



District 10 Community Council Board Meeting  
Historic Street Car Station  
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108  
**Tuesday, September 21, 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. **Land Acknowledgement**
- III. **Introductions** (name and neighborhood)

Board Present:  
Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek, Jennifer Nelson, Mike Ireland, Jill Henricksen, Chad Smith, Alex Zikmund, Maggie Zimmerman, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Matt Keliher, Sarah Reuter, Morgan Weinert, Rachel Bowers

Board Absent:  
Melissa Brannon, Matt Brown, Dan Edgerton, Alex McLane, Kevin Commerford

Staff Present:  
Shevek McKee

Community and Guests Present: Dolores Rufenacht
- IV. **Review, Amend, and Approve Agenda**

**MOTION:** Approve meeting agenda (**moved, seconded, passed**)
- V. **COMMUNITY SECTION**
  - A. **Community Input: (open floor)**
    - a. Dolores: She has a concern about the old Sholom Home. She would like the owner or new project manager to meet with neighbors again, because they haven't met since before the pandemic. She's wondering how much has changed since then. The name has changed and she thinks it's odd. Two places have the name already- one is a rehab center, and the other is a museum out east. She had proposed a different name (Tilden Terrace), and the former project manager liked that name, but now there has been a change. She also feels that the building should honor the former project manager.
      - i. Maggie: Jeff Lao is the developer. The former project manager passed away. None of the variances have changed, nothing with number of units or parking, nothing with physical space has changed. No changes with facade or landscaping. Right now, we're seeing preparation for the addition of new windows. As a community, we don't get to change the name. At this point,

the signage is up and they are doing pre-leasing advertising; a name change is unlikely.

- ii. Jill: Maybe we should set up a community meeting to reestablish ties with the neighbors ahead of opening. We could have a representative from the development show up to the next District 10 meeting and invite neighbors.
- b. Jennifer Victor-Larsen: Neighbors on the northside of Midway Pkwy are organizing to try to connect with the board chair of the State Fair Foundation (Jerry Hammer), and bring in the City and relevant law enforcement. Many orgs are involved with the Fair and not communicating effectively. The neighbors feel strongly that they need to share feedback- people leave the Fair and end up right in their yards.
  - i. Maggie: This is a perennial issue for Land Use. The lack of coordination between organizing entities is always a problem, as is the lack of responsibility for enforcement. Former District 10 Executive Director convened a meeting with State Fair organizers and in 2020, there was supposed to be more safety interventions, but then the Fair didn't happen. Historically, the governing body of the State Fair operates as an autonomous state and doesn't concern themselves with issues outside of their borders.

## **VI. BOARD BUSINESS SECTION**

### **A. Financial Reports (Mike Ireland): August Treasurer Update**

#### **Notable Revenue**

- \$14,055.02 Community Engagement reimbursement for May and June
- \$100 single unrestricted community member donation

#### **Notable Expenses**

- Accounting line of \$576.20 that comprises of \$331.90 for July and \$244.30 for August services.
- Under Environment Committee Initiatives, the Watershed Partner Grant Projects line of \$385.04 includes supplies, signage and refreshments.
- Communications and Technology line includes a \$228 credit for reimbursement of the fraudulent invoice in June.

#### **Other Highlights**

- As of August 31, our checking account balance was \$53,114.62
- July and August Community Engagement grant reimbursements requests totaling \$11,558.77 have been submitted.
- To reduce opportunity for late fees and timing issues, Shevek has been setting up autopay for recurring monthly payments (Comcast, Wells Fargo printer lease).
- The City previously informed us that the recycling revenue will be reduced to \$1,500 from \$1,800 due to having less events to promote recycling. The Citywide Drop Off revenue reduced to \$1,300 from \$3,000 due to the scaled back event not requiring as much time and expenses. Both budgeted line items have been reduced to reflect this change.
- Shevek and Mike will begin drafting a 2022 budget that will be presented to the officers and then discussed and voted in at our November or December board meeting.
- Shevek and Mike will prepare a remainder-of-the year forecast to estimate the amount over or under we anticipate ending the year as it relates to the Community Engagement and Innovation Fund grant limits.
- To ensure accuracy, committee chairs should review their anticipated expenses by line item through the remainder of the year and update Mike as soon as possible after their October meeting (sooner if possible). Mike will present this forecast at our October board meeting. Mike

asked each board member (not just committee chairs) and staff to email him with suggestions on how we could spend any surplus, should any remain at the end of the year

- Some suggestions from the chat:
  - Equity consultant x2
  - tech for hybrid meetings
  - pay an artist to create and render our owl mascot for future use
  - youth summit

## **B. Approval of August Board and Committee Minutes**

- a. Moved: To approve the Board and Committee Minutes
  - i. **MOTION to approve:** Add Kevin Commerford to list of attendees from August minutes: **moved, second, passed.**

## **C. Board Chair and Officers Report (Jill Henricksen)**

- a. Bylaw changes- discussion only.
  - i. Updates from the bylaws group (Maggie, Jill, Ben, Alex Zikmund). Tracked changes document and summary are at the end of the board packet.
  - ii. Morgan: thanks for the thoughtful changes, especially calling out the change to a one-year commitment for officers.
  - iii. Mike: some concern about potential low committee participation, if we have seats that we can't fill and have too many exceptions to the mandatory committee participation.
  - iv. Maggie: this should be looked at as a mandate to the board to create a recruitment plan for the new renter and youth seats. Support for a clause that would allow us to fill empty seats with community members who want to engage so as not to leave anyone out.
  - v. Jill: annual meeting is in April, we do have time to create and implement a recruitment plan. Yes, the onus will be on us as the board to fill those seats. One issue is that a disclaimer lets us off the hook too easily.
  - vi. Jennifer Victor-Larsen: we could create a recruitment plan, try it out, and if it works, then we change the bylaws. If it doesn't, then we could try another path. Suggestion to check in with Council Member Jalali's office for an outreach plan we could adopt.
  - vii. Maggie: how do people feel about the change to electing officers from the board and by the board, versus from the public by the public?
    - 1. Lots of support, many other organizations do it that way, appropriate for us as a nonprofit vs government organization.
  - viii. Rachel: could there be a seat that is more advisory if someone can't commit to a full board position? If we try it and it doesn't work, then we can try another way.
    - 1. Shevek: District 1 had a youth advisory committee that was sort of like that and for a while it was very successful. It would take work but innovative strategies could make board participation more exciting for everyone.
  - ix. Ben: changing it without a trial period gives the board a mandate to fill those 4 new seats. It makes it imperative for us to recruit. The Executive Committee will take that responsibility seriously because lacking 4 people *will* hinder our efforts.
  - x. Maggie: what are the responsibilities of the Executive Committee?

1. Jill: working closely with staff, can take the lead on the recruitment plan and execution of it (in partnership with the board members)
- xi. Sarah: we should also talk about our responsibility as board members. What is our expectation of board members and their time? Could we utilize Sunday volunteer expectation (in non-coronavirus disease of 2019. times) better?
  1. Maggie: that particular example would actually require an adjustment to our city contract
  2. Shevek: got a response from the city about this- they don't know why it's in our contract and don't necessarily think it should be. So this is very negotiable.
- xii. Alex Z: What should we do about the 50 person quorum for special meetings? After some discussion, we will strike it from the bylaws.
- xiii. Shevek: Are we ready for Shevek to publicize this? We need to do that before we vote. **Motion to authorize the ED to post the draft of the proposed bylaw changes and summary for community review and comment, with the suggested edit of striking the language about requiring a 50 person quorum for special meetings: moved, seconded, passed.**
- b. Committee chairs: start looking at your budget for next year.
- c. Mike Ireland is leaving the board! :( Start thinking about who might take on the treasurer role. Preferably we'd have a current board member step into this role and work with Mike ahead of this very sad transition. Mike says all you need is attention to detail and a sense of organization. He'll also be around as a free consultant.

#### D. Committee Updates

- a. Environment (Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Committee Chair)
  - i. Action Item: Motion: "District 10 gives the Environment Committee permission to submit a non-financial CRWD partner grant for 2022."
    1. Discussion: Why is it called non-financial? Because it's a reimbursement grant- we spend the money, then get reimbursed. We are basically a pass-through.
    2. **Motion to approve: moved, seconded, passed.**
  - ii. Action Item: Motion: "The Committee agrees that D10 Como Community will participate in the Como Curb Clean-up." **Motion to approve: moved, seconded, passed.**
    1. Officers authorized this ahead of this meeting; this vote was to ratify.
- b. Land Use (Maggie Zimmerman, Committee Chair):
  - i. At the next meeting, LU anticipates having someone to talk about the bike plan, someone from Park and Rec to talk about trash and parking, and someone from the city to talk about using existing buildings and spaces to house more people.
  - ii. Executed the large item drop-off last Saturday and was a success. Thanks to board members for volunteering. Shoutouts especially to Chad, Jessica, Shevek, and Sarah for their efforts. We had ~350 cars this year; typically, we have 900. There will be a debrief meeting to see if we can scale up again next year. The food donation was new this year (Keystone Community Services); we donated 500 lbs of food and \$125 cash donations.
    1. Jennifer Victor-Larsen: why was the drop so big? Maggie: we had 2-3 surveyors at the front and will get their survey results. But the large

item pickup with our citywide trash service is probably part of it, and the event was very scaled down this year (we took fewer varieties of items) to 1/3 of what we have historically taken. Also, individual vendors were responsible for unloading cars.

c. **Neighborhood Relations (Sarah Reuter, Committee Chair):**

- i. Ramping back this fall: the Public Art project dealing with the Frankson garden is moving forward. Jessica is working on a grant to fund this. Frankson, prolific developer of housing AND racial covenants, is who the garden and house are named after. Goal is to create a plaque with the history of developments in the area and rename the garden.
- ii. Also having discussions about what kind of work the NRC can do considering the ongoing nature of the pandemic. Will do the Halloween competition again. What is the risk tolerance of the board?
  1. Thoughts from the board? Community spread is so high right now that even outdoor events are complicated and potentially unsafe. Morgan: being outside with ventilation, masks, and distancing is the best possible scenario. Inside, close together, and not masking is when you see the risk for transmission.

iii. **Anti-Racism Work Group (Jennifer Nelson)**

1. Here to make a case for spending a significant chunk of any surplus on an equity consultant. We've talked about this for a long time, we're well-positioned to hire someone due to our internal information gathering and the consultant interviews Jessica and Jennifer Nelson have done. We could take advantage of this year where we weren't able to do in-person events and invest that surplus into an equity consultant who can make recommendations for changes we need to make to live into our mission. We are not experts, so we're doing what we can- gather and summarize information about how this organization operates- and then we will engage an expert to view this through an equity lens and tell us what changes we can make. (As Rachel noted, tech for hybrid meetings will likely be one of those recommendations.) Having this kind of research and plan would help bolster future grant efforts to pay for further equity changes because we will have a clear and research-backed plan for strategies and outcomes. Recruitment and retention for diverse board members could be part of this too! As Sarah noted, we've done a lot of planning but not a lot of forward movement. An equity consultant would benefit us across the organization and well into the future.

**E. Staff Report (Shevek McKee, Executive Director)**

- a. Board social event on Saturday at 3pm at Bole. We'll be on the patio. Come and socialize!
- b. Website- is up!
- c. Board Member Survey- take it! Shevek wants to get to know us better!
  - i. <https://forms.gle/N1moSJjgYBR6QLx7>

**F. New Business (board members)**

- a. Tree trek coming up! 4 spots left!

**VI. Adjourn.**

Jill made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm: seconded, passed.

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

# **Committees**

## Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

October 14, 2021, 5 p.m.

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

### Agenda

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

#### 1. Events

- **Thanksgiving Distribution - November 20/24?**
  - Discussion of repairing relationship with Chua Niem Phat Buddhist Temple (pallets were left in their parking lot after food distribution events)
  - Ben, Matt K, maybe Rachel (subdistrict 4 members) will try to reach out and see if there's anything we can support them with.
- **Como Zoo Blood Drive - December 16**

#### 2. Community

- **State Fair Community Meeting - Oct 26, 7pm**
- **Halloween Decoration Contest**
  - Committee looking for \$500 for prizes
    - This likely wouldn't be reimbursable.
- **Community Garden**
  - Season ending, Shevek will collect hoses next week
  - Request for stump removal
- **Van Slyke/Churchill Rain Garden**
  - Possible Nov. volunteer event w/ TCGIS
  - CRWD Maintenance Grant
- **North Dale Rec Fiscal Agency**

#### 3. Communication

- **Website**
  - Abdirahman pioneering renter resources page of website, staff will expand from his work
  - Shevek moving board binder material to website

#### 4. Financials

- **Online payment initiated**
  - Comcast - Phone/Internet and Wells Fargo - Office Printer Rental
- **2021 budget forecast**
  - Mike still working on deep details.
  - Only looking at just the two main city grants, \$1700 behind
  - Has built up a list of about 10 things that would be good to spend money on if we have remaining money at the end of the year

- Committee budgets for 2022 should be discussed at the November meetings, presented to board for preparing the overall budget
- Encourage committees to think about what they would do with an additional budget that they might not be currently considering.

- Discussion of the need for a neighborhood plan update
- Can someone from PED come talk to us about process

- **ARWG Equity Consultant Proposal**
  - Decided on a specific consultant, Brittane Geleske, will review bylaws and processes

- o Will put into a document and give actionable goals to enact changes
- o \$8000 price tag
- o Timeline: get the consultant work done before 2022 annual meeting so we can have a plan in place when we welcome new board members.
- o Discussed dividing across 2021/2022 budget
- o Concerns about funding and how to assuage doubts about spending this much of the budget/reserves

## 5. Organizational Business

- **Board Meeting** (October 19, link to draft agenda)
  - o **Action items:**
    - [Officer: Committee Assignments](#)
    - [Officer: Bylaw Change](#)
    - [Officer: North Dale Rec/Toys for Tots Fiscal Agency](#)
    - [EC: CRWD Maintenance Grant](#)
    - [EC: Park Steward Program Community Challenge Grant](#)
    - [NR: Halloween Decor Contest](#)
    - [NR: Thanksgiving](#)
    - [NR: Blood Drives](#)
    - [NR: Public Art Project](#)
- Other Business
  - o **Bylaw Update**
    - [Doc with all received community feedback on proposed changes](#)
    - Feedback from 3 community members.
    - Want to be clear about what we're doing and why.
    - All the board seats will still be elected at the annual meetings.
    - Limited staff time being spent on elections with low turn-out
    - Appointments would still come from a pool of candidates submitted by the public/volunteers.
    - Make suggested changes from Joao
      - Make the change to article 9 to exempt the executive committee
    - Shevek will look into previous special election data
  - o **Committee Assignments**
  - o **Personnel Policy Updates**
  - o **Strategic planning**
    - Internal Orientation/Training

## 6. Staff Report

- **Neighborhoods Now! Cohort/Training**
  - o 1 more "Think Tank" day, November 2 10-3pm
- **ED/CO (Inter-District Council Staff) Meeting Update** (meeting is Wednesday morning)
  - o Spoke with a consultant from the city, following up with City non-emergency customer service experience and practices (do we send people through main line channels or help circumvent them and why)

Confirm next meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m.

# Action Item

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Officers

**ITEM:**

Amend District 10 Bylaws

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved, the Como Community Council:

Gave notice, as required in its Bylaws (Article XII Section 2 and Article XIII Section 1), that it intends to vote on October 19 on whether or not to amend its Bylaws in order to allow alternative methods for community members to vote in Board elections.

Gives notice that it will consider the attached proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

- Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors, not the community. Reasoning includes we are not a governmental body, we are a private non-profit organization and we need to elect people to the officer positions who know the organization by serving on the board.
- Officer terms will be one year, with the opportunity to serve for a maximum of 4 consecutive years (the current bylaws say 2 consecutive 2-year terms)
- An Executive Committee has been added to the committee list. Since the officers meet monthly and have specific responsibilities each month, we felt that should be recognized along with the other committees. We noted that the meetings are not open to the public.
- Board vacancies that occur during a Director's term will be appointed by the Board of Directors, rather than special community elections. The appointee will complete the term they are filling. When the term ends, they will have to run for the seat if they would like to stay on.
- Officer seats will no longer be designated. Instead we'll designate these seats for 2 renters and 2 youth, between the ages of 16-24. Of the 17 seats, all will be elected from the community. 8 will be designed for the 4 subdistricts, with 2 representatives per district. 4 seats will be designated for rents and youth and 5 seats will have no designations and will be available to anyone in the community.
- Added a statement in one of the sections where it stated all Directors must be a member of a committee. Added that exceptions could be made on a case by case basis when committee participation is not possible. (This was raised as part of an equity discussion)
- Where it talks about reviewing census data, it's noted that we will pay close attention to population numbers as well as race and ethnicity to ensure fair and equitable representation.
- Deleting the statement about special meetings requiring a quorum of 50 people.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Under the current bylaws, these proposed amendments could not be voted on until at least October 19. The language could be revised at that meeting. Any changes would require a two-thirds vote of board members present. The Officer board seats would change over the course of the next two annual elections as their respective terms end.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

## Summary of the Proposed D10 Bylaws Changes

- Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors, not the community. Reasoning includes we are not a governmental body, we are a private non-profit organization and we need to elect people to the officer positions who know the organization by serving on the board.
- Officer terms will be one year, with the opportunity to serve for a maximum of 4 consecutive years (the current bylaws say 2 consecutive 2-year terms)
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- Where it talks about reviewing census data, it's noted that we will pay close attention to population numbers as well as race and ethnicity to ensure fair and equitable representation.
- Deleting the statement about special meetings requiring a quorum of 50 people.

## **Community Feedback on Oct 2021 Bylaw Change Proposal**

### **Email from Sept. 24, 2021**

It is a good idea to work on the Como Directory online and get help from others to find out what changes have happened since the last directory and during Covid the last 2 years. Many businesses have had to close their door for good and others have changed their hours. And they may continue to change as time goes by while still dealing with covid into 2022.

Several of my neighbors emailed me today after receiving their District 10 E-newsletter. They are very concerned over the proposals the board of directors and you have made regarding changes in the D10 Bylaws. Every new board lately as been making changes to the D10 Bylaws after just one or 2 years of changing them. the last time. Bylaws are not meant to be changed that often just because one or two new people on the board do not like them. When I was on the board as a Sub Dist. 1 board member and Jon Knox was our vice chair then the next year as Chair. The worked on the bylaws for a year to update them from bylaws that had not been changed for over 10 years, But changing them every 2 years is ridiculous especially when it is removing the rights of the residents of the Como Community to vote for who is on the board etc.

I suggest that for the next District 10 meeting you and the board plan an out door venue like what the St. Paul City Council is doing by using the Como Lake Side Pavillion to discuss the City Budget with the residents of St. Paul. This meeting can not be held only virtually. so please start to check in to the use of the lake Side Pavillion or the Como Picnic Pavillion. So it is outside in open air for all to attend safely. Having it offered virtually for at least listening is important also. I will be contacting several key people in D-10 to make sure they are aware of what you and the board are proposing regarding the by-laws in case they did not have time to read the E-newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to contact Jeff Laux. Getting his Email is preferable to his phone number. I prefer written communication versus verbal anyway. I know he is a busy man and talking on the phone would be very difficult for him ,Where he can read an email, think about it and then respond back when he has time. It is also a written document of what was said.

I plan on attending the land Use Meeting Oct 6th. Is it being offered in person as well as virtually this month? I have had Covid 19 twice and had my Pfizer vaccine done in July so have very good immunity to the virus but still will wear a mask indoors for extra protection.

I like the new look of the E-newsletter. Easy to read and find out what is going on.

have a good rest of the day and weekend.

Dolores Rufenacht

1512 Canfield Ave.  
Sub District 1 55108  
651-278-2117

## Email from October 1, 2021

Dear District 10 Board,

I am writing to provide comments and feedback on the proposed revisions to the ByLaws that are noticed on the website. By way of background, I served as vicechair of District 10 in 2016 at the time that the prior bylaws were simplified and regularized. These simplified bylaws were drafted against the background of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317A, which is the statute that governs the governance and operation of nonprofit corporations in Minnesota.

Generally, in nonprofit corporations, there are three separate and distinct bodies of persons to keep in mind: Officers, Directors, and Members. Officers are governed by Minn. Stat. §§ 317A.301–317A.361. Directors are governed by Minn. Stat. §§ 317A.201–317A.257. Members are governed by Minn. Stat. §§ 317A.401–317A.467. By way of rough analogy, the officers would be similar to the executive branch of a government, the directors would be similar to the legislative branch, and the members would be the electorate who select them.

Because there are three different relevant bodies, there are three different types of meetings that the bodies of a non-profit corporation might have: meetings of the officers, meetings of the directors, and meetings of the members. Any of these groups, to the extent required to conduct their own business, may also delegate the work of their meetings to committees who would then report back to the main group.

The distinction between these three different bodies, and the modification of default rules in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317A that would apply in the event of silence by the bylaws, explains some of the structure of the current bylaws that the proposed changes would modify or affect. Therefore, I would ask the Board to reconsider certain of the changes.

1. **Article V, Section 6 should not be deleted**; The new Article IX, Section 4 should not be inserted. The stated intention of the proposed changes to the bylaws is to require a committee of the officers by adding a standing "Executive Committee" to Article IX. However, as I noted there is a difference between the officers and the directors of a non-profit corporation. In District 10, however, the Officers have historically worn two hats: They are Officers AND they serve on the Board of Directors. Article IX establishes the committees of the Board of Directors, not the Committees of the Officers. This is the reason why Article V, Section 6 was inserted into the bylaws, in order to establish a monthly meeting of the Officers in their role as officers, but to maintain clarity as to the capacity in which they are having that meeting: They have the meeting with their Officer

hat on, not with their Director hat on. At the very least, if board insists on making the proposed change, it should also insert an exception to what is presently Article IX, Section 9 for the Executive Committee. Otherwise, all members of the neighborhood would be, by default, ex officio members of the executive committee with the right to make motions and vote at the officer meetings. This would make District 10 executive action vulnerable to take over by a minority group. (Indeed, the reason why ex officio membership is only extended to board committees, and only a right to speak but not vote is extended at the Board Meeting level. The committees can make recommendations to the full board, which can act as a safety valve in the event that a group starts attending committee meetings and sending up recommendations that do not reflect the policy positions of District 10's membership as a whole, as reflected by the board members that they appointed).

2. **In Article VI, Section 2**, the renters-and-youth sentence should probably be moved to the end of the paragraph to make it easier to read. The sentence that will presently be the last sentence introduces the idea of at-large seats, and the renters-and-youth sentence imposes a limitation on the certain at large seats. As currently used in the bylaws, a restricted seat when distinguished from an "at large" seat, has two limits: eligibility to fill the seat, and a restriction on the members who can vote to fill the seat. Are the renters-and-youth seats intended to only restrict eligibility to fill? I.e., is it the intent that any member of District 10 can vote for these elections, or only renters can vote for renter seats and only youth can vote for youth seats? This could be clarified.

3. **If Chair, etc. are being appointed directly by the board now, then Article VI, Sections 3 & 4 need to be modified to remove the reference to them.** The Annual Meeting is a Meeting of the Members under Minn. Stat. § 317A.431, not a meeting of the Board under Minn. Stat. § 317A.231. In addition, because there will no longer be a direct election to these specified Board Seats by the Members, Article V, Section 1 is no longer able to automatically fill the Officer positions from these Board Seats. The design of the prior Bylaws was such as to use one event (annual meeting election) to place both a Director & an Officer hat on these individuals. The contemplated separation means you now need a second event that takes a Board Member and gives them the office on the Board that grants them the Officer role. I recommend replacing Article IV, Section 2, with something along these lines:

**Section 2.** The Board shall consist of 17 Directors.

**Section 2a.** At the April Board Meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Members, the first order of business for the Board shall be to appoint Directors or Directors-elect to the offices of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board who shall serve for the following year. No Director or Director-elect seeking election to one of these offices may preside over the debate or vote for such office. The election to these offices becomes

effective seven calendar days after the April Board Meeting. [Move term limit language here.]

**4. The quorum requirement in Article VII, Section 4 should not be deleted.** Under Minn. Stat. § 317A.433, subd. 1(2), a special meeting of the members is called "if at least 50 members with voting rights or ten percent of the members with voting rights, whichever is less, sign, date, and deliver to the president or the treasurer one or more written demands for the meeting describing the purpose for which it is to be held." The "ten percent of the members with voting rights" is 10% of the voting population of District 10, which is several thousand people. Therefore, the number of people required to call a special meeting is 50. At the same time, Minn. Stat. § 317A.451, subd. 1 states that "Unless otherwise provided by the articles or bylaws, a quorum for a meeting of members is ten percent of the members entitled to vote at the meeting." Again, this numbers in the thousands. Thus, the quorum requirement in the bylaws is designed to accomplish two tasks. First, establish quorum for the annual meeting by default, by stating that however many people show up at a meeting, that's fine (otherwise I don't think District 10 could ever reach quorum to elect the Board). Second, ensure that for special meetings that have been called by members who obtain sufficient signatures to call the meeting, that (1) the people who went through the trouble of calling the meeting have a realistic chance of establishing quorum for the meeting by showing up, and (2) requiring the people who called the meeting to actually show up for the meeting before they are allowed to do whatever it is that they want to do at the meeting.

João C.J.G. de Medeiros

### **Submitted through website contact form October 2, 2021**

10/2/2021 19:32:41

Jeffery Thole

Subject: St. Paul district 10 Proposed changes to D10 Bylaws

I oppose the changes to the D10 bylaws. Reduction of voting rights, reduction of transparency, and reduction of public input go against the original purposes of having district councils.

### **Email from Oct 18, 2021 (incl. Fwd email from Oct 3)**

To Shevek McKee and All District 10 board members of the District 10 Como Community Council,

I am sorry to send this to you so late but after I heard about the changes via the newsletter I had to make plans for my cousins memorial service in Chicago. She had no children or any close relative still alive in Chicago. I was gone for 12 days and was very busy before that to do much else. than get ready to go,

But I did connect via my android phone with a few people that I did have emails or phone numbers before and while I was gone and heard from several of my neighbors and others I know in the Como Community who are very concerned about some of the changes you are proposing. I connected with some former board members also and one of our former Executive Director, Ted Blank still lives in the Como and he still lives in the Como Community. He was also a board member for 2 or more years so understood the bylaws and had experience from other jobs with writing by laws and new how important it was to keep all board meetings and committee meetings completely transparent so the community they are representing has a voice in all decisions being made.

You are all elected board members by the Como community whose responsibility is to represent us to the St. Paul City Council regarding our concerns and needs for our community. It is not your job to make decision for our community with out our input at all Como Community Meetings. We also have the right to at be notified and to attend All board meetings to be able to listen to all discussions regarding community issues, concerns and changes to by laws, board guidelines etc. At executive board meetings with the Executive Director, only items about current bank balances, spending suggestions, office supplies and maintenance of equipment ,staff evaluations and other issues related to running the office can be discussed but no decisions on how to spend the money can be made with out the rest of the boards input or with out the community present to hear and respond to the spending of the money By law suggestions can be brought up but needs to be discussed thoroughly at a board meeting with all board members present unless they have an accepted excuse for not being able to attend. All community members should also be notified of the date, place and time so they can attend or listen virtually and take notes on what they want to ask questions at the next monthly District 10 Como Community Council meetings. This has not been done the last 4 or more years. Even before Covid 19 community members were asked to leave and the door to the meeting closed so we could not hear and told to leave the building while they met for the board meeting,. The board meeting had always before been held from 6-7 pm with the Community meeting following 7-mo later than 9 pm. It is a long night for the board but then they do not have to give up another day or evening to meet and it is easier for the community to also attend both. They met to prepare for discussion by going over the meeting packet together and agenda items together so they are prepared for the Community meeting.to run smoothly.

This would still work with Zoom meetings. But the board has decided to not contact the community and transparency has disappeared at those meetings. We do not know what they discuss in private meetings which is wrong for a district council and city council to do but it is happening in St. Paul.

I have encouraged community members to sign up for Zoom meeting so they can be present at tomorrows meeting to raise their concerns about the bylaws. This is the response I received from Ted Blank below. Please read and consider what he is saying before making any changes to the by laws now and in the future.

Dolores Rufenacht, Tilden Area Block club

1512 Canfield Ave  
55108 Sub-district 1

From: Ted Blank <>  
Date: Sun, Oct 3, 2021, 12:53 PM  
Subject: Re: D-10 Como Community Council new Bylaws changes Again  
To: Dolores Rufenacht <>  
Cc: Jonathon Knox <>

To Shevek McKee and current District 10 board members,

Some quick thoughts:

I have a unique perspective, having served on board, exec comm, and being staff. I have also seen firsthand some of the warts that exist in other district councils.

I would not recommend three of the changes that are proposed. I think they are unwise and unnecessary:

- replacement board members appointed, not elected
- board, not community, elects officers
- exec comm meets in closed session

D10 is a unique organization. While it is a non-profit, it is also a neighborhood org. All of these changes lessen, not increase, opportunities for community engagement and can easily lead to a problem that afflicts lots of District Councils - the same people dominate them for long periods of time, and they become personal fiefdoms that are unresponsive to neighborhood concerns. There are many, many examples of this in the district council world.

It also creates the possibility that less ethical people - staff and board members - can engage in self-dealing for personal enrichment, again, a problem that afflicts some district councils. In particular, insulating the leadership from the community and defaulting to closed exec comm meetings can enable that type of behavior if less ethical people come to dominate an organization. Yes, there is a place for confidentiality in some circumstances, but I think those should be very limited - sunshine and openness is an anecdote to this, and it is also a practical defense when things become heated in a neighborhood - there's nothing worse than taking action in secret - or the perception of that, it will bring out the worst.

D10 has had its share of problems over the years, but we've always been able to self-correct. I think openness and maximizing opportunities for community participation are important reasons why. To significantly alter that doesn't seem wise, or desirable.

Hope this makes sense. Sorry that I don't have much time most days and not sure if ai can attend the meeting but would be happy to chat in more depth at another time or by phone.

Thanks,

Ted Blank

### **Email from Oct 19, 2021**

Hello District 10 Board Members and Staff,

I want to state for the record as a Community and voting member of District 10; it is my opinion as a Former Chair of District 10 that this vote should not happen tonight.

**Introduction:** I served as District 10 Chair from 2010 to 2015. During my time on the D10 Board fellow board members and myself valued transparency as a golden rule. The proposed changes, apparently being voted on tonight, will effectively reduce transparency again and reduce community input and participation. The act earlier of dissolving the Executive Committee greatly worked toward reduction of community oversight, transparency to the community and set up decision making meetings out of the public eye which completely goes against the spirit of why the Community Councils were originally brought about. These proposed changes tonight look to further that effort and make the Board less accountable to the community.

**Process:** In a 501C organization, precedence and process play key and required roles. The previous Bylaw changes that dissolved the Executive Committee, and these proposed changes being voted on tonight, were developed with little public input or knowledge. Historically when changing Bylaws the Board would have a minimum of three public meetings with at least 1, but usually more, having the focus of community input. There were times a special Adhoc committee was formed knowing the importance of an organization's bylaws and the process of changing them. I would actually argue that due to the lack of process on the previous Bylaw changes that District 10 is currently operation under invalid bylaws; based on historical bench marks and precedence not being followed.

**Board Business decision making meetings held in private:** I would suggest that in current practice any meetings in which the Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director meet to make organizational (Board Business), that those meetings be posted and open to the public. At the very minimal least minutes should be taken to document the conversations and decisions.

The only business decisions we ever made in private while I was Chair, were staffing and personnel confidentiality situations. Other get-togethers that were held out of the public eye were the Board Retreat and meetings involving getting the packets done for

renewal of the City Contract from year to year. That is all. Everything else was open to the public and minutes published with every Board Packet and on the website.

**My ask:** I ask that a motion be made to table the vote on these changes tonight. I ask that, perhaps through the Neighborhood relations Committee, that a meeting be held that is open to the public in which community member input may be heard. Working with the Community Council for Community Members, should not become akin to dealing with the City Council and City Hall, that is actually exactly what the Community Council idea was brought forth to avoid.

Thank you,

Jon Knox

Subdistrict 1

**Email from Oct 19, 2021**

I am writing to voice concern and displeasure as to the direction the D10 board is going. The proposed Bylaw changes on the agenda for tonight seem to disenfranchise community members. The district 10 community council has always been accountable to the community and lately it seems as though the board is attempting to form that model. It seems as though there are many meetings happening that the community is unaware of and decisions are being made that affect how the community is able to operate through the board. It is almost as though we will have to create a sub-board to be a conduit with the community council which is supposed to act as our conduit to the City Council. I have been talking with several other community members many of which are former board members and discussing our options if these proposals are passed tonight. In the past the board would have meetings asking for community input but apparently you the current board doesn't have time for all of that. In the past the board would tell us about opportunities to engage with the Board and now it seems the board just tells us what they are going to do with no interaction or collaboration.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lori Hill

Tilden Park area of D10.

## Action Item

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Officers

**ITEM:**

Committee Assignments

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

In accordance with the Bylaws (Article V Section 2e and Article IX Section 7), the Board ratifies the following committee assignments:

- **Environment: Chair:** Jennifer Victor-Larsen. **Members:** Rachel Bowers, Dan Edgerton, Alex McLean
- **Land Use: Chair:** Maggie Zimmerman. **Members:** Chad Smith, Matt Brown, Alex Zikmund
- **Neighborhood Relations: Chair:** Sarah Reuter. **Members:** Melissa Brannon, Morgan Weinert, Kevin Commerford, Matt Keliher

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

Under the terms of the Bylaws, all Board members who are not officers must participate in one of the district council's standing committees. It is attendance by these Board members that determines whether or not a committee meeting achieves quorum. The chair appoints committee members with "the advice and consent of the Board."

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

In accordance with the Bylaws (Article IX Section 6), committee assignments take effect immediately and remain in effect until seven days after the 2022 annual meeting.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Officers

**ITEM:**

North Dale Booster Club Fiscal Agency

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved: Como Community Council will act as the fiscal agent of record for the North Dale Booster Club, solely for the Club's participation in the 2021 Toys for Tots campaign. Because no fund-raising or exchange of money is involved, the Council waives administrative fees required under Section 4 of the Fiscal Agency Policy.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

North Dale Booster Club intends to request donations of toys and other items from the state Toys for Tots organization and distribute these donated items to community children. Toys for Tots requires that recipient organizations hold 501.c.3 status. North Dale Booster Club does not hold that status. If the community council acts as the booster club's fiscal agent, the club can participate in the toy distribution. North Dale Booster Club meets the definition of a "community member" under Section 2.01 of the Fiscal Agency Policy. This project meets the definition of under Section 2.05 as a project "benefiting the residents of the district that serves a charitable or educational purpose and which is not designed to provide the community member with a net profit." District 10 previously served as fiscal agent for similar purposes in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The executive director of the Como Community Council and representatives from North Dale Booster Club will execute a fiscal agency agreement.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

# District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Zoom

Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Mike Ireland, Shevek McKee, Alex McLane, Claire Klein  
& Jacob , Gordon Wrobel, Rachel Bowers

## Welcome & Introductions

## Adopt the agenda

**COMMUNITY SECTION** - Community participants can bring topics & concerns

- Question about new parking lot plan near the pavilion/golf course - is there a plan to connect pavilion to golf clubhouse from the crosswalk. It was originally part of the plan, but doesn't appear to be in the current plan.
- Individual water garden project came up as a question.  
Joseph.lochner@co.ramsey.mn.us Conservation Design Specialist at Parks and Rec for Ramsey County (OCT 2021 - he mentioned Rain Garden Stewardship Program Project Lead is currently vacant)

## NEW BUSINESS

- Follow up and Report-back:
  - o Tree Tagging & Tree Trek Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Very successful, full event. New tags look great and there is a more robust self-directed tree trek.  
<https://district10comopark.org/tree-trek/>
  - o Como Lake Clean up Saturday Oct 9- (Mike Ireland)
    - Close to 35 people, a record event
    - Borrowed tools from CRWD
    - 200# of trash collected
    - Takeaways: need a small scale, would like to brand better to raise better awareness.
    - We will put a follow up and thank you in the next newsletter.
- Van Slyke/Churchill Triangle Garden: Grant & plan for maintenance:
  - o The 2016 agreement with CRWD states D10 will be responsible for 10 years (until 2026)
  - o The German Immersion School has committed to working on it.
  - o There is a new maintenance grant:
    - Grant can renew every year until we are no longer contractually obligated to care for these two gardens.
    - Grant is matching up to 50%, and reimbursement
    - Applications are accepted year-round. Reimbursement requests must be received by December 1st of each year. We feel it

- Time spent by grantees doing maintenance work themselves can be included toward grantee match as in-kind labor at \$25/hour.
  - o Max 2k, minimum grant award is \$200.
  - o It would reimburse up to 80 hours, wouldn't there need to be a total of 160 hours of actual work
  - o **ACTION ITEM:** asking to submit the grant
    - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wxBcLjWrkBICSps2ViVbKL86Td8trlnSILTK4AFUVhs/edit?usp=sharing>
    - Moved by Claire, Mike second, all in favor
- Saint Paul Parks Conservancy
  - o Concept is common in larger cities. The purpose is to serve as a nonprofit working with Parks and Recreation to help with some of the preservation and beautification within parks.
  - o "Friends Of" Summit the evening of OCTOBER 20th - Shevek plans to attend  
<https://www.saintpaulparksconservancy.org/2021/09/fall-friends-forum-for-parks-groups-oct-20/>
  - o It's an opportunity to learn/share resources for park volunteer operations
  - o They have made deliberate moves to expand their role in parks maintenance and upkeep. (They have stayed away from Como to not compete with Friends of Como) This could benefit other D10 parks.
  - o Meet the new Executive Director (Michael Jon Pease)
- 2021-22 CRWD Grant reporting/application
  - o Grant money is used for water quality efforts. \$4,400 last year. Prior years we've done lake clean up, leaf sweeping, recycling bins around the lake, educational mailing for leaf cleaning and salt use, etc. Often other ideas are underfunded or denied. We were advised to include time but not mailing expense.
  - o Grants from \$5,000-\$20,000
  - o For next year: We'll apply again for the lake clean up.
  - o Can we take grant dollars from this year to apply to next year (like supplies, tools, etc)
- CRWD Partner Grant ideas
  - o Possible art project? Run past Neighborhood relations @ full board meeting
  - o
- 2021 anticipated committee expenses & budget – Mike needs by Thursday
  - o Underfunded tree trek – no further cost
  - o Didn't spend the \$500 toward the swap (postponed) – Possible ideas: virtual event like , Dock & Paddle – outside. Check on the beginning of the season (they are required to host community events). Will renew for next year. Jennifer to check with Dock & Paddle.

- o End of year if we have funds left. Ideas: stump removal for community garden, technology. There is a list of ideas from other board members.
- October Curb Cleaning effort & Postcards (Mike)
  - o CRWD sent 4,700 postcards. 500 had errors (required stamps) so there are extras for us to hand out, bring to churches, or public venues to spread the word. Website expires the end of the season.
- Como Park Steward Program (Jennifer) – Grant Application
  - o Community Challenge Grant submitted
  - o **ACTION ITEM:** To ratify the the decision the officers made to apply for the grant
    - Mike Claire: Second, all in favor
- Open discussion: Topics for future presentations & discussion
  - o Tom Lucy: SPPS pushing for task force to explore solar, climate issues
  - o CRWD – Re: Overview, but also programs for homeowners like Stewardship grants for rain gardens (program specifics), rain barrel, and other programs that people could organize around. Plus, awareness of organizational grants.
  - o Joe Lochner – Soil & Water Div. – contact for Rain Garden proposals. Joseph.lochner@co.ramsey.mn.us Conservation Design Specialist at Parks and Rec for Ramsey County (OCT2021 - he mentioned Rain Garden Stewardship Program Project Lead is currently vacant)

## **STANDING UPDATES**

- Como Education – Woodland Classroom, Trees & Tours/Tree Trek, MNSeed
- Como Community Garden (Shevek) – season is wrapping up, Shevek will bring in hoses. Maher Azani will collect and put them together ahead of time. End of year email has gone out. Annual meeting will be in January. Should discuss in December to finalize the draft and put it through as Action Item.
- ARWG updates (Mike, Shevek)
- Organics (Shevek) – Bag supply is back at the streetcar station.
- Mayor Carter’s Climate Justice Advisory Board (Shevek) – Is something that Shevek can connect to

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Updated Self-directed trek: <https://district10comopark.org/?s=tree+trek>

## **Next Committee Meeting Time**

Tuesday, November 9th, 7:00 p.m. – Zoom

Environment Committee Recurring Zoom Link (on the D-10 Website)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95701783379?pwd=QVppN2QrR09uNXFUL2ZEMmNwSzh5UT09> Meeting ID: 957 0178 3379 Passcode: 134640



**Help keep Como Lake clean**

The Como Community Council is teaming up with the Como Active Citizen Network and Capitol Region Watershed District on this year's Como Curb Cleanup. When it rains, leaves on streets release nutrients into the water that flows into storm drains and the lake. There it becomes food for algae. Join 100+ neighbors in sweeping your curb once a week this fall to help keep Como Lake clean.

**Visit [ComoACN.org](http://ComoACN.org) to learn more and get started today.**

**COMO PARK**



## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Como Community Council's Environmental Committee

**ITEM:**

CRWD Maintenance Grant Application for Churchill/Van Slyke Rain Garden

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Community Como Council authorizes staff, on behalf of the Como Community Council, to submit a Capitol Region Watershed District Maintenance Grant application.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In 2016, District 10 was involved in the planting of two large rain gardens at the intersection of Van Slyke Avenue and Churchill Street. CRWD provided over \$7,000 in grant funding to implement this project with the understanding that District 10 would be responsible for maintenance of the gardens for 10 years. There had been a dedicated group of volunteers to maintain the garden at the time, but that group has since dwindled.

The CRWD Maintenance Grant is a brand new program and we would be the first to apply for it. It is a reimbursement grant that requires 50% matching, but volunteer hours qualify towards the matching. There are plans for the Twin Cities German Immersion School to work with the remaining gardeners for a November 2021 maintenance event. CRWD thinks their process will be short enough to include these hours in the grant.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

District 10 will need to pay upfront costs which CRWD will reimburse after receiving copies of receipts and invoices. We can reimburse 50% of costs up to \$2000 a year with a minimum award of \$200. In-kind labor at \$25/hour/person can count towards your match.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

## Action Item

**DATE:** October 12, 2021

**FROM:** The Officers

**ITEM:** Approval of the Environment Committee's application for the Community Change grant.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Como Community Council ratifies the officers' provisional approval of the Environment Committee's application for the Community Change grant from America Walks to help support the Como Park Steward program.

**RATIONALE:** The Community Change grant is offered in the amount of up to \$1,500 for programs that among other things, increasing physical activity in a specific community, and to support and cultivate connected, active, and deeply engaged communities. These seem well suited to the new Como Park Steward program that was recently created and has no other funding.

<https://americawalks.org/america-walks-opens-2021-community-change-grant-applications/>)

The maximum grant amount is \$1,500 and is a reimbursement grant. The full amount was applied for. The grant would go to fund a welcome kit, tools, supplies, and branded shirts and hats that will encourage additional engagement through better visibility.

The grant was identified by Shevek in late September and had a due date of September 30<sup>th</sup> so it was not possible to have it addressed through the usual committee and board presentation and voting protocol.

The officers provisionally approved the action in accordance with Article V section 6 of the bylaws, which state, "...a majority of the officers of District 10 may authorize action on behalf of District 10. Except for staff performance reviews and actions taken pursuant to any approved Board policies, such authorizations are provisional until ratified by the Board at a Board meeting."

On behalf of the committee, the officers are requesting the board ratify their provisional approval of the partnership.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** If funds are granted, the work will be carried out by the Environment Committee.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:** None.

# Land Use Committee – Minutes

District 10 Community Council

Wednesday, October 6, 7pm

Location: Zoom

## Attendees

Board and staff: Maggie Zimmerman, Chad Smith, Alex Zikmund, Matt Keliher, Shevek McKee, Abdirahman Ali

Presenters: Anne Gardner, Jimmy Shoemaker

Community members: Rich Fundakowski, Dolores Rufenacht, Suzanne Rhees, Laura Oyen, Craig Foster

## Committee Business

- Call to Order  
The committee was called to order at 7:02pm. All participants attended via Zoom.
  
- New Business
  - **Pavilion/Golf Parking Lots (Anne Gardner, St. Paul Parks & Rec)**  
Anne Gardner presented an update on the planned resurfacing project in the pavilion and golf course lots. The project is currently out for construction bids. 4 spots are gained in the south pavilion lot, 4 lost in the north pavilion lot, and 1 lost in the golf course lot. A lot of effort was put into stormwater basin location and design, as well as improving car-vs-pedestrian safety just north of the pavilion. Construction will likely start early next year. Of note, the city will be working on a parks and rec master plan for Como soon, so stay tuned for details and input opportunities.
  
  - **St. Paul Bicycle Plan (Jimmy Shoemaker, St. Paul Public Works)**  
Jimmy Shoemaker presented an update on the city's bicycle plan. If you haven't filled out the bike plan survey, please do! (Link below) Goal is to get the updated bike plan adopted in the summer of 2022, which pushes for more separation between cars and bicycles. Residents aired concerns about bicycle-vs-car situations in intersections and excessive vehicle speeds. Concerns we registered about Snelling being terrible for cyclists and pedestrians.
  
  - **State Fair Safety – neighborhood meeting**  
Maggie will facilitate a discussion on October 26, 7pm, regarding safety issues in neighborhoods immediately surrounding the fairgrounds during the fair. The goal is to get attention for these issues and get state fair leadership to actively engage in public safety efforts outside of their fences during the state fair.
  
- Updates
  - a. **883 Front Ave – future Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop**  
Former location of the Buddhist Temple now at Front and Dale. Building owners are making outdoor and accessibility improvements, and are seeking an owner-operator for a coffee shop.

- o **b. 977 Front Ave – Duke’s Auto Body**  
The city gave a \$500 adverse action fine to the business after complaints regarding appearance and noise, failing to follow conditional use limitations on the property.
- o **c. 1554 Midway Parkway – future Holden House**  
Site work continues to ramp up. Community member Dolores laments the name, but it may be too far along in the process to turn back now.
- o **d. 1084 Larpenteur – Ted’s Recreation**  
Ted’s is receiving more attention after the recent homicide in the parking lot. Better lighting and cameras are coming soon, and the bar may begin to close earlier, following the Lamplighter’s lead. Buffer garages behind the building are deteriorating and may need to come down soon.
- o **e. City-Wide Drop-off Event Recap**  
We had less attendance than previous years, but still managed to hustle 500 pounds of food donations. The drop could be from increased comfort with other services to get rid of junk or the timing later in the year.
- **Coming Events**  
Next board meeting: Tuesday, October 19, at 7pm  
Next Land Use meeting: Wednesday, November 3, at 7pm
- **Adjourn**  
The committee adjourned at 8:50pm.

## Resources

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation-and-transit/bike-saint-paul/saint-paul-bicycle-plan> - detailed bike plan updates and survey

**• District 10 Como Community  
Council Neighborhood Relations  
Committee**

**COMMITTEE MEETING** *Tuesday,  
Oct. 5, 2021 @ 7:00pm Online*

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE**

A. Minute Recorder

**II. OPENING**

A. Call to order, B. Add to the agenda , add cranksgiving

**Attending:** Sarah Reuter, Darcy Rivers, Shevek McKee, Betsy W, Laura Oyen,  
Morgan Weinert, Dolores Rufenacht, Marcia Anderson

**III. NRC NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Owl Mascot graphic, how do we want to finalize- put out a call or reach out to people to see what they can design
- 2) Halloween Decoration Competition,
  - Open registration to enter ones home by Oct. 17th
  - Map of all participating houses will become available by the 22nd
  - Voting is open from the 22nd -28th, and the winner will be announced in the friday newsletter Oct. 29th
  - Top 3 houses will be recognized- We will give gift cards from local restaurants
- 3) Halloween Costume Parade. Northwest como has a halloween parade.- We should look into working with them next year and see how we can team up
- 4) Como art crawl- possible event for next year, would be a good event to team up with the garden tour.

**IV. D10 philanthropy**

1) Blood Drives

- Work with the Red Cross to locate a location within D10 to host a recurring blood donation drive- looking at working with the zoo to provide space for the blood drive, we can also use the streetcar station

2) Thanksgiving

- Host a financial fundraiser to raise funds to help cover meals for people in D-10. Kiwanis- match our fundraising dollars for the turkey giveaway, turkey breast, whole, turkeys, gift cards, early afternoon november 20th, 50 dollars a family
- Team up with the Block Nurse Program to deliver prepared meals to Elderly neighbors in need
- Team up with other organizations to do a turkey giveaway for families in need

3) Jennifer- Drive for resettled refugees - her organization is organizing, we can help advertise

## **V. Racial Equity initiatives**

1) Updates from the anti-racism working group

2) Public Art Project

- Currently a planning grant is being written
- Theme- Recognizing and calling out Como's past of racial covenants, red lining: and how these exclusionary practices have impacted and shaped our neighborhood to be and stay predominately white and middle class single family homes.
- Goals- Change the name of the Frankson Garden, community engagement, create a historical marker that explains who Frankson was, how the housing development with racial covenants has impacted our community and excluded people of color. Create a meditative sitting area for community members to learn, reflect and connect.
- Goals to collect historical stories from the neighborhood to create interactive walking paths

## **V. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, Nov. 7th , 2021 @ 7:00pm - Online

## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Sarah Reuter

**ITEM:**

Halloween Decoration Contest 2021

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved: District 10 Como Community Council supports and hosts a Halloween Decoration Competition. Households will be able to sign up; decorate their houses / apartments; a map will be created of participating households; and the community will vote for and rank their 3 favorite participants. The top three households will be awarded with a prize and bragging rights.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

This builds on the popularity of last year's competition to promote neighborhood unity.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Currently soliciting households to sign-up. Staff will create a map and form for people to vote, announce results. The Neighborhood Relations Committee will purchase and distribute prizes.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Sarah Reuter

**ITEM:**

Thanksgiving Distributions

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved, the Como Community Council:

1. Partner with the North End South Como Block Nurse Program and TST Catering to provide Thanksgiving meals to isolated seniors in the neighborhood. This will require soliciting community members for financial donations (at \$10/meal) and to volunteer to distribute meals.
2. Partner with the North Suburban Kiwanis Club of Saint Paul to help them distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families in the neighborhood who are in need. This will require contacting partner organizations in District 10 who may know of families who could benefit.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

We did this in 2020 after both organizations approached us. These projects fit the philanthropy role we are creating to support community members, strengthen connections between organizations within District 10, and build long-term relationships. Low-income households within District 10 will benefit from these efforts.

The Block Nurse Program plans to contribute \$500 for 50 meals and is asking for community help to raise an additional \$500 for an additional 50 meals, plus help in delivering meals.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The Block Nurse Program will oversee delivery logistics and direct volunteers with delivery instructions. Staff will: publicize our requests through standard communication platforms, set up online donation opportunities through our digital fundraising platforms, and contact other community organizations as appropriate. The Kiwanis partnership will be a distribution event this year.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

How exactly the November 20 distribution event will work.

## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Sarah Reuter

**ITEM:**

Blood Drives

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved, the Como Community Council:

1. Partner with the American Red Cross and the Como Zoo and Conservatory to offer community blood drives.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

COVID has considerably reduced the number of workplace blood drive events happening, which has in turn reduced the blood supplies. With many people continuing to work from home, moving the blood drives to community spaces in neighborhoods should offer people the opportunity to give that they're no longer getting through their employer.

Red Cross has been doing these in downtown at Union Depot for over a year now.

These regular events can also be an opportunity to promote other D10 programming and events at the check-in table.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The Zoo has agreed to host. Red Cross sets up and staffs the blood collection.

4 volunteers (2 shifts of 2 people: 10am-1pm, 1pm-4pm) are needed to do check-in. D10 will coordinate volunteers and promote dates.

First event December 16, 2021. Tentative plan to do it every other month.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

## **Action Item**

**DATE:**

October 12, 2021

**FROM:**

Sarah Reuter

**ITEM:**

Public Art History Project at the former Frankson Garden

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Moved: District 10 Como Community Council supports the research, creation, and implementation of a public art history project that will explain the past use of racial covenants and redlining that excluded people of color from buying homes in our neighborhood. Throughout the research phase of this project we want to also uncover hidden stories and create interactive walking paths where community members can explore the history of our neighborhood and learn about our rich past. The Gardens at Hamline and Midway Parkway will be the beginning point of the initial walking trails .

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

Through community engagement, historic research, and art (or Artistic representation) we can educate our community members about our exclusionary past and begin the process of understanding why our neighborhood is shaped the way it is and begin to rectify the past to create a better community.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Currently we have submitted a Small Legacy grant application to the MN Historical Society . We will begin hosting community engagement meetings to explore with community members the history of this neighborhood, how they would like to see this project evolve, collect neighborhood stories, and begin to map out walking trails.

**ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:**

We are in the planning stage of this project.

**City of Como Park District 10 & Brittane Geleske Consulting Project Proposal**

**Project Outcomes**

- Original documents with notes/thoughts included
- Specific suggested changes to and considerations for meetings/events/operating/policies to help navigate an ultimate goal of being a more equitable and thoughtful organization
- Presentation/Summary of results with the ability for question and answer that is co-created with Jessica and Jennifer

**Optional**

- Review and offer feedback on any SMART goals/action plans
- Proposal for equity next steps for Como Park District 10

**Project Plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
<b>Finance, Budget, and Bylaw Review</b>	Brittane will comment on these documents in particular to offer insight, considerations, and potential action steps. Other documents may be provided to ensure comprehensive understanding.
<b>Suggested Changes</b>	Upon review of Finance, Budget and Bylaw documents provide a summary document of themes and specific suggested changes for Como Park District 10
<b>Presentation/ Q&amp;R</b>	Develop a PowerPoint, recorded presentation/other document for internal use that can be shared with their team at large. Additionally, provide access to Brittane for clarifying questions and response. (Develop with Jessica and Jennifer)
<b>Meetings</b>	Brittane will be accessible to Jennifer and Jessica for meetings via zoom for clarification needs and project updates. Due to the nature of this project there is currently no limit on the amount of meetings.
<b>Optional Items</b>	Brittane, Jessica, and Jenny will continue to discuss these items. Some of them may be accomplished through the initial proposal work of Finance, Budget, and Bylaw review/summary.

**Estimated Project Deliverable Total: \$8,000**

**Potential Additional Costs (Upon Request):** Further review of other documents, programs, and operations. This will be determined and adjusted if budget allows.