe. The ramp has 455 stalls - 300 stalls would remain, 150 would serve the hotel. The building will be shaped like an E, it will not have any additional footprint on the area. Amenities will be on the area inside the E (bocce, pool, BBQ).

If the property is rezoned, the variance is needed because the setback from property lines is greater than the 10-foot maximum allowed in T (traditional) zoning districts.

The committee did not take action because rezoning and variance requests had not been filed with the city. The formal requests now have been submitted, and the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee has scheduled the public hearing for March 26. That date is before the next Land Use meeting. Thus, the request is being brought directly to the board for action in time to weigh in at the March 26 hearing.

Action Item: Moved: The Como Community Council supports the rezoning of 1015 Bandana Blvd. from B-3 to T-3, and supports a variance allowing a greater setback from property lines than the 10-foot maximum allowed under T-3 zoning. (seconded) (motion passes)

Neighborhood Relations (Michael Kuchta)

Owners of 883 Front Ave. are applying for Neighborhood Star Grant. They are seeking a \$37,000 grant and \$37,000 loan. The back end of the building will be a legal apartment. The front is being developed for retail use. They hope this will be a coffeeshop. They've already torn down a dilapidated home next door for a patio and parking lot.

A number of questions came up during neighborhood relations meeting trying to get information about a business plan, the coffee shop, etc. Developers sent a schematic of the coffeeshop, but did not share additional information. A D10 community survey did list a coffeeshop as the number one goal for business growth in the neighborhood. Traditionally the board has supported STAR requests.

The new owners installed exterior lighting that exceeded city code, but failed to get a variance. It's not clear if the lights have been removed or simply turned off. We've received no additional complaints. No news on whether site will request a parking variance, but it's not expected to be

necessary. Board members voiced disappointment that the owners were not attending the meeting and they did not give more information, but wanted to support their efforts.

Action Item: Moved: The Como Community Council Board sends a letter of support for the Neighborhood STAR Grant application by 883FrontAvenue, LLC. (Motion passes)

E. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Financials

Our 2020 Partner Grant with Capitol Region Watershed District is completed. It will provide up to \$6,200 for lake clean-up events and expanded Adopt-a-Drain outreach.

Our federal 990 tax return for 2019 was filed March 7. Our state return is completed; it will be filed as soon as we get the signatures of two officers.

As Mike reported, we received reimbursements from the 2019 Community Engagement and Innovation Fund grants, totaling roughly \$19,000. We still have not received payment from Public Works for our 2019 Tier 1 and Tier 2 recycling activities.

Office operations

53 Welcome postcards were mailed this week to new residents.

After visits from 3 technicians and repeated phone calls trying to clear up record-keeping glitches, our phone and internet service is officially transferred from CenturyLink to Comcast. We should save about \$20/month and already have significantly faster internet service.

Plaques are ordered to commemorate all 54 District 10 members who have been named to the Neighborhood Honor Roll since 2001. We'll hang these plaques in the Streetcar Station.

The remainder of our Sunday Series events are cancelled. All the presenters are willing to reschedule later in the year. Community yoga scheduled for April 5 also is cancelled. Other events we need to address – beyond our elections and annual meeting – are:

- * Committee meetings for April and May
- * Clothing swap scheduled for April 19
- * Neighborhood Garage Sale scheduled for weekend of May 15
- * Como Community Seed Library event scheduled for May 16
- * Streetcar Station open on Sundays
- * Citywide Drop-Off at the Fairgrounds on June 6. (The Fairgrounds has cancelled all events through May 10.)

Michael plans to continue working in the office most days, but our organizer is not coming in, and our intern is on hiatus.

We continue to support operation of the organics recycling site on Beulah Lane, and continue to push the city and county to come to terms on reconstructing the site this spring.

City business

- Michael testified at the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on Feb. 24, supporting the variance requests for 1554 Midway Parkway.
- Michael met with Department of Safety and Inspections personnel, and representatives from Como HS and local colleges, to discuss sound levels from school athletic fields.
- Michael has been in conversation with traffic engineering folks at Public Works to examine remedies to the congestion, safety, and access problems that school buses are creating on Pascal and Jessamine, adjacent to Como Park Apartments.

- Rebecca and Michael attended last week's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, where our Pathways Project report was very well received. Since that meeting, Michael has followed up with Alice Messer, who manages design and construction in the park. We want to make sure we are in the discussion and that Parks doesn't waste the opportunity to implement some of our recommendations when Parks repaves parking lots, rebuilds part of the Lexington Parkway trail, and starts replacing blue signs later this year.
- On March 11 – more than 10 months after we first made the request -- the City finally submitted the application to renew our lease and expand our community garden at Snelling and Almond. We are waiting for MnDOT to approve our request.
- Michael attended one of Capitol Region Watershed District's presentations on this spring's alum and herbicide treatments of Como Lake, and intend to post articles on our website as the treatments get closer.

F. New Business (Board Members)

Office Lease

Action Item: Moved: The Como Community Council Board approves the three-year lease for calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022 with the Department of Parks and Recreation for office space at 1224 Lexington Parkway N. (second) (motion passes)

Annie raised concern about the broken pavers out front of the building, as it's a liability.

Coronavirus

Committee Meetings

We should select one online forum and all try it.

April Annual Meeting and Elections

Bylaws hem us in. They require annual meeting on third Tuesday of April, elections before the annual meeting, and forbid absentee and proxy voting. We have to figure out what honors the context and the goal of the bylaws while still recognizing we need to discourage public gatherings. Can we amend the bylaws to say that in states of emergency, we could change our election procedures? Yes, but it would require a 60-day process starting today.

Board members concerns: nervous about trying to use a process that we haven't vetted. Would like to take a careful look at bylaws and figure out how to make adjustments. What are the other District Councils doing? Could we offer different voting options for people? What kind of safeguards do we need for each option? How much longer are current board members willing to serve beyond their expiring terms? We could ask the community what they want us to do.

Some ideas so far:

- Delaying the meeting would put us into June at the earliest.
- We might move voting online
 - Survey Monkey is a possibility for elections moving forward.
 - Can try safeguards with email addresses
 - Not a completely secret ballot
 - We could try in-person ballots
- Not meeting in person.

Moved: The Como Community Council delays our April 2020 board elections in order to prepare for alternate voting formats that account for gathering restrictions put in place by the Minnesota Department of Health. (seconded) (passes)

Melissa will send out an email tomorrow to ask for volunteers to form a workgroup to make a plan for April.

Will plan to cancel the remaining events (other than committee meetings) in April and May.

VI. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm by Melissa Liu. *(first/second) passes*

Respectively submitted by Marika Staloch. These minutes are not official until approved. Next online meeting April 21, 2020

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

April 16, 2020 / 5:30 p.m. / Google Hangouts

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

Events

- All District 10 events through May are postponed or cancelled. This includes last three Sunday Series installments, two Community Yoga sessions, the new Swap Till You Drop event, and the Neighborhood Garage Sale.
- We endorsed Como Community Seed Library's Seed Your Dreams event for May 16, and allowed them to use one of our Streetcar rental dates. Their event is not cancelled, though it is uncertain if building will be available. They are looking at setting up online resources and remote pick-up of seed packets. Marika notes that Parks and the Library have "contactless" pick-up infrastructure set up that might be available.
- Public Works is cancelling the June Citywide Drop-Offs, including our June 6 event at the Fairgrounds. They are looking to reschedule ours for Aug. 1, Sept. 12, or Sept. 19. Maggie, Jennifer, and Amy are aware and willing to continue their organizing roles if available.

Community

- **Hmong College Prep Expansion.** They are asking for a letter of support for when their conduit revenue bond request goes to the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority. They expect to provide information in time for Land Use to handle this in May.
- **1015 Bandana Blvd.** City's Zoning Committee recommended approval of rezoning for the proposed apartment project. Next step is Planning Commission, tentatively set for May 1.
- **Essence Event Center / Bandana Square.** License hearing was held April 13, and hearing officer suggested she will recommend approval. Wellington Management sent letter opposing licenses because arrangements are not signed to handle additional parking and security. Zoning requires 68 parking spaces; event center seems to have 65 on site. Owner says he has reached out to nearby property owners to negotiate parking leases to accommodate crowds of up to 400. Opening is pushed back until fall at the earliest, more likely 2021.
- **1554 Midway Parkway.** Owners are parading potential contractors and additional investors through the property to perform due diligence.

Communication

- **Website.** Michael has not made additional progress on new site.
- **Domain name.** Mike points out www.comocommunitycouncil.org is available. Cody says we can re-direct it to current domain, or vice versa. Michael will check out pricing.

Financials

- **2020 City Grants.** Michael has filed all city grants: Community Engagement, Innovation Fund, and Recycling. They are still going through the city approval process; this year, it's a new electronic authorization process. We cannot seek reimbursements until approvals are complete. All outstanding 2019 grant reimbursements are paid. As of March 31, we have \$17,622 in expenses awaiting reimbursement by the city. District Councils have been told there is "no talk" of reducing funding in 2020. Many district councils expect that, given how city tax revenue is plummeting during the pandemic, we should prepare for funding cuts in 2021.
- **Capitol Region Watershed District.** Partner Grant contract is signed for 2020. Mike reported that we have 5 people willing to help organize the Lake Clean-Up events.

Organizational Business

Board Meeting on April 21 will be through video and phone conferencing. Michael will send access information to board members and community members who request it. Agenda items:

- Action Item authorizing delay in elections and annual meeting as a result of pandemic restrictions.
- Action Item giving notification of proposed amendments to Bylaws.
- Action Item from Neighborhood Relations postponing Ice Cream Social
- Action Item from Jill Henricksen urging adoption of anti-discrimination resolution

Officers had extensive discussion about draft language to amend Bylaws in ways that allow additional methods of voting, and about setting standards for remote meetings while under pandemic restrictions. Goal is to allow flexibility for additional methods of voting if feasible, without mandating additional voting options. Amending bylaws does not mean any or all of potential alternative methods of voting will take place. That will be separate decision. It is unclear how community will perceive amendments.

Michael has shared draft amendments with former chair Ryan Flynn and former vice chair Joao Medeiros, who crafted the existing bylaws. Michael will meet with them Friday to discuss their legal concerns and suggestions for refinement.

It will be helpful to explain what is meant by alternative methods of voting, such as electronic, mail, or absentee balloting. Marika forwarded a Washington Post article that may help explain distinctions.

On Tuesday, officers will propose establishing a short-term ad hoc committee to investigate the logistics of different methods of voting, to make recommendations at the May meeting if the Bylaws are amended, and to oversee any advance voting. Cody volunteered to chair this ad hoc committee. Michael will seek community members through Friday's newsletter.

At this point, outgoing board members are willing to remain until new elections take place; under Bylaws, they retain their seats until successors are elected. Terms for newly elected board members will not change. Goal is to still hold elections and annual meeting in tandem. Outgoing board members deserve public thanks for extending their service.

Michael reported that 9 people have filed for office, but that we have no candidates at-large or from Sub-District 1 or 2. Filing period is an administrative decision (not spelled out in the bylaws), so we will re-open filing after Tuesday's meeting and keep it open until 10 days before voting commences.

Strategic plan. Saint Paul Foundation will not fund us to conduct a strategic plan; our neighborhood demographics do not fit their mission. However, they are able to sponsor a membership for us to Catchafire, which provides a wide range of webinars led by pro bono professionals. Goal is to use them to start a strategic planning process once new board is elected and oriented. In the meantime, Michael and Melissa will "field test" a few of their offerings to get a sense of how they work.

Annual meeting. With "stay at home" directives in place until May 3, it is too early to decide how and when to schedule it. We want to keep neighborhood healthy, but show we are still accountable to our neighbors. Goal is still to have committees share out a report of what they've

accomplished/are working on. Will have discussion at Tuesday's board meeting; need to adjust as necessary.

Staff Report

- Michael has been using the newsletter and website to share Covid resources with the neighborhood. We've had somewhere between 15 and 45 people take block club idea kits – don't know for sure, because clipboard and sign-up sheets were stolen last weekend. We had a dozen households sign up to contact neighborhood seniors. Emily is handling the connections and logistics.
- **Community news.** Zoo has decided it will not charge for parking; we are the first ones to have the news. Capitol Region Watershed District applied herbicide to Como Lake this week; plans alum treatment in May.
- **Community garden.** We finally got the (correct) permit from MnDOT and the city allowing us to expand the garden. The coordinators are re-enrolling current gardeners and reaching out to those on the waiting list. Gopher One State will do a utility survey in the next few days.
- **Pathways.** Michael and Rebecca met on site for over an hour with Parks designers to discuss our recommendations about routing of bicycles near the Pavilion. They will be repaving and widening one path this year, and repaving both parking lots next year, and seem willing to incorporate our recommendations where possible. We sent a follow-up list of details after the meeting.
- **Speed limits.** City will make lawn signs available advertising the new 20 mph limit on residential streets. We will publicize to community when they come available, including to database of residents who volunteered for our lawn sign program a few years ago.
- **Churchill Gardens.** Michael worked with Public Works and Warrendale neighbors to save plants that were uprooted when city installed additional sewer pipe.
- **City issues.** City Council is taking public comment on proposed rental protections ordinance (D10 has not taken a position). Some district councils are supporting a "Small Business Borrower Bill of Rights," which is part of a national initiative.

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting

March 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at the Streetcar Station

STANDARD ITEMS

- Welcome and Introductions. Present: Thomas Coburn, Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta, Tom Lucy, Sandra Peterson, Gordon Wrobel
- Amend/Adopt the Agenda
- Discussion with Pioneer Press about the lake treatments

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- The D10 Annual meeting will be April 21st at the Como Pavilion, current thoughts include having a 5 =-minute presentation by each committee, followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer period. As the Environmental Committee, brainstorming was done to highlight areas we have worked towards the past year. Ideas presented were: work to move forward Ramsey County organics area, targeted sweeping of leaves in the fall, the spring clean-up, the pollinator garden tour, seed library, and Sunday series. Additional thoughts include the partner grant and the tenyear management plan.
- Committee Contact List & Sharing Emails (Mike Ireland)
Discussion involved: sharing email list, not enough members present to engage active discussion
- Clothing & Jewelry Swap (Jennifer Victor-Larsen)
 - April 19, 1-3, Como Park PavilionDiscussion involved Jennifer's articles in her blog for details on where to bring stuff how to get rid of stuff. Distribution to non-profits for non-traded clothing.
- Summer Garden Tour (Amanda Rohrer)
Next meeting is at end of March; speak with Mike Ireland for details. Some discussion about later in year for access to larger pollinators.
- Pathways Report (Michael Kuchta)
Parks and Rec is getting report from park management 3/12/2020. This meeting will discuss the report submitted to city. Park staff wanted to see first before bringing to commission. Questions will be answered by D10 board to commission.
- Tree Trek (Michael Kuchta)
10 years ago, the Environmental Committee created Tree Trek for variety of trees, with help of Chet Mirocha, plaques were assigned to various specimens within the park, and Chet led tours. Chet passed recently; his daughter started research on Chet's work, and wants to start up Tree Trek again. Seeking endorsement for June 13th. As no quorum exists, the item cannot be voted on to have D10 endorse event. Will bring to full board.
- Citywide Spring Cleanup April 25 (Mike Ireland)

Downstairs at pavilion. Speedway is business sponsor, will monitor sign in table, need two-three volunteers to help assist. Does D10 want to do table? 9-11:30am

- CRWD Como Lake Walking Tours (Mike Ireland)
Watershed district is interested in doing tours again, trying not to interfere with herbicide treatments

- CRWD Partnership Grant (Mike Ireland)
No dates have been set yet, looking for organizers, possible college student, Erin Spry may be available again this year. Need volunteers to assist on day of event. Funding for adopt a drain came through, have the organizer work with the schools and institutions, what is capacity for Emily to work with these groups?

- Churchill Gardens (Sandra Peterson)
History of the garden: neighbors tore out weeds, to create gardens in boulevard, engaged city to assist in plantings. Yearly assistance is needed to replant and move plants, weed, and maintain. Looking to advertise the spring clean-up for these gardens, proposed time frame is late April/early May for work to be performed.

- MN350 Renewable Energy Initiative (Tom Lucy)
Climate change advocacy group, focus on city's environmental action plan, specifically the electrical use plans. Is working with city to put forward formal comments to Xcel Energy, on what city is looking for in energy production. Looking for ideas to be presented to city through Environmental Committee. Possible actions sought are door-knocking campaigns, tables at existing D10 events, getting word out for public to comment to city.

COMMUNITY SECTION

UPCOMING EVENTS

- D10 Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., Streetcar Station

Next Committee Meeting Time: April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Streetcar Station

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Google Hangout

Present: Sara Benzkofer, Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta, Dawn Lamm, Mike MacDonald, Bill Niebur, Amanda Rohrer, Jennifer Victor Larson, Gordy Wrobel

STANDARD ITEMS

- Welcome and Introductions
- Amend/Adopt the Agenda

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- Ramsey Recycling Ambassador Program and Hazardous Household Waste Focus Group (Sara)
Ramsey County Environmental Health is reviewing its Household Hazardous Waste program and is also in the early stages of developing a Recycling Ambassador program. They are interested in doing a virtual focus group with D10 residents to get a better understanding of how they are recycling their household hazardous waste products (paint cans, light bulbs, etc.) as well as get an idea of the kind of incentives the community needs to be a part of the Recycling Ambassador program. They are looking to engage about 10-15 residents and willing to offer a \$25 gift card for anyone interested in participating.
Mike Ireland volunteered. If others are interested, please let Michael Kuchta know.
- CRWD Partnership Grant (Mike Ireland)
 - Adopt-a-Drain - How Do We Want to Pursue This?
Community businesses and institutions with trees and parking lots should be identified who might be interested in participating in the Adopt a Drain program. Outreach is being further explored by D10 organizer, Emily. Outreach should begin this summer, so we can implement September and October.
- Lake Clean-Up Planning (Mike Ireland)
Mike I. has been in conversation with Eva Hanson, Tom Lucy and Erin Spry about organizing cleanups when shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted and the park resumes normal activities. Gordy said now is the best time to remove trash, as it is still visible before the vegetation starts to grow. There is a lot of plastic in the western pond on the golf course.
Michael K. will check with the golf course about whether we could help with clean-up. Jennifer suggested that we encourage D10 residents to DIY clean-up through the D10 newsletter and on Facebook, and encourage residents to post their clean-up efforts on social media. Dawn mentioned the need to be careful of fragile plantings.
Mike Ireland and Dawn Lamm are going to provide Michael K. with content for an upcoming newsletter.
- Discuss Committee Work During COVID-19 Outbreak
We discussed the DIY clean-up in notes above.

- Cancelled:
 - Clothing & Jewelry Swap, April 19
 - Citywide Spring Cleanup April 25
 - Citywide Drop off at the Fairground 6/6. Further information will be available on other events. District 6 will help with finding volunteers for reorganized events.

COMMUNITY SECTION

Mike MacDonald mentioned that the MPCA was finding evidence of PFCs in the compost (organics/food waste collection) from the yard waste sites. Further investigation is underway to determine the source. More here:

<https://www.biocycle.net/2020/03/10/pfas-minnesota-composting-sites/>

Dawn reported that the Como Community Seed Library spring kick-off may take another form, since the availability of the Streetcar Station is still unknown for 5/16. Currently, CCSL has moved to having an accessible online catalogue that community members can view and select seeds from and then fill out a form to arrange for safe local pickup or shipping. Also, CCSL is participating in the Outplant the Outbreak campaign (<https://www.stephaniehankerson.com/blog>) organized by Stephanie Hankerson with other community partners. This campaign places seed in Little Free Libraries in several neighborhoods. The Como Park location is at 49 Maywood Place and hosted by Angie Sechler.

Michael K. suggested that this information could be published in the weekly newsletter to get the word out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- D10 Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m., Google Hangout

Next Committee Meeting Time: May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council – 4/1/2020 – Minutes

1. Call to order 7:04pm via Zoom

Present: Maggie Zimmerman, Annie Huidekoper, Rebecca Calvo, Michael Kuchta

2. Amend/Adopt Agenda - *Agenda passes without amendment*

3. Land Use Voting Procedures Reminders

4. New Business

1. *No new business*

5. Staff Report – *Michael Kuchta*

a. Como Park

Pathways Project Implementation: Rebecca and I attended Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on March 12. City staff presented overview of our recommendations, and the report was very well received. On March 25, Rebecca and I met on site for more than an hour, in the rain, with staff from Parks and Recreation’s Construction Department. We discussed challenges and possibilities in routing bicycles and pedestrians essentially along the west side of the lake, the Pavilion, and the parking lots. Parks will be repaving both Pavilion parking lots, probably in 2021, so we impressed on them not to waste this opportunity to improve conditions. They expect to come up with preliminary designs this summer, and promised community outreach – either at our Ice Cream Social, or with open houses before a D10 board or Land Use meeting. Parks will be implementing part of our report this summer, possibly as early as mid-May. It will rebuild the bike path that runs almost from the crosswalks at Lexington and Como Lake Drive, south along Lexington, then north of the Schiffman Fountain. This path will be rebuilt as a 12-foot-wide path to carry two-way bike traffic in that stretch.

Also, Parks will begin replacing some of the blue path signs this year. They have promised they will talk with us to see how our recommendations can be incorporated.

Paid parking report: The Zoo expects to release its findings early in April about whether or not to incorporate paid parking. We certainly will publicize the results and attempt to set up a presentation to our full board on April 21.

East Como Boulevard restriping: The city has signed a contract for the restriping of E. Como Blvd. from Nagasaki to the Wheelock/Maryland intersection, so the work could begin at any time. The work adds in-street bike lanes in each direction, creates a designated right-turn lane for northbound traffic at Maryland and Wheelock, and restripes vehicle lanes so they conform with the configuration of one lane in each direction that is in place north and south of this two-block stretch.

b. Public Hearings

1015 Bandana Blvd.: As we heard last month, Pacific Ramp LLC is proposing to build a 150-unit apartment building atop the current parking ramp. The project, as designed, requires rezoning from B3 to T3, and a variance on the maximum setback allowed in T3 zoning. The Planning Commission’s Zoning Committee holds a public hearing on the requests on Thursday April 9 at 3:30 p.m. The District 10 voted to support the rezoning and variance; we sent a letter to the Zoning Committee.

Essence Event Center: As we heard a couple of months ago, this new business at 1217 Bandana Blvd. is applying for liquor and entertainment licenses. It intends to focus on wedding receptions and similar events, especially for the Asian community. Wellington Management,

which operates much of Bandana Square, is opposing the licenses because of the potential impact on parking. A public hearing on the license applications is scheduled for Monday April 13 at 10 a.m. District 10 has not taken a position.

Multi-family Zoning Revisions: As we all know from our discussions around 1554 Midway Parkway, the city is examining revised zoning for multi-family districts. In short, the proposals increase the amount of density allowed under multi-family zoning, and reduce the parking requirements. As the PED staff person explained to the full District 10 board at the February meeting, the proposals allow the kind of density that was common in the city before 1975. The Planning Commission holds a public hearing on Friday April 17 at 8:30 a.m.

All these hearings will be handled remotely. Members of the public can send comments in advance via email, and call in to listen to the meetings. The phone numbers: 651-267-3988; 651-266-5758; 651-266-5767. **For the Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Committee, meeting code is 8446127#.** We have not received information yet on the Planning Commission meeting.

c. Community garden

MnDOT says they renewed our permit and approved the expansion of our community garden at Snelling and Almond. The city says it has not received the permit, but told us to go ahead and start the season anyway. I have informed garden coordinator Barbara Clark; presumably, she will take it from there.

d. Licenses

- **H&M Auto Body:** The garage and paint shop licenses for this business at 867 N. Dale are up for renewal on April 18. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 1 Councilmember Dai Thao.
- **Como Park Golf Course and Club House:** The liquor, Sunday liquor, and entertainment licenses (currently being managed by Cozy's Pub) are up for renewal on April 18. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali.
- **Gabe's by the Park:** The liquor, entertainment, and gambling licenses for this restaurant on Lexington and Energy Park Drive are up for renewal on May 5. (Liquor licenses include patio, Sunday, and 2 a.m. closing.) Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali.
- **Foxtrot Burger Spot:** The liquor and patio licenses for this restaurant at 1341 Pascal are up for renewal on June 1. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali.
- **Como Lakeside Pavilion:** The liquor, entertainment, and patio licenses (currently being managed by Spring Café) are up for renewal on June 4. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen.
- **Pope Automotive:** The garage license for this auto repair shop at 991 Front is up for renewal on June 13. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen.

6. Coming events

- a. Next Board Meeting – April 21st @ 7pm – Virtual
- b. May Land Use Meeting - May 6th @ 7pm – Virtual

7. Adjourn 7:31pm

District 10 Como Community Council Neighborhood Relations Committee

COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, April 7, 2020 @ 7:00pm Online

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Minute Recorder: Sarah Reuter

OPENING

Present Jill Henricksen, Alexis Baker, Debra Verber, Olivia Morawiecki, Sarah Reuter, Betsy Wehrwein, Sarah Wein, Mike Ireland, Michael Kuchta

- Michael asked if Olivia had been approached about starting crime watch groups because of the crime around the lake. Olivia said no. she would like to wait for neighbors to bring it forward instead of us starting something new. Betsy said she had noticed on Como neighbors Facebook page that people have been talking, but unsure on how the police get info out to the neighborhood. Is there a regular channel of communication between police and community? Michael said there is not a regular channel of communication, there is a meeting where people can go once a month and talk directly to them, or if we hold a specific crime meeting and their liaisons comes to speak to us. Betsy would like police to come to us more vs. us just asking them to communicate what is going on. Michael thinks the current staff is much better, but they are not proactive. bBetsy has worries for paper delivery people being harassed and police called on them. Olivia: how do we create a conversation that is helpful during this time about community safety. Betsy will make some inquiries on successful communication between community and police. Patty would be the best place to start.
- Add to the next agenda: how we can get better information and communications from the police department

OLD BUSINESS

- Dot democracy. Annual meeting is no longer taking place in April, but committee still needs to come up with questions to engage neighbors at some point.
- 1. What neighborhood events do you like, should we add any events, and which events do you not like.
- 2. How do you feel safe? But make space for people who do not find law enforcement as safe. How can we advocate for each other to feel safe?
- There will be a Google Doc for us to polish the questions:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AJAyDCVICpY9h-3UAKmHqm88cUnr2Ec5BjofVx1sUkY/edit?usp=sharing>
- How are we going to get people these questions? When will we be able to have a meeting again? We may need to do a survey. We should adapt our questions based on what other committees are asking
- Outline for the presentation about what we have done as a committee
 - (1) Campfire and storytelling, Betsy has pictures.
 - (2) Thanksgiving dinner at Como By The Lake
 - (3) For future, expanding the story telling and doing more events

RECENT EVENTS REVIEW

Racism resolution. City council will be condemning racism towards people of Asian descent because of Covid 19. Some board members were able to make short video.

- Besides the blatant racism there is more subtle racism, like people commenting about people of color congregating -- example soccer playing (people of color) vs. lake walkers (white). People need to recognize these different social things at play during the pandemic. Michael has noticed a lot of these comments on social media. What can we do as a committee and a board to stop it. Michael: we could support parks and rec as they stay open to help all people of our society. We understand the health concerns, but there are other things that need to be addressed, can we tell positive stories to help combat racism?
- Resolution- Jill will draft something and we can polish it. Basically, reaffirm what is going to be said at the city council.

Neighborhood kits. Useful to help get people organized in their blocks. About 15 being used right now. Working on sending out letters, cards, to older residents. Need for calls or cards. Emily is working on the logistics, hopefully get it rolling this week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- If ice cream social is cancelled, can we send something to everyone? Ideas: Plan a fall event with cider and doughnuts? Cancel July event but we should bring it to the board because it is such a big event. Mail seed packets, pick up at street car, have a table to hand out to people at the lake or zoo?
- **Action Item:** D10 cancels the ice cream social and creates a fall event. Alexis moves/Debra seconds. Motion passes
- Garage sale is canceled
- Get people to come out and run for the board.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May, 5, 2020 @ 7:00pm - Online