

Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 7:15pm

D10 Como Community Council Board Meeting



This meeting will take place hybrid at the Como Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Pkwy) and also via video conferencing and telephone access, access details below.

- **Call to Order** (Board Chair, Jenne Nelson) 1916
- **Land Acknowledgement**

“We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People. We want to acknowledge the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk, and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.” - Excerpt from the acknowledgement given in the [USDAC Honor Native Land Guide](#) - edited to reflect MN tribes.
- **Attendance**
 - Jenne Nelson (Chair)
 - Dan Edgerton (Vice Chair)
 - Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek (Secretary)
 - Maggie Zimmerman (Land Use)
 - Lauren McCabe
 - Lizzy Cantley
 - Chad Hermes
 - PW
 - Laura Oyen
 - Abby Gold
 - Jonathan Herum
 - Shevek McKee (Executive Director)
 - Matt Keliher

Community

- **Community Input (open floor)**

None

Board Business

- **Consent Agenda**

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are enacted by one motion, items can be removed for individual discussion and vote by request

 - Meeting Agenda
 - April/May board and committee minutes
 - April 2023 Financials (Discussions Quarterly)
 - (Non-Financial Action Items from committees):
 - [Como Homo Event](#) (Neighborhood Relations committee)
 - [Ice Cream Social Event](#) (Neighborhood Relations committee)
 - [Committee Assignments](#) (Officers)

MOVED: JENNE NELSON

2ND: MAGGIE ZIMMERMAN

- **Officer Appointments**

MAGGIE ZIMMERMAN TAKES OVER AS CHAIR FOR PROCEEDINGS

D10 Board Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair, Chair) are appointed and confirmed, by majority vote of the board, annually following the board election. Terms are one year, no person shall hold a position for more than two consecutive terms.

- Chair - Nominations - Vote (Roll Call vote if multiple nominees)
 - Dan Edgerton NOMINATES Jenne Nelson
 - ZIMMERMAN calls for vote PASSES with no objection
- Vice Chair - Nominations - Vote (Roll Call vote if multiple nominees)
 - Jon Harum NOMINATES Dan Edgerton
 - ZIMMERMAN calls for vote PASSES with no objection
- Secretary - Nominations - Vote (Roll Call vote if multiple nominees)
 - Laura Oyen NOMINATES Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek
 - ZIMMERMAN calls for vote PASSES with no objection
- Treasurer - Nominations - Vote (Roll Call vote if multiple nominees)
 - Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek NOMINATES Matt Keliher
 - ZIMMERMAN calls for vote PASSES with no objection
- **Action Items**
 - [Financial Policy Update](#) (Officers) - [draft w/ changes](#)
 - EDGERTON highlights issues with language. Potential clash in language
 - MOVES that SECTION "OFFICERS" SUBSECTION "2. May approve expenditures or contracts up to \$1000"
 - BE REVISED to read 2. May approve expenditures or contracts up to \$1000 **with majority vote**
 - NELSON calls for vote. PASSED unanimously.
 - GOLD asks about online payments.
 - MCKEE: we have not yet used online banking but with the new policy the executive director would be able to use online banking as an authorized signatory.
 - GOLD: do we need that specifically called out?
 - ZIMMERMAN: if it is not specifically called out, then it goes under the umbrella of the rest of the policy
 - ZIMMERMAN: this change makes sense given the changes in the work of the Board these days
 - GOLD MOVES to APPROVE policy as amended
 - OYEN 2nds
 - PASSES unanimously.
 - Anything from Land Use meeting
 - ZIMMERMAN: Nothing specific.
- **Information**
 - Fundraising (Jenne Nelson)
 - 3 Fundraising Emails. A little over \$1000 raised.
 - Shevek Paternity Leave - June 3 thru July 14
 -
- **Closing**
- **ADJOURN 8:26 PM**

D10 Como Community Council - Minutes

Officer Meeting 06/'23

June 14, 2023 / 7:00 PM / Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98188636464>

Attendance: Jenne Nelson, Dan Edgerton, Matt Keliher, Benjamin Kowalsky-Grahek

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Meeting (June 20 - [Draft Agenda](#))**
 - Action Items
 - [St. Kate's Summer Scholars](#) (NRC)
 - Discussion Topic - Dan Edgerton talkin' water quality
 - July: ?? ([Idea Doc](#))

We have consent agenda items but no discussion items. Dan Edgerton is making a presentation on water quality. Venue proposed at Dock and Paddle

Matt: do we need to open the floor to Ice Cream Social related business?

Dan: sounds like they are looking for an ice cream vendor but other than that they are doing fine.

Jenne: potentially this will come from Laura. Action Item. About Transcription for the Como History Project. May come at this board meeting or the next board meeting

Matt: That could be a short discussion. Meeting could be only around 30 minutes

Jenne: we should ask the board what a good discussion topic is for July. Maybe could send people to go see how other boards conduct business. Let's go visit different boards.

- **Organizer Position**

Need to discuss hours for Jessica W and our budget for hours.

Want to keep a good work environment for her where she is also feeling her contributions are valued Fundraising is an area of special need for us and one that Jessica could excel at.

- **Springsgiving thank-yous and signs**

Matt needs to update the sign with a QR code or something website related and I both haven't done that and I still need to connect with Shevek to get some kind of symbol that connects back to us.

Matt and Ben say signs should not have QR code or website. Simply having a sign with a logo or a message from "DISTRICT 10 COMMUNITY COUNCIL" will be sufficient

We could print 50 signs and then put some up on our website to print on demand

Let's see what the vendor says for the scale and the price breaks. 10/25/50. Wherever the price break is is where we will land for this initial run of signs.

- **ED review**

We are now at the two year mark. We need to send out the form for anonymous feedback. We will share with Shevek. Jenne will send out performance review metrics to Matt for review.

OL' BIDNESS

- [Hmong Freedom Festival Volunteering](#) ([Action Item?](#))
- **Officers responsible for D10 Tabling at Ice Cream Social (July 14, 5:30-8pm)**

UPDATES

- **Financials**
- **Shevek ON Paternity - June**
 - Shevek is off June 5-30, and will be only covering a handful of mid-year reporting things **through July 14**. Will be back to bidness after Ice Cream Social.
 - [Working doc of baby-time responsibilities](#)

Committees

Environment Committee 06/'23

June 7, 2023 - 6:00-7:15 PM

Como Streetcar Station and [Zoom\(Link\)](#) - (Call-in info below)

Attendance: Abby Gold, Mike Ireland, Laura Oyen, Alexander McLane, Dawn Lamm, Mariah Quick, Jessica Willman, Jonathon Herum, Gordy Wrobel, Teri Alberico, Jacob Ristow, Claire Ristow

AGENDA

- Call to order
- [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Welcome and introductions
 - Please sign in using our [Digital Sign-In Sheet](#)
 - To locate your sub-district: [Sub-district Map](#)
- Declare a quorum and adopt the agenda adopted
- Request someone take the minutes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Presentation: What Happens to Organic Compost?** Where does it go, what is the environmental impact of keeping food out of a landfill (e.g., phosphorus and other byproducts) and is there anything more we can do to promote composting?
 - Mariah Quick
Ramsey County Health Educator specializing in environmental health. Mariah Quick is a health educator for Ramsey County's public health department. She works in the environmental health division with a focus on residential recycling and waste. She also manages the County's Recycling Ambassador Program, a volunteer program for residents interested in learning more about recycling and helping make their community healthier.

[Presentation video](#)

[Presentation slides](#)

Number one most common item in trash is food! Food in landfills accounts for 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. (methane, CO2)

Meat and dairy products are compostable in County Compost and anything labeled BPI. Pet waste and parchment paper not accepted (several other things also not allowed, see presentation)

SET company gets 20000 tons of food scraps / year, the county pays to have the waste removed. Piles are aerated, piles get hot to 160 degrees for two months. And moved to curing piles, piles are cooled down, tested/screened and ready for market (sold as compost)

If 5% of the food scraps collected at sites are deemed as contaminated, it is then thrown into landfill or in the case of Ramsey County burned for fuel. Last year's audits resulted in very low contamination. But people who compost now by bringing food scraps to sites are probably very diligent and conscientious.

Food scraps pick up program is being pilot tested in four cities. Special compostable bags will go right into the trash and separated by robots at solid waste site.

Food scrap and organic composting multi-language brochures (Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Somali, Spanish) are available - Mariah sent us the handouts (electronic). Can be found in this [folder](#).

- **Possible In-Person Backyard Composting Overview** in conjunction with the Curb Cleanup event (Jacob Ristow) - wants to host an in-person home composting class at Orchard Rec Center (contact Black Hawk to get a date. Jessica will help get a date). Recycling ambassadors can also help with the Harvest Festival, which might be another good venue for composting education. Teri will call Mariah to find out more about the recycling ambassador program and any home composting materials we can use at the Harvest Festival.

COMMUNITY SECTION

Gordy is wondering if we have any leverage over the overflowing trash dumpsters at the pavilion. Mike will follow up with Tricia Wherle with Parks and Rec who we work with for the Clean Up events. Also the invasive weeds (e.g., thistles) on the pavilion side of the lake.

Wires in the lights are being stolen during the light of day, if there are no city trucks around Gordy recommends calling the police.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Lawns to Legumes** Installing the second round of boulevard gardens (five) in S. Como area between Chatsworth and Lexington. Working with Sacred Spaces. Working with last year's gardeners to help them keep going and growing. Setting a date with Metro Blooms for Jameson Front garden site for planting in September. Soil testing was last week, hopefully it's not too contaminated to work. This will be a community planting (pending soil test).
- **Como Community Seed Library Garden Kickoff** May 6 event recap/debrief - Season kickoff was well attended (62 people). Zinnia collective is a new endeavor (if you are a zinnia enthusiast) and MN Seed project Friday the 17th at the EcoFair. Put a plug in for a 2024 Pollinator Garden tour.
- **Pick Up & Party** May 13 @ Orchard Rec
Tabling event recap/debrief - over 75 participants. From Alex McLane: Mariah Quick is a health educator for Ramsey County's public health department. She works in the environmental health division with a focus on residential recycling and waste. She also manages the County's Recycling Ambassador Program, a volunteer program for residents interested in learning more about recycling and helping make their community healthier.
- **Lake Como Cleanup** May 23 recap/debrief - 45 pounds of trash collected, 18 people attended. June 17 cleanup - Abby will order the bagels and pick up the spreads after Mike tells her the numbers needed.
- **Tabling ideas**
"Kiddie Como Puddle Pool" (Mike, Jessica and Lizzy Cantley) - not discussed

UPDATES

- **May board actions**
No action was requested from our committee
- **Tree Trek - June 24, 10am-Noon**
[Registration](#) is live, limited to 25 participants

UPCOMING D10 EVENTS

- Sat, June 17, 9am-Noon - [Lake Como Cleanup](#)
- Sat, June 17, 9am-4pm - [EcoFair - Donate Good Stuff](#) *partner event*
- June 24, 10am-Noon - [Como Park Tree Trek](#)
- June 25 Noon-4pm - [Como Homo Hangout Pride Event @ Como Pavilion](#)
- Fri, July 14, 5:30-8pm - [Ice Cream Social @ Como Streetcar Station](#)
- More upcoming events at district10comopark.org/Events

UPCOMING D10 MEETINGS

- June 7, 7:15pm - Neighborhood Relations Committee
- June 20, 6pm - Land Use Committee
- June 20, 7:15pm - D10 Board Meeting
- July 5, 6pm - Environment Committee
- July 5, 7:15pm - Neighborhood Relations Committee

Zoom Meeting Link (Recurring)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81656456655?pwd=NERqazk0dUsxbndRNm9INHVS0HIBQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 5645 6655

Passcode: 1234567

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,81656456655#,,,,*1234567#

Call in to meeting: +1 312 626 6799

Neighborhood Relations Committee 06/'23

June 7, 2023 - 7:15-8:30 PM

Como Streetcar Station and [Zoom\(Link\)](#) - (Call-in info below)

Attendance: Jessica Willman, Morgan Weinert, Lauren Erchul, Laura Oyen, Pastor Liesl, Liesl's guest, Pam Tollefson, Laura Oyen guest x2

AGENDA

- Call to Order (*Lauren Erchul leading meeting*)
- Welcome and Introductions ([Digital Sign-In Sheet](#) - [Sub-district Map](#))
- Adopt The Agenda

COMMUNITY SECTION

Community participants can bring topics & concerns
Pastor Liesel - Neighborhood Day next Wed 14.

OLD BUSINESS

- [Como Homo Hangout](#) | Sun, June 25, Noon-4pm, Como Pavilion
 - *Guest: Morgan Weinert, Como Homo Coordinator*
 - Started Como Homo 3 years ago.
 - Community Building Event to build Queer Community
 - Family Friendly Event.
 - Looking for more support this year from the board.
 - Advertising - Jessica Update Last Year's flyer
 - Tables ??? (Already on the
 - Budget \$200?
 - St. Timothy Lutheran Tabling opening and accepting of LGBTQ acceptance.
 - Craft - Coloring poster "You are Loved"
 - Offer treats - Candy Popsicles???
 - How should it be shared mostly for Queer Community - and their Families
 - Pageant -
 - Music - D10 speaker and Microphone
 - Playlist needed for music
 - Neighborhood bingo/LGBTQ community Jessica print out
 - Gift Cards/Books / Target pride items. Subtext books reach out. Lauren target - Jessica - Matt will reach out to Subtext
 - Little Naturalists.
 - On the Pavilion this year.
- [Pick up & Party 2023](#) | May 13 Recap/Debrief
 - *How can we improve event*
 - Set-up volunteer - People come later
 - Grill earlier - hot dogs microwaveable vs grillable.
 - Pre-cut buns
 - Maybe veggie option
 -
 - Upper vs Lower better.
 - Clean-up event

- *Street sweeping occurred about the same time. So less trash2*
- *Move to morning and have lunch*
- *Weather*
- *Bird houses good*
- *Kite making and kite flying*
- *Lots of seed balls*
- *Ice Cream truck - people liked remind that not free.*
- *Maybe Front Pottery for next year.*

NEW BUSINESS

- **Ice Cream Social** | Fri, July 14, 5:30-8pm, Streetcar Station
 - What do we need?
 - Confirmed event items'
 - 2 bands
 - Many organization tabling.
 - Kids Crafts
 - Raptor Center (hopefully an Owl) time donate
 - Booth Brown House Donation Drive -
 - Book Mobile
 - Looking for help on...
 - Food Trucks -
 - Gustavus adolphus Food Truck Sunday Pam sending cards to Jessica.
 - In parking lot
 - Need Ice Cream vendor. Might need more sponsor money.
 - Ice cream
 - What is priority
 - Nelson's freezer - \$1200 (tub)
 - Might have to scoop ice cream
 - Dar's Ice Cream maybe
 - The Malt Shop
 - Coney's
 - Root Beer Float
 - Lancer Ice Cream
 - Fundraising at event? (Lauren)
 - Jessica Willman stepping back to approximately 10 hours a week.
 -
- **St. Kate's Summer Scholars All passed. Move to Board Meeting.**
 - St. Kate's Partnership for Interviews [Action Item](#)
 - Aug 2 Presentation [Action Item](#)
 - Transcription Services [Action Item](#) | (Officers to discuss)

UPDATES

- **Como Garage Sale debrief**
 - 41 participants, same as last year
 - Garage Sale page on D10 website had 2500 views (2400 last year...good for our site)

UPCOMING D10 EVENTS

- Sat, June 17, 9am-Noon - [Lake Como Cleanup](#)
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Call in to meeting: +1 312 626 6799

Action Items

Action Item

DATE:

May 31, 2023

From:

Neighborhood Relations committee

ITEM:

St. Kate's Summer Scholars Partnership: Como Neighborhood History Project (CNHP)

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: The Como Community Council authorizes the 2nd year of partnership with St. Kate's Summer Scholars Program.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Como Neighborhood History Project, an initiative of the Neighborhood Relations Committee led by D10 board member Laura Oyen and community member Marcia Anderson. They've gathered community resources, participated in engagement at D10 events, and recorded oral histories.

In the summer of 2022, two St. Kate's students, under the supervision of Prof. Rachel Neiwert, conducted oral history interviews of Como Community members and produced an On-line Story map based on those conversations. This will be the second year of the project. Summer of 2022 focused on SD1. The summer 2023 project will focus on SD4. Students will again interview Como community members during the month of June and create and present a story map of their summer's work and experiences in August as a culmination of their internship.

Both the Como Community and St. Kate's students benefit from this project. The collection of stories regarding the development of the neighborhoods becomes part of Como's legacy while the students gain interviewing and storytelling skills.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Laura and Como Neighborhood History Volunteers will coordinate the recruitment of interviewees, and utilization of the Street Car Station for interviews.

Recorded interviews and interview releases will be stored in the D10 folders along with copies by the coordinator (Laura). Access is limited to Executive Director and Project Coordinator at this time due to the terms of the interviewee release documents.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

- Final list of interviewees.
- Transcriptions of past and future interviews are still in development.

Action Item

DATE:

June 7, 2023

From:

Neighborhood Relations Committee

ITEM:

St. Kate's Summer Scholars Presentation Aug 2, 2023: Como Neighborhood History Project (CNHP)

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: The Neighborhood Relations Committee requests that the Como Community Council authorizes a community presentation on August 2, 2023 at approx. 7:00 of the summer work of oral history interviews and research that have been completed by the partnership of the St. Kate's Summer Scholars Program and/or the Como Neighborhood History Project.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Como Neighborhood History Project, an initiative of the Neighborhood Relations Committee led by D10 board member Laura Oyen and community member Marcia Anderson. They've gathered community resources, participated in engagement at D10 events, and recorded oral histories.

In the summer of 2022, two St. Kate's students, under the supervision of Prof. Rachel Neiwert, conducted oral history interviews of Como community members and produced an on-line story map based on those conversations. This will be the second year of the project. Summer of 2022 focused on SD1. The summer 2023 project will focus on SD4. Students will again interview Como community members during the month of June to create and present a story map of their summer's work and experiences in August as a culmination of their internship.

Both the Como Community and St. Kate's students benefit from this project. The collection of stories regarding the development of the neighborhoods becomes part of Como's legacy while the students gain interviewing and storytelling skills.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The presentation would take place instead of or as an extension of the Neighborhood Relations Committee meeting regularly scheduled that evening.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

- Preparation of presentation may impact Environmental Committee meeting on 8/2
- Presentation will impact the normal agenda of the Neighborhood Relations Committee.
- Advertising event
- Recruiting volunteers.
- Willingness of the Environmental Committee to support the event and possibly adjust their agenda for the evening.
- Possibility of the Environmental Committee doing a Lawns to Legumes Presentation to the community that night also.
- Actual time slot for event.

Action Item

DATE:

June 7, 2023

From:

Neighborhood Relations committee

ITEM:

Oral History Interview Transcripts: Como Neighborhood History Project (CNHP)

ACTION REQUESTED:

Moved: The Neighborhood Relations Committee requests that the Como Community Council authorizes up to \$120 to support a subscription fee of otter.ai to create written transcripts of the oral history interviews that have been completed by the partnership of the St. Kate's Summer Scholars Program and/or the Como Neighborhood History Project.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Como Neighborhood History Project, an initiative of the Neighborhood Relations Committee led by D10 board member Laura Oyen and community member Marcia Anderson. They've gathered community resources, participated in engagement at D10 events, and recorded oral histories.

In the summer of 2022, two St. Kate's students, under the supervision of Prof. Rachel Neiwert, conducted oral history interviews of Como Community members and produced an On-line Story map based on those conversations. This will be the second year of the project. Summer of 2022 focused on SD1. The summer 2023 project will focus on SD4. Students will again interview Como community members during the month of June and create and present a story map of their summer's work and experiences in August as a culmination of their internship.

Both the Como Community and St. Kate's students benefit from this project. The collection of stories regarding the development of the neighborhoods becomes part of Como's legacy while the students gain interviewing and storytelling skills.

CNHP has submitted four grant requests to the Minnesota Historical Society (Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants) to create transcripts of the oral histories mentioned above. We have been denied each time for funding. The purpose of creating the transcripts is to provide more accessible information to share with the community as a part of the Know Your Como stories. A written document of the recordings also provides more efficient access to the recorded record.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Como Neighborhood History Project volunteer Lija Greenseid has done the research to find the above noted on-line service to do the transcription. Lija opened a free account to explore otter.ai which provides transcription services. We'd have to pay a minimal monthly fee to transcribe the audio we've collected. There is a \$30/month "business" option or an annual \$100 Otter Pro option. There are different benefits for each approach. We could use software for a couple of months to get through our backlog and the upcoming summer interviews.

Lija has offered to manage the file uploading and auto transcription and speaker tagging (with some help with speakers) and then the word docs can be sent out to others for a final clean up.

Written Transcripts would be added to the Recorded interviews and interview releases which are stored in the D10 folders along with copies by the coordinator (Laura). Access is limited to Executive Director and Project Coordinator at this time due to the terms of the interviewee release documents.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED:

- Determine final option for Software
 - Research into using Google Docs which allows transcription for free delivers one long rambling mess without any punctuation, etc. Would require extensive editing to be workable.
 - Research into Microsoft 365 Word transcription software. Better than Google, but wasn't as easy as otter.ai. Microsoft is also a subscription based software and currently not accessible to all members of the CNHP team.
- Determine folks who will receive access to software
- Determine volunteers for final clean up of interviews.
- Access to final Transcription documents to be determined.

Action Item

DATE: June 20th, 2023

FROM: Jenne Nelson

ITEM: Increasing Ice Cream Social budget

ACTION REQUESTED: Moved, the Como Community Council, approves a budget increase for the annual ice cream social from \$1,700 to \$2,500.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE: Historical malt donors, the Kiwanis Club, are unable to provide malts for the 2023 Como Community Council Ice Cream Social. Increasing our planned budget from \$1,700 to \$2,500 will allow us to continue to provide free ice cream to 600 attendees to this anchor community engagement event.

Local businesses have donated \$1,200 to offset the cost; the rest is covered by the Trusted Messenger grant.

IMPLEMENTATION: Como Community Council staff will purchase ice cream from Dar's Double Scoop, which is a Black-owned, local business.

ISSUES UNRESOLVED OR YET TO BE DETERMINED: None.