

# Minutes



District 10 Community Council Board Meeting  
Historic Street Car Station  
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108  
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021 7:00 PM**  
MINUTES

In order to abide by pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, this meeting took place via video conferencing and telephone access.

**DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING**

**I. Call to Order**

A. Chair Jill Henricksen declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at **7:05 pm**.

**II. Introductions** (name and neighborhood)

Board Present (online):

Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek, Jennifer Nelson, Mike Ireland, Dan Edgerton, Jill Henricksen, Chad Smith, Kevin Commerford, Alex Zikmund, Matt Brown, Maggie Zimmerman, Rachel Bowers, Sarah Reuter, Morgan Weinert, Jennifer Victor-Larsen

Board Absent:

Melissa Brannon

Staff Present (online):

Shevek McKee

Community and Guests Present: Alex McLane

Land Acknowledgment: None tonight, but we'd like to make this a permanent part of our meetings.

**III. Review, Amend Agenda**

**MOTION:** Approve meeting agenda (**first, second, passed**)

**IV. COMMUNITY SECTION**

**A. Community Concerns: (open floor)**

a. Alex McLane- interested in more bike-friendly options within Land Use.

**V. BOARD BUSINESS SECTION**

A. Financial Reports (Mike Ireland)

June Treasurer Update

**Notable Revenue**

\$300 ice cream donation from Hmong Prep Academy and \$300 from Como Park Language Arts Preschool for ice cream social sponsorship donations. Thank-yous are going out to our sponsors this week.

After discussions, it was agreed by the treasurer that the donors received promotion as sponsors for their donations, these donations need not be spent specifically on the ice cream social and therefore are unrestricted.

#### **Notable Expenses**

July's rent invoice was not received in time to be included in June's financial reporting. . We have received our invoice for July's rent, on 7/19.

On the Communications and Technology line, there was a \$288 expense to Domain Listings for our annual domain website hosting. This was a fraudulent invoice. Mike opened a complaint with the Better Business Bureau. Based on other complaint resolutions, we anticipated a refund.

On the Ice Cream Social line, the only expense so far is \$92.49 for flyers.

On the Tree Trek line, \$274 was spent comprising of \$266 for tree signs and \$7.11 for nails. Annual budget was \$100.

#### **Other Highlights**

\$36,569 in our checking account as of June 30.

\$300 Bethel Lutheran Church and \$300 Nelson Cheese and Deli for ice cream social sponsorship donations have posted in July. The total 2021 donations YTD is \$3,275. The total 2020 donations through July was \$100 and the 2020 donations was \$2,062.

In July, we received \$12,947 in reimbursement toward our Community Engagement grant

- B. Approval of June Board and Committee Minutes
  - a. Moved: To approve the Board and Committee Minutes
    - i. Mike Ireland: add Alex Zikmund's name as abstaining from the vote for the HENS campaign support letter. (Right now, the notes just say that there was abstention.)
  - b. **MOTION to approve with that above change: first, second, passed.**
- C. Board Chair and Officers Report (Jill Henricksen)
  - a. NNO- no official involvement, just encourage board members to attend their personal NNO gatherings and share info about D10.
  - b. Discussed adopting a working policy about having the police at our events.
  - c. Shevek will start working on the new website.
  - d. Updating bylaws with three specific changes: unexpired term board openings appointed by board vs constant churn of special elections; board officer elections closed to board; designating board seats for youth and renters (2 each)
  - e. Starting to brainstorm a board retreat in the fall.
- D. Committee Updates
  - a. Environment (Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Committee Chair)
    - i. EC will switch their meetings to the second Tuesdays of each month (vs second Wednesday), effective with the August meeting.
    - ii. Como Park Steward program has launched! Five people are signed up already. If you see someone picking up trash, invite them to be part of the community in this way.
    - iii. Rain Barrel event may need to happen next year- no barrels available.

- iv. EC is looking for topics and speakers for future presentations.
- v. There was a conflict in the community garden and a written complaint was filed. Having clear guidelines in place will help reduce and resolve those conflicts. We also need to articulate what D10 staff responsibilities are. Sarah: There also needs to be a process to remove the volunteer in charge (community garden coordinator) when appropriate. Also, as a current community garden member, the garden is underutilized. **The officers** will discuss next steps with this at their next meeting.
- vi. Lake Clean-Up: 7/29 6-8:30, first weeknight event.
- b. Land Use (Maggie Zimmerman, Committee Chair):
  - i. LU canceled July meeting due to no business, but rescheduled the August meeting for the end of July because Dock and Paddle is required to do community outreach and engagement as part of their contract. D10 has historically helped whomever is stewarding that space with this requirement. LU will meet in person at Dock and Paddle. The Dock and Paddle operators will be there to present information and receive feedback. They'll be offering that third floor space for free to nonprofits on Monday evenings.
  - ii. Parking policy changes- The city is considering options for changing required parking minimums. Will be on the July 26 Land Use Agenda. More information available at <http://www.stpaul.gov/parkingstudy>
  - iii. Keep Sept 18th on your calendar for the Citywide Drop Off event. The City does not want volunteers to enter people's homes, therefore there will not be a senior pickup option.
  - iv. Morgan: Is there a way we can work with the State Fair people to provide traffic control at Snelling and Como? Maggie: The State Fair refuses to do anything outside of their geographic boundaries. We have worked hard in the past to work with agencies that will provide enforcement, but our experience has been that none of these agencies have taken responsibility. LU has previously created a guide of resources for those who live closest to the Fairgrounds and are impacted the most. Mitra's office in Ward 4 has more authority here- contacting her might yield better results.
- c. Neighborhood Relations (Sarah Reuter, Committee Chair):
  - i. ICS was a huge success! We ran out of ice cream: 675 malts + 100 popsicles. Shoutout to the new folks for really stepping up! Kevin, Morgan, Chad, Jessica, and more.
  - ii. Planning for a Backpack Drive but no action item today.
  - iii. Future plans to get out into the neighborhood for fun events- get ready, board members!
  - iv. No meeting in August because it's the same day as NNO.
  - v. Jennifer V-L: maybe some partnership possible between EC and NR to do outreach/canvassing that could feature or include the Como Park Steward program.
- d. Anti-Racism Work Group (Jennifer Nelson)
  - i. Highlights include: potential voter registration work for HENS rent stabilization campaign; volunteer opportunity for food delivery for seniors at

Como by the Lake; ideas to work with Environment Committee; starting the conversation about adding a line item to our budget for equity work.

- E. Special Election Results
  - a. **Ben Kowalsky-Grahek** is voted into the Vice Chair role.
  - b. **Alex McLane** is voted into the Subdistrict 1 seat.
- F. Staff Report (Shevek McKee, Executive Director)
  - a. Right Track intern- 8/9-11/19, 20 hr/wk
    - i. We've applied to share an intern with D12. Jessica will take the lead on supervision/guidance for this person.
  - b. Hybrid Meetings, when and how?
    - i. We know that tech has increased participation in D10 meetings, so we want a hybrid option going forward.
    - ii. A couple potential options:
      - 1. COOLPO 360 Video Conference - \$650
      - 2. Meeting OWL Pro 360 - \$920
  - c. Working on the website. It's been on the shelf for a while; Shevek is dusting things off and creating a work plan. If you have thoughts or opinions, let Shevek know: [District 10 Como Community Council – A Saint Paul Neighborhood \(aeronauticvigilante.com\)](http://aeronauticvigilante.com)
  - d. Jill: Next month it'd be great to have a summary of the district council ED and Community Organizer meeting (EDCO Meeting). Michael was super involved in this. Shevek will create a high-level report to share at future board meetings. This will keep us informed and primed for partnerships with other DCs.
- G. New Business (board members)
  - a. By-law Amendment Group
    - i. Need 2 or 3 volunteers to come up with recommendation for a specific bylaw change to address elections of Officers and Vacancies to bring to our August board meeting
      - 1. Maggie, Ben, and Alex Zikmund volunteered to be part of this group. Jill might also join.
      - 2. Maggie: this has been an ongoing question for awhile. Former Vice Chair João Medeiros sent information today that Shevek forwarded to the board. At times, we've had unknown candidates run for officer roles.
  - b. NNOs: Where are the parties happening on Aug 3rd?
    - i. Barret St between Orchard and Jessamine
    - ii. Mary Lane and Oxford
    - iii. Franks Ave between Pascal and Hamline

## VI. Adjourn.

Jill made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm: seconded, passed.

*Respectively submitted by Jennifer Nelson. These minutes are not official until approved.*

# **Committees**

## D10 Officers' Meeting

7/21

Attendees: Shevek McKee, Jill Henricksen, Ben Kowalsky-Grahek, Jennifer Nelson

### Coordinator/Gardener Conflict:

- Shevek will connect with Barbara Clark. She will have the opportunity to resign from the coordinator role. Otherwise, she will be removed from the coordinator role due a history of conflict with fellow coordinators and gardeners. She can remain on as a gardener as long as she is respectful to the other gardeners.
- We as D10 will take this opportunity to revisit the D10 Community Garden Rules and the coordinator role.
- Shevek will reach out to the gardeners to let them know about this change; to the co-coordinators; and specifically to Tseganesh and her dad.

### D10 Community Garden Rules updates:

- removing "head" coordinator position (i.e. no distinctions between coordinator roles)
- removing responsibility to resolve conflicts from the coordinator role and placing it solely with the Sponsor (D10)

### Miscellany:

- Could we expand and have more community gardens in Como?
  - City contact about expanding community gardens:  
mary.henke-haney@ci.stpaul.mn.us

# Land Use Committee – Minutes

District 10 Community Council

Monday, July 26, 2021, 7pm

Location: Como Lake Pavilion, third floor (in-person!)

## Attendees

Board and staff: Maggie Zimmerman, Matt Brown, Chad Smith, Alex Zikmund, Shevek McKee

Community members: Anne Thom, Drew Johnson, Ann Johnson, Dolores Rufenacht

Business representatives: Tony Arvidson (Lancer), Timothy Herme (Lancer)

## Committee Business

### 1. Call to Order

The committee was called to order at 7:04pm. All participants were in-person.

### 2. Amend/Adopt Agenda

The meeting's agenda was adopted without amendment.

Motion: Maggie Zimmerman; second: Matt Brown

### 3. Land Use Voting Procedure Reminders

Maggie reminded attendees that all D10 community members and designated business representatives are considered voting members.

### 4. New Business

#### a. **Private Event Sound Variance Request (1008 Grotto St N)**

This order of business was stricken after finding that no attendees were present to speak to it.

#### b. **St. Paul Off-Street Parking Requirements Zoning Study**

Shevek provided background on proposed changes to city zoning code off-street parking requirements. The St. Paul Planning Commission considered two options: (1) a reduction in off-street parking requirements; and (2) full elimination of off-street parking requirements. They chose full elimination and are recommending this to the City Council. The goals of the proposal are to eliminate burdens on businesses and developers, increase affordability of housing, and encourage public transit and alternative forms of transportation.

Anne raised concerns regarding safety on public transit and challenges this could cause for senior citizens and disabled individuals. Drew raised concerns about lower transit use in winter, potentially negatively impacting businesses with minimal parking.

The Land Use Committee took no action on this item, but strongly encouraged interested parties to relay all input and concerns to the City Council prior to or at their upcoming hearing.



**c. Dock & Paddle Performance Evaluation & Community Feedback**

Tony Arvidson and Timothy Herme were present from Lancer Hospitality, which operates Dock & Paddle. Tony discussed Lancer’s efforts to turn Dock & Paddle into an iconic destination in conjunction with its park surroundings, and make it safe and fun for kids and families.

Tony discussed forming a committee to develop and evaluate performance metrics for Dock & Paddle, and sought 2 members from the surrounding neighborhood. Dolores agreed to serve on the committee. Efforts are ongoing to fill the second spot. The committee’s work is expected to run from mid-August through December.

Dolores suggested adding a farmer’s market. Tony said it was a possibility for 2022, among many other additions being considered, including “date night” meals with swan boat rentals, silent movie nights, and another Harvest Festival.

Anne raised concerns over menu pricing for families – particularly ice cream. Tony discussed recent significant cost increases associated with suppliers and staffing that hamstring menu pricing flexibility.

Anne and Dolores discussed the idea of a seasonal ice skating rink. Tony discussed cost difficulties with ice rink maintenance. Without a corporate sponsor, it would be a money drain in a revenue-tight season.

Shevek McKee asked if the pavilion’s third floor event space could be used in the winter as well. Tony confirmed that it is, and emphasized the importance of winter private event bookings to provide revenue in the slower season.

Additionally, Tony said the pavilion’s third floor event space will begin being made available for use by nonprofits on Mondays at no cost.

Tony reiterated to the committee that they are in this for the long haul, with many long-term goals that require incremental improvements. Maggie emphasized the committee’s satisfaction with Tony’s and Lancer’s efforts, long-term vision, and willingness to engage with the community for feedback.

**5. Old Business**

None

**6. Staff Reports**

No official staff reports

Dolores asked if we still have Jessica Willman on staff. The answer is yes, and the board is immensely grateful for her.

Ann asked if there were any updates on the potential new housing development in the Bandana Square area. Maggie informed attendees that the project is on an “indefinite pause” for economic reasons. It hasn’t been called off, but there is no forward motion.

## 7. Updates

### a. State Fair Preparedness

Concerns were raised and discussed regarding safety in and around the fairgrounds, including lighting issues and police presence. Drew lamented the loss of the state fair police chief. Dolores was encouraged by the efforts of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office coordinating public safety.

Shevek is working to create a user-friendly guide for fairground neighbors with concise, helpful information and relevant contact information. **Will be distributed soon.**

### b. City-Wide Dropoff Event – September 18, 8am-1pm, State Fairgrounds

This year's event will be scaled down from previous years. There will be no senior pickup. Some items, including concrete, will not be accepted this year. A call for volunteers will go out shortly. All board members are encouraged to participate!

## 8. Coming Events

- a. Next board meeting: Tuesday, August 17, at 7pm
- b. Next Land Use meeting: Wednesday, September 1, at 7pm

Just prior to adjournment, Dolores asked for a Shalom Home project update. Maggie informed attendees that the hope is to have a couple of units ready for showing this winter, with some units potentially available by spring.

## 9. Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 8:35pm.  
Motion: Maggie Zimmerman; second: Matt Brown

### Resources:

[www.stpaul.gov/parkingstudy](http://www.stpaul.gov/parkingstudy) - background of the parking requirements study and explanatory guides

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Bn3CDKUUfnlGE65jcznv6MYh8uhg4\\_f/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Bn3CDKUUfnlGE65jcznv6MYh8uhg4_f/view) - September 18 Citywide Drop-off information flyer with pricing, accepted items, and map

JUL 14 2021



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Business Licensing  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-8989  
Facsimile: 651-266-9124  
Web: [www.stpaul.gov/dsi](http://www.stpaul.gov/dsi)

### Sound Level Variance Application

Legislative Code Chapter 293. - Noise Regulations

Application and \$175 fee should be submitted a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the event date to allow ample time for required public notification period and scheduling of a Council public hearing. Applications submitted within sixty (60) days of the event date may not satisfy the processing timeline requirements.

1. Organization/person seeking variance: Ginger Porcella
2. Event Name: private party
3. Address and physical description of noise source location (Event, Worksite): - Private residence -  
1008 Grotto Street N., St. Paul, MN 55103
4. Responsible person: Ginger Porcella Title: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Telephone: 773 7402408 E-Mail: ginger.stwulick@gmail.com
6. Date(s) variance requested: August 28, 2021
7. Noise source - Time(s) of operation: 5pm - 9pm  
- Time(s) of pre-event sound check: NA
8. Sound level requested (dBA/Decibels): 85 - 95 decibels
9. Mailing address w/zip code: 1008 Grotto Street N., St. Paul, MN 55103
10. Briefly describe the noise source and equipment involved: Amplified speakers
11. Describe the steps that will be taken to minimize the noise levels: Speakers can be  
turned down upon request
12. State reason for seeking variance (example - music, announcements, construction, etc.):  
live music 5pm - 6pm; DJ 6pm - 9pm
13. Maximum number of attendees: 75
14. Describe steps that will be taken to prevent COVID-19 virus spread: only vaccinated  
adults are allowed to attend
15. A site diagram & map must be attached showing location of noise source(s), streets, stages, tents, etc. (If there will be amplified sound, indicate location and direction that all speakers will be facing). **Multiple locations may require more than one application.**
16. Submit completed application, site diagram/map, and \$175.00 fee to:  
CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS  
375 JACKSON STREET, SUITE 220  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55101-1806

I understand that any social gathering associated with this variance must be managed in full compliance with all applicable Governor Walz COVID-19 orders relating to distancing, masks and attendance limits.

Signature of responsible person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7/5/21

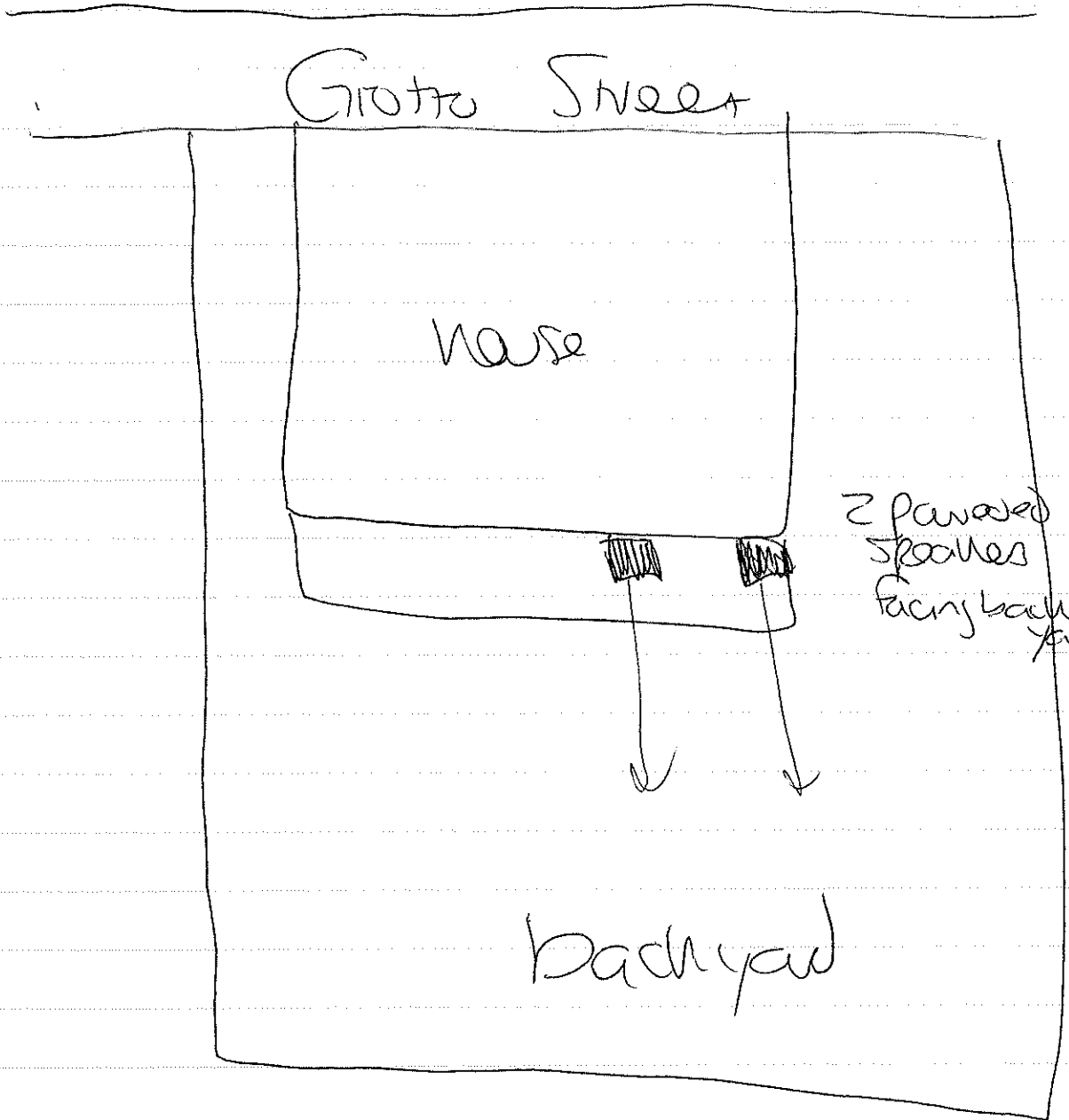
AA-ADA/KEO Employer

Grotto Street

House

2 paved  
spaces  
facing back  
yard

backyard





# DSI RECEIPT

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
Department of Safety and Inspections  
375 Jackson Street Suite 220  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806  
Phone: (651) 266-8989 Fax: (651) 266-9124  
[www.stpaul.gov/dsi](http://www.stpaul.gov/dsi)

Date: 07/15/2021

Received From: GINGER PORCELLA  
6421 SUN CIRCL TUCSON AZ 85750

**Description:**

**Invoice Details**

1109981

Noise Variance

**Invoice Amount**

\$175.00

**Amount Paid**

\$175.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAID:**

**\$175.00**

**Paid By:**

Payment Type	Check #	Received Date	Amount
Check	1416	07/15/2021	\$175.00



**District 10 Como Community Council**

1224 Lexington Parkway North

Saint Paul, MN, 55103

651.644.3889

[district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org)

[www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org)

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July 28, 2021

To: Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals

Re: Sound Level Variance-Private Party-Ginger Porcella

We are writing to inform you that the property owner in this case has not approached nor responded to District 10 to seek support for the variance request. As a result, we are not taking a position on the specific merits (or lack of merit) of the request.

However, we have a standing policy in such cases: Because we have not had an opportunity to review the merits of the request, in the absence of compelling evidence to support the variance, we urge you to apply the six standards for variance requests rigorously. Please inform the property owner that they may request a delay of the hearing in order to seek District 10's input on their variance request. If the property owner wishes to seek a delay in the variance process, we would be happy to review the request and take a position for a future hearing date.

Sincerely,

Shevek McKee, Executive Director

District 10 Como Community Council - Land Use Committee

## Anti-Racism Work Group Agenda

Jul 28, 2021

### Attending

### Introductions

Name/pronouns

Favorite summer hangout in St. Paul

### Updates

- Keep St. Paul Home Update (Jessica)
  - One way for community organizations to be involved is to do voter registration and education.
  - Keep St. Paul Home will provide social media info to post and keep us informed.
  - Maybe NRC could take the lead on voter registration.
    - D12 is getting trained on this- would be an opportunity for us to plug in and get trained as well. Jessica will keep us in the loop.
- ARWG Table at Ice Cream Social (Jill)
  - 4-5 students from St. Kate's showed up to talk about [Welcoming the Dear Neighbor](#) project housed at St. Kate's.
  - Jill had a preliminary map of the racial covenants in Ramsey County, good conversation starter. Great conversations throughout the night.
  - Three people signed up on the sign-up sheet. Their emails have been added to our email distribution list.
- Public Art Project Update (Jill/Jessica)
  - Planning an event on Midway Parkway to kick off any future programming around public art.
  - Deep conversations with the community are critical.
  - Going after a legacy grant for up to \$10k for a planning process, due in Oct. Need an advisory board in place when we apply for those funds.
  - Next meeting will be at the Midway Parkway space, near the Frankson House. An art event could focus on the racial covenants in that area, and then kick off community engagement.
  - Janet connected with someone at the Victoria Arts Theater, could be a resource for an advisory board.
- Others?

### New Business

- D10 Internal Equity Evaluation
  - Choose a framework or rubric to locate D10 now and where we want to be
    - [Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Institution \(philanos.org\)](#)
  - How?
    - Evaluate how other districts have done this

- Frogtown Neighborhood Plan (one result/product of an internal evaluation):  
<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/SmaPI%20Final%20Final.pdf>
    - Consultant
    - Equity Framework
  - Discuss potential scope:
    - **Working list of things that need evaluating (which we can order in terms of time priority, e.g. finances first):**
      - Finances (budgeting process, use of funds, delegating bodies)
      - By-laws
      - Meeting Procedures and Protocols
      - Neighborhood Plan (recommend a plan to redo this and specifically what to focus on)
      - Strategic Plan (recommend a plan to do this- the who, what, when, how)
      - Committees (structure and purpose, increasing membership and people power)
      - Onboarding for New Board Members (board job descriptions, trainings, orientations)
      - Outreach Efforts (recruitment of new board members, community members, underrepresented neighbors, with a recognition that we need to build accountability with the neighborhood first, especially with our BIPOC neighbors)
      - Role and responsibility of the district council
      - Board Seats (elections, number of seats, types of seats)
        - Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy
  - What do people need to be able to do to evaluate this work?
    - Benchmarks to work towards- concrete examples.
      - Look to which organizations are at a 6 or approaching a 6.
      - What are other district councils doing? Let's get connected to other DCs.
      - Noel Nix in the Mayor's office- **Jill will check with him about resources.**
      - Cat B. at the city oversees the district councils. **-Jessica will do this.**
      - The DC ED/CO meeting could be another resource.
  - Determine timeline: When can we present this?
  - Next steps/tasks:
    - Individual presents an Action Item- **Jennifer will do this.**
    - August D10 Board Meeting: Aug 17th, 7pm
    - August ARWG Meeting: Aug 25th, 7pm



# Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization

MONOCULTURAL ==> MULTICULTURAL ==> ANTI-RACIST ==> ANTI-RACIST MULTICULTURAL

Racial and Cultural Differences Seen as Deficits ==> Tolerant of Racial and Cultural Differences ==> Racial and Cultural Differences Seen as Assets

<b>Exclusive</b>  <b>An Exclusionary Institution</b>	<b>2. Passive</b>  <b>A "Club" Institution</b>	<b>3. Symbolic Change</b>  <b>A Compliance Organization</b>	<b>4. Identity Change</b>  <b>An Affirming Institution</b>	<b>5. Structural Change</b>  <b>A Transforming Institution</b>	<b>6. Fully Inclusive Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization in a Transformed Society</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intentionally and publicly excludes or segregates African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans</li> <li>Intentionally and publicly enforces the racist status quo throughout institution</li> <li>Institutionalization of racism includes formal policies and practices, teachings, and decision making on all levels</li> <li>Usually has similar intentional policies and practices toward other socially oppressed groups such as women, gays and lesbians, Third World citizens, etc.</li> <li>Openly maintains the dominant group's power and privilege</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tolerant of a limited number of "token" People of Color and members from other social identify groups allowed in with "proper" perspective and credentials.</li> <li>May still secretly limit or exclude People of Color in contradiction to public policies</li> <li>Continues to intentionally maintain white power and privilege through its formal policies and practices, teachings, and decision making on all levels of institutional life</li> <li>Often declares, "We don't have a problem."</li> <li>Monocultural norms, policies and procedures of dominant culture viewed as the "right" way" business as usual"</li> <li>Engages issues of diversity and social justice only on club member's terms and within their comfort zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes official policy pronouncements regarding multicultural diversity</li> <li>Sees itself as "non-racist" institution with open doors to People of Color</li> <li>Carries out intentional inclusiveness efforts, recruiting "someone of color" on committees or office staff</li> <li>Expanding view of diversity includes other socially oppressed groups</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>But...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Not those who make waves"</li> <li>Little or no contextual change in culture, policies, and decision making</li> <li>Is still relatively unaware of continuing patterns of privilege, paternalism and control</li> <li>Token placements in staff positions: must assimilate into organizational culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing understanding of racism as barrier to effective diversity</li> <li>Develops analysis of systemic racism</li> <li>Sponsors programs of anti-racism training</li> <li>New consciousness of institutionalized white power and privilege</li> <li>Develops intentional identity as an "anti-racist" institution</li> <li>Begins to develop accountability to racially oppressed communities</li> <li>Increasing commitment to dismantle racism and eliminate inherent white advantage</li> <li>Actively recruits and promotes members of groups have been historically denied access and opportunity</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>But...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutional structures and culture that maintain white power and privilege still intact and relatively untouched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commits to process of intentional institutional restructuring, based upon anti-racist analysis and identity</li> <li>Audits and restructures all aspects of institutional life to ensure full participation of People of Color, including their world-view, culture and lifestyles</li> <li>Implements structures, policies and practices with inclusive decision making and other forms of power sharing on all levels of the institutions life and work</li> <li>Commits to struggle to dismantle racism in the wider community, and builds clear lines of accountability to racially oppressed communities</li> <li>Anti-racist multicultural diversity becomes an institutionalized asset</li> <li>Redefines and rebuilds all relationships and activities in society, based on anti-racist commitments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future vision of an institution and wider community that has overcome systemic racism and all other forms of oppression.</li> <li>Institution's life reflects full participation and shared power with diverse racial, cultural and economic groups in determining its mission, structure, constituency, policies and practices</li> <li>Members across all identity groups are full participants in decisions that shape the institution, and inclusion of diverse cultures, lifestyles, and interest</li> <li>A sense of restored community and mutual caring</li> <li>Allies with others in combating all forms of social oppression</li> <li>Actively works in larger communities (regional, national, global) to eliminate all forms of oppression and to create multicultural organizations.</li> </ul>

**Como Community Council: Officers Meeting**  
**August 11, 2021, 7 p.m.**

**Zoom:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98188636464?pwd=ZHRIRmwzZWVxdXlnbXUxNkVTck5oZz09>

**Notes**

Attendance: Jill Henricksen, Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek, Mike Ireland, Jenne Nelson, Shevek McKee

1. Events

- NNO, how did it go? Should we set an alarm for planning consideration for next year? When?
- July 29 Como Lake Cleanup Recap
  - 2 people showed, bad Canada wildfire smoke day
  - Bad timing
  - Do one in September and another October? Maybe, hopefully
  - Shevek will make sure all officers are in committee listserv
- State Fair
  - Shevek nearly done upgrading [A Neighbor's Guide to State Fair Ordinances](#) doc
    - Will attach it on newsletters, use reactively, page on website
- Citywide Drop-off event on September 18; 8am-1pm.
  - All board members are expected to volunteer at this. There will be a variety of shifts.
    - Will need volunteers
    - Will promote this at the board meeting
- Committee meetings can still run without a chair present

2. Community

- **Orchard Park Blackhawk Engagement Opportunity.** Jessica has made a connection about their desire to improve the park/building.
  - What Committee would this get assigned to? Neighborhood Relations or Land Use?
  - Neighborhood relations - relationship building between community and blackhawk soccer
  - Land Use later: if blackhawk needs some kind of concession/permit from the city
  - Bylaws give discretion to the board for assigning things.
- **Community Garden**
  - Shevek has produced this [doc on rough Garden timeline and responsibilities](#)
  - [7/21 Draft of minimal Garden Rules Updates](#)
    - Removes Coordinator role and instead has 3 Co-Coordinators
    - Changes dispute resolution responsibility from coordinators to Sponsor (D10)
    - Do we need to add more specifics to the role and expectations of Co-Coordinators in this document?
    - Should we ask former chair Ryan Flynn and former vice chair Joao Medeiros, both lawyers, if they would take a look and share any legal concerns or suggestions for refinement? (Michael did this last April when bylaw changes were made)
  - Co-Coordinators will still send gentle rules reminders during garden season, Shevek will be copied on these communications.
    - Get Environmental to sign off on garden rules changes
    - Environment Committee to have more formal ownership of Garden
    - Reserve former board member lawyer favors for the bylaw changes
    - Do we have gardeners sign a "hold harmless" waiver?
    - What are other community gardens doing to limit liability

### 3. Communication

- **Website** (draft site at <https://167d10cc.aeronaucicvigilante.com>)
  - Main menu has been reorganized, content needs to be fleshed out still, most of the pictures we have on the office computer/google are not organized well and many are not high-resolution.
  - Have done quite a bit of cleaning up, updating board members to current, etc
  - Need to write up summaries and calls to action for volunteering for programming that was previously not featured on website (ARWG, Community Garden, Food Scraps Recycling, Lake Clean Ups, Citywide Drop-off, Ice Cream Social, Tree Trek)
  - Moved all the recordings from gDrive to YouTube for much greater functionality, recommend keeping google storage
    - Proceed with launching new website at my earliest convenience, after notifying the board
    - Shevek will work with web designer to make the switch
    - We bought a domain with comocommunitycouncil.org, make sure we redirect that link as well.

### 4. Financials

- **City Reimbursement for May-June, Innovation Fund reimbursement for Jan-June approved/received**
  - (\$14,065.02 total \*\*-\$10 b/c comcast late fee not covered)
- **Newsletter donation button** - \$310 (from two people over four donations)
  - Want to make sure we're thanking our donors
  - GiveMN has an automated thank you feature.
  - Try to do personal ones as well when practicable

### 5. Organizational Business

- **Board Meeting** (August 17, link to draft agenda)
  - Presentation & Q&A: Cat Beltmann, City's District Council Coordination
    - Board Member Training 101, Sept 16 5:30pm & Sept 17 12pm (both are same info)
      - Prep Cat that we'll ask questions about race equity in district councils
  - August Special Election
    - Results of special election to be announced
  - Action items:
    - ARWG?
      - Jenne has it almost ready and will submit it before board meeting
      - Get the board to approve/authorize an equity evaluation of D10
      - We will gather facts/info into a document to be analyzed by a consultant for appropriate recommendations
      - The document can be produced while we're doing research on consultants, pricing, and budget. Would have a separate action item to approve any expenses.
      - Will try to make these two phases of the project clear
      - Maybe needs to be a report and not an action item until the 'second phase'
    - Action Item giving notification of proposed amendments to Bylaws?
      - Not ready yet
    - Right Track Intern?
      - No action item needed
- Will re-apply for rain barrel grant next year
- Fall 2019 CRWD Walking Tour from pavilion to the pier, talked about shore restoration/water quality. First had 10 people, second had 30 people. They want to do it again. 15-20 pre-register on their website Sept. 9 and 20. Same content both things, just want us to promote it. Didn't do action item last time. DOES IT NEED AN ACTION ITEM? No, we're just helping to promote a partner's event.

- Other Business
  - o **Bylaw Group:** How did it go?
    - Should we ask former chair Ryan Flynn and former vice chair Joao Medeiros, both lawyers, if they would take a look and share any legal concerns or suggestions for refinement? (Michael did this last April when bylaw changes were made)
      - Group not ready to present changes yet
  - o **Personnel policy updates**
    - Let's lay out a plan for this.
      - Officer Meeting vs. Executive Committee language
      - Bylaw change could clarify that Executive Committee is not open to the public
      - Jenne and Jill have suggested changes.
      - Need to schedule a meeting to knock it out
      - Could be prudent for analysis form Joao if he were willing
  - o **Hybrid Meetings,** when and how?
    - Can probably put this on hold for the time being. City mask mandate reinstated at Streetcar Station.
      - Can we require that people be vaccinated or masks? Yes.
  - o Strategic planning
    - Values Statements
    - Board Retreat
      - Jill sent out Draft Agenda of board retreat.
      - Also likely affected by Delta-V restrictions increasing
      - Don't want to over-pack agenda
      - If we have to do it virtually, should break it up
      - Potentially do an outside event at Streetcar Station. When?
      - Something less mandatory/informal just to give an opportunity to get to know one-another (while we have time before it's too cold)
      - Follow up with more formal work-session in April.
      - Social event in September (25/26), Sunday mid-afternoon? BYOB, potluck, snacks?
    - Organizational Goal Setting (on hold)
  - o Volunteer, job posting policy (on hold)
  - o Covid Preparedness Plan (on hold)
  - o From NR committee - Possible Sunday Series: BE SMART gun safety free gun locks (on hold)

## 6. Staff Report

- o **New Organizational Google Forms** - Ripe for commenting
  - [Event Planning](#)
  - [Action Items](#)
  - [Communications Requests](#)
  - [Board Member Asset Survey](#)
- o **Right Track Plus Intern**
  - <http://www.ramseycounty.us/righttrackplus>
    - 20hrs/wk Aug. 17-Nov. 19
    - Would it be proper to have an Action Item approving this? Not needed
      - Have not heard back from intern yet, working through program to make connection
- o **Great River School Intern?**

- Wednesday afternoons beginning in October
- We hosted one of their students in 2019
  - It was hard b/c the person didn't have a vehicle, wasn't very flexible
  - Someone had to come in when the intern was in so ED wasn't alone with student
  - Is there some research item that they could do
  - Get someone to do history research of the Mapping Prejudice area outcomes and impacts?
  - Could they work remotely?
  - Art Project research opportunity?
- o **MN Peacebuilding Leadership Institute**
  - Free trauma & justice trainings for East Metro Partners opportunity
  - They seem pretty flexible, but trainings are a firm 2 hours
  - Wouldn't want us to record trainings for the privacy of shared trauma experiences.
  - They also seemed drawn to the idea of doing up to 4 Sunday Series events, spread out over months.
  - Have invited our members to join their pay-what-you-can sessions in August to get a sense of what events in a partnership might look like: <https://www.mnpeace.org/events.html>
- o **ED/CO (Inter-District Council Staff) Meeting Update** (meeting is Wednesday morning)
  - The group has some issues they're struggling with
- o **City Issues**
  - Brief discussion of opportunity Jennifer VL shared for discussion about how to "keep everyone safe and create a system of public safety that is fair, equitable, and culturally appropriate to all community members"
  - Mayor Mike Elliot from Brooklyn Center, (Ben's college buddy)
  - Mayor Amada Marquez Simula from Columbia Heights
  - Opportunity to share with board members: reach out to Facebook OP Nathan Roberts

Confirm next meeting: Wednesday September 15, 7 p.m.