



District 10 Community Council Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Olivia Morawiecki called the meeting to order at **7:02** pm. In order to abide by pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, this meeting took place via video conferencing and phone access.

Introductions (name and neighborhood)

Board Present (online): Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek, Jenne Nelson, Maggie Zimmerman, Marika Staloch, Mike Ireland, Sara Benzkofer, Sarah Reuter, Melissa Brannon, Dan Edgerton, Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Debra Verber, Rachel Bowers, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Rebecca Calvo

Board Absent: Amanda Rohrer, Jill Henricksen

Staff Present (online): Michael Kuchta, Jessica Willman

Community and Guests Present: Jan Marie Lundgren, Aaron Kerr, Katie Kapaun, Vicki Stewart, Matt Brown, Josie Kuhn, Chad Smith

Annual Report

Slide Show and Presentation from the Board (can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/Ss1atcLnsFs>)

Audit Report

According to bylaws, every two years a subcommittee is formed of board members to look at financial documents generated by the board to find irregularities, ensure the documentation is kept correctly, and give suggestions for how to make spending more transparent. This was difficult due to COVID because they couldn't all be in the same small space together. The subcommittee met over a couple of weeks. They selected a scheme for selecting documentation randomly. They wrote up a report with suggestions for improvements. The records were complete, consistent, and in good order. There were a couple of omissions, missing check copies, dates that were inconsistent. (The full report is available.) There were no big concerns, just recommendations for consistency and make it easier to find. One idea was to have a formal document to follow for the financial audit. Ensure the subcommittee has access to all the data while protecting privacy and security of financial information. Overall, the summary of recommendations is about note taking on the deposits, recording checks, detail in the individual payments for reimbursements or services so it's clear what we paid them for, make notes of credit card payments in the ledger, and finally, paychecks can be broken up to provide more detail. The audit was a valuable process, things are in good order and there were complete records.

MOTION: Receive the Audit Report
(*Second*) Motion carries

Concerns and Questions from Community Members

Aaron Kerr thanked the board as a resource. He is with Saint Paul 350 and talked about how it was great for D10 to be part of the resolution for reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Has been talking about work done by the Frogtown Neighborhood Association. The building proposal on Wilder and the Mayor's veto is concern of his. Which committee should he talk to? Michael suggested Land Use, though the Anti-Racism workgroup is also considering the issue. It's technically in the Union Park District Council, but it adjacent to three others — so a number of district councils have been participating in the discussions. District Councils are weighing in differently on this issue. Land Use (Maggie Zimmerman) is the best way to connect.

Election Results

Chair — Jill Henrickson

Secretary — Jennifer Nelson

At Large: Sarah Reuter, Chad Smith (new), and Jennifer Victor-Larsen

Sub-District 1 — Morgan Weinert (new)

Sub-District 2 — Maggie Zimmerman

Sub-District 3 — Matthew Brown (new)

Sub-District 4 — Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek

(full election report below)

Also, welcome Jessica Willman, our new Community Organizer



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To: Como Community Council
From: Michael Kuchta, executive director
Re: 2021 Elections

Overview

Health restrictions on public gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic prevented the council from holding its annual meeting and board elections in-person on April 20, 2021. In anticipation, utilizing options permitted in the by-laws, the board approved an Action Item at its February 2021 meeting allowing residents to vote from home using either a paper ballot sent through the mail, or an online ballot (using a link sent via email to a secure Survey Monkey ballot).

Election Logistics

The office mailed 7,384 postcards, to all known residential addresses, inviting residents to request a ballot. Printing and mailing were performed by Concord Printing. Postcards used Concord's bulk mailing permit and the district council's nonprofit mailing status.

Printing for 7,500 cards was \$968; postage was \$830.38. Total average cost was 24 cents per card. In addition to postcards, community members were invited to request a ballot through articles in the Monitor and Park Bugle newspapers, through the District 10 website, through social media channels, and through the weekly email newsletter. Community members seeking a ballot were asked to fill out a form on the website. A small number of requests were taken over the phone.

Each mail packet for paper ballots included a printed Election Guide customized for the community member's Sub-District; an affidavit that the community member was eligible to vote and was providing current, truthful, and accurate information; a ballot containing Chair, Secretary, and At-Large candidates; a ballot containing the appropriate Sub-District; and a stamped return envelope. Mail packets were sent in 6x9 envelopes. Postage was \$1.25 per packet: 70 cents for the initial packet, 55 cents for the return envelope.

A different online ballot was created in Survey Monkey for each sub-district, with a fifth ballot created for sitting board members, who are allowed to vote in all elections. Each online ballot included a link to the Election Guide that was posted on the D10 website.

See the attached Action Item for the timetable of mailings, candidate filing deadlines, and the voting period.

Voting

The council received 233 individual requests for ballots. Of the ballots requested, 175 were returned (see the table below for a breakdown). Ballot requests and actual voting were down significantly from 2020’s numbers (429 ballot requests, 275 votes). However, the return rate was higher, and the total votes cast is still higher than in any other year since 2009 (the earliest year for which records are easily available).

Five highest years of voter turnout: 2020 (275 voters), 2021 (175 voters), 2009 (156 voters), 2019 (123 voters), and 2018 (111 voters).

	Subdistrict:	1	2	3	4	Board	Total
Paper ballots							
Requested		8	7	4	2		21
Returned		6	4	3	1		14
Percentage completed		75.0%	57.1%	75.0%	50.0%		66.7%
Online ballots							
Requested		58	66	41	30	17	212
Returned		41	53	34	17	16	161
Percentage completed		70.7%	80.3%	82.9%	56.7%	94.1%	75.9%
Total ballots							
Requested		66	73	45	32	17	233
Returned		47	57	37	18	16	175
Percentage completed		71.2%	78.1%	82.2%	56.3%	94.1%	75.1%
Percentage of ballots cast		26.9%	32.6%	21.1%	10.3%	9.1%	

Election results

Candidate	Paper	Online 1	Online 2	Online 3	Online 4	Online 5	Total
Chair							
Jill Henricksen	11	33	43	27	13	15	142
Paula Lee Roberts	3	8	7	6	3	1	28
Scattered			3	1	1		5
Secretary							
Jennifer Nelson	12	40	51	32	17	16	168
Scattered	1	1	2	2	0	0	6
At Large							
Sarah Reuter	12	32	41	27	16	15	143
Chad Smith	11	28	36	20	13	11	119
Jennifer Victor-Larsen	8	28	29	23	10	10	108
Alex Zikmund	5	18	29	19	10	7	88
Scattered	1		1				2
Sub District 1							
Kevin Commerford	3	9				5	17
Morgan Weinert	3	30				9	42
Scattered		2				2	4
Sub District 2							
Maggie Zimmerman	3		52			14	69
Scattered	1		1			2	4
Sub District 3							
Matthew Brown	3			30		13	46
Scattered				4		3	7
Sub District 4							
Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek	1				17	15	33
Scattered						1	1