



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, July 16, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

- Action Item: Appointment of Jill Henricksen to Neighborhood Relations Committee
- I. **Call to order**
Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- II. **Board Introductions**
Present:
Alexis Baker, Sara Benzkofer, Rebecca Calvo, Thomas Coburn, Jill Henricksen, Annie Huidekoper, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Sarah Reuter, Marika Staloch, Debra Verber, Jennifer Victor-Larsen
Absent:
Amy Perna, Amanda Rohrer, Maggie Zimmerman, Cody Zwiefelhofer

Staff: Michael Kuchta

Neighborhood Introductions
- III. **Review, Amend agenda:**

MOTION: *Approve the agenda (Huidekoper/Victor-Larson) passes*
- IV. **Community Section**
A. Guest Presentation: Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali Nelson
Mitra was ill, so sent Matt Privratsky with the “JV” version of her talk. Remind people to please contact Ward 4 with any comments or concerns. (He’s google-able.)
 - Comprehensive plan just went through the city council which unlocked a lot of the neighborhood level plans and frees up staff time to work on some of the neighborhood level work.
 - Sidewalk gap mapping is helping prioritize needs. Crosswalks and stop sign pedestrian crossing policy changes will help make it easier to navigate the process of requesting or adding pedestrian crossing. Looking into making it easier for changing speed limits for neighborhoods below 30 MPH.
 - Garbage collection: Keep paying the bills, the service will continue until appeal.
 - Updated code to make it easier upfront to utilize solar.

- Working on tenant/renter protection work. Event in every Ward to talk about ways to protect renters.
- Looking into ways to increase public safety creatively, not just increasing police. Would love to hear ideas and voices on that.
- Mitra leads Saint Paul's census work for 2020.
- City Budget will be unveiled August 15 and want to make it much more open to the public and visible. Reach out if you're not hearing updates.
- Office hours are on the Ward 4 website (at Ginkgo and Co-Create).

Mike Ireland asked for clarifications on the statement that we have the "weakest protections" for tenants. Matt clarified that it's really just the lack of protections against evictions (not much notice, no reasons). Rent control is tricky - some is not allowed in MN but there are variations that may make rent increases predictable.

Michael stated that Shalom Home being vacant for so long is an issue. Matt reached out that the current owner is in a financial bind and are interested in selling. Plans for a foreclosure may be coming forward. No exact timeline.

Debra had a question about the possibility about trash collectors and monopoly as some are selling their businesses. The haulers aren't communicating with the city due to the lawsuit. Can't make many changes until the lawsuit is settled.

B. Community Concerns:
None.

V. Board Business Section

A. Minutes

Staloch amended to reword the beginning of the 12th paragraph as noted in italics and underlined as "Mike Ireland had a question about the mediation (TCGIS/SHSA): Concerned about the mediator's report being bleak about resolving differences. Some folks are looking at D10 as also being part of the problem..."

MOTION: *Approve June 18, 2019 meeting amended minutes (Victor-Larson/Calvo) passes*

B. Financial reports (Mike Ireland)

Revenue

- General Fundraising & Donations \$70
- Community Garden \$50
- Misc Income \$865.53 from yoga fees, barricade rental, D6 reimbursement for food at NEXUS training and \$350 deposit error by bank

Expenses

- No rent due to later receipt of invoice. Next month will have double rent expense (\$560)
- Printer expenses of \$408.42 slightly higher than usual primarily for \$226.31 in Citywide Drop-off flyers explaining district councils
- Accounting expenses \$577.25 are high from annual 990 filing and MN Attorney General filing fee
- Comofest expenses of \$360 from Baron of Bubbles and Cindy's Creative Celebrations payments
- CRWD Partner Grant expenses of \$1,205.64 from supply purchases
- Citywide Cleanup expenses of \$2,720.33 from supplies, food and hours for the June 1 event

- Miscellaneous Event & Initiative Expenses of \$575.16 in part from food for NEXUS training

	Month	YTD	FY Budget
Revenue	985.53	14,861.63	92,944
Expenses	11,007.11	44,209.92	91,681
Net Income	(10,021.58)	(29,348.29)	1,263

C. Board Chair and Officer’s Report (Melissa Liu)

Join us early for the Thursday Board Retreat to have some social time. Looking forward to connecting as a board.

- Action Item: Appointment of Jill Henricksen to Neighborhood Relations Committee **passes**

D. Committee Updates

- **Environment** (Sara Benzkofer)

Russ Stark joined to talk about climate work with the city. Pollinator Garden tour was well received, about 25 reported at one property. 40 was reported at another. Need a volunteer (or a rotation) to take minutes that’s not the chair. Sara will assign someone if nobody volunteers.

- **Land use** (Maggie Zimmerman)

Did not meet in July. August will take place and there are at least 3 agenda items, including the auto repair shop on Front/Chatsworth, State Fair (peddlers, parking), and representative from the city will talk about the Como Bike Trail.

- **Neighborhood Relations and Safety** (Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki)

Ice Cream Social details, North Dale Summerfest needs a D10 volunteer (Olivia will be there, but not able to do both tables.) Ice Cream Social was a huge success. 28 gallons of ice cream, attendance of a little under 500, collected \$263. It was (aside from hot) perfect. Hats off to Sarah Reuter for her work organizing 24 tables for ComoConnect. No meeting August due to National Night Out. Please attend a NNO event if you’re able.

E. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Continuing to monitor the TCGIS/SHSA situation and inform the neighborhood as best we can. Como HS and DSI are meeting with Michael regarding making the regulation of noise a pilot project to craft a new portion of city code to regulate athletic fields for schools. Grant update. Como by the Lake grand reopening on July 30, stop in if you’re free. Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki will be attending. If you want to send an email without staff seeing it, use the group “Board Private.”

F. New Business

Como Pathways report is being worked on by Rebecca Calvo. It is coming from environmental committee

VI. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm (Mulvey Morawiecki/Baker) *passes*; Mike Ireland abstained

Respectively submitted by Marika Staloch. These minutes are not official until approved.

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

Aug. 15, 2019 (Spring Café)

Present: Melissa Liu, chair; Amy Perna, vice chair; Marika Staloch, secretary; Mike Ireland, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, staff

Events

- **Renters Outreach.** Emily, Olivia and Debra are meeting with residents at Como Park Apartments today, Aug. 15, as part of the community's barbecue. Emily continues to try to schedule additional "eat and greet" events at other rental communities.
- **Community yoga.** Sept. 8 and Dec. 1
- **Lake Clean-Up.** Oct. 12

Environment Committee is working with Capitol Region Watershed District to schedule a shorter, public version of its Como Lake tour. Target is early September, possibly Monday Sept. 9.

Community

- **Twin Cities German Immersion School.** Demolition is under way. School reopens Aug. 26. The school does not yet have any construction permits.
- School anticipates that Como Ave. south of the school will be restricted during construction, which will affect traffic flow for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. School approached Parks and Rec about staging Grades 4-8 south of Chatsworth Woods, along Como Ave. east of Chatsworth. This option is not discussed or evaluated in the school's 2019 traffic study. Officers reaffirmed Michael's initial approach, in which we urge school to utilize McMurray Field parking lot, which is evaluated in traffic study. This would minimize impact on residential part of neighborhood and steer walking and vehicle routes to a signalized intersection. Michael has looped in an expanding number of city staff, who at this point are trying to decide who has jurisdiction. This apparently is gray area because normal operations, construction operations, and the site plan agreements overlap.
- Officers had extensive discussion about being open to and aware of healing possibilities for neighbors as time goes on. Also discussed having an informal gathering of board members to review how we handled issue and what we can learn from the experience.
- **Save Historic Saint Andrews.** The group's Facebook administrators have targeted District 10 (and Land Use chair Maggie Zimmerman in particular, as being complicit in the failure of the church building to gain historic designation. Officers discussed how to respond to community members who might raise complaints at board or committee meetings.
- **Municipal elections.** With the filing period closed, there are four candidates in Ward 1, three candidates in Ward 4, and four candidates in Ward 5. There are 10 candidates for four seats on the St. Paul School Board.
- **Candidate forums.** D10 has been approached by various parties to be part of candidate forums. The most advanced discussions are partnering with District 6 to host a city council forum in Ward 5. Staff are looking at the Lakeside Pavilion and Community School of Excellence as possible sites. Amy explained how League of Women Voters approaches forums and said league would be willing to partner as well. She will connect league coordinator, Michael and D6 staff to continue planning. Michael will continue communications with other parties for other events.

Communication

- **Website.** Michael met again with the developer, and reached agreement on front page structure and sections. You can view progress of the prototype site at <https://167d10cc.aeronauticvigilante.com>. We will set up an Oct. 15 deadline.

Next meeting: Thursday Sept. 5

- **Welcome packet.** Postcards and updated booklet are back from the printer.

Financials

- **Contract reimbursement.** Paperwork has been filed for reimbursements totaling \$40,989 for city engagement, COPP, and Citywide Drop-off grants.
- **Transition of financial accounts.** Amy and Mike are completing paperwork to transfer records of primary account holder at Sunrise Banks.
- **Electronic signatures for paychecks.** Michael will follow up with accountant to implement this.
- **Renew fiscal agency for North Dale Booster Club Toys for Tots.** Michael will update action item from last year and add it to Tuesday's agenda.

Organizational Business

- **Board meeting** (Aug. 20). County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo will be guest presenter. Action items will include North Dale fiscal agency and two from Land Use (Duke's Car and Towing,; Gabe's bocce tournament). We will announce vacancy to replace Amy and special election in September. Amy will approach some board members about their interest. Public Works director Kathy Lantry is confirmed as guest presenter in September.
- **SPNN forum.** Mike and Maggie will do interview on Aug. 27 as part of a series of interviews with different district councils. Michael may participate in interview about district council system citywide.
- **ADU workshop.** Hamline Midway is planning one and looking for partners. Michael will stay in the loop.
- **Leadership meeting.** Doodle poll is under way for September meeting. Tasks will focus on fleshing out and digging deeper into ideas raised at board retreat, and digging into the community survey for priority topics. This will blend ideas from board and community members which can serve as basis for committee work and ad hoc work over next 12-15 months.

Staff Report

- **Vacation.** Michael is on vacation Aug. 21-Sept. 1. Amy will check mail, voice mail and email. Check requests will be delayed until Sept. 3.
- **Spring Café.** Lancer manager had to cancel Aug. 9 meeting; we hope to reschedule to discuss recycling issues, and plans after busy season ends.
- **New copier.** Is installed. Had initial performance issues (3 different service techs) and still have problem of machine repeatedly going offline.
- **Como Avenue Trail.** Michael, Cody, and Rebecca met Aug. 14 with Public Works staff to discuss problems with current design of project. Primary challenge is how to safely handle eastbound cyclists who are traveling in on-street bike lanes when those lanes end at Snelling. Marika raised additional bicycle safety issue: lack of right-turn markings for autos from Como to Dale, which means motorists frequently turn in front of cyclists.
- **Aeon.** Michael spoke briefly at grand re-opening celebration July 30.

Other Business

- **State Fair parking.** A neighbor of Mark Lentsch, of 1563 Wynne, has denied Mark permission for lawn parking during the State Fair, which is required under city ordinance. Mark has written the city and us, claiming we support an ordinance provision that allows racial bias and discrimination.

Next meeting: Thursday Sept. 5

District 10 Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2019 at 7 pm

PRESENT

Sara Benzkofer, Amanda Rohrer, Thomas Coburn (board)
Tom Lucy, Susan Jane Cheney, Mike Ireland, Teri Alberico
Michael Kuchta (staff)

STANDARD ITEMS

- Committee Member Introductions
- Amend/Adopt the Agenda

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

- **Spring Café Receptacle Update**—Michael K.
Meeting with Lancer was cancelled. Observation indicates that there are still no trash canisters by the snack window and inadequate recycling at the restaurant above.
- **Receptacles at Como Lake** --Mike Ireland & Michael K.
Last year there was a proposal for funding, but we didn't get it. There are fewer receptacles than last year. Some discussion of why and how garbage pickup happens occurred. We'll revisit in the late winter/spring.
- **Discuss CRWD Tour of Como Lake**—Mike Ireland
The Citizen Advisory Committee of Capital Region Watershed District hosts an annual tour of the watershed, highlighting activities, events, and initiatives. Initial discussions with the host of the event indicate they would be willing to open this event to the public if District 10 wanted to host and publicize. Mike Ireland will reach out to the contact to see if there's an evening (6-7:30 pm) in early September (post-Fair, but before the darkness sets in) that the CRWD staff would be available, otherwise we'll look to host in spring.

- **Final Adopt-a-Drain Challenge Campaign Numbers**

	8/2019	6/2019	5/2019	12/2018
Como	178	163	132	116
Hamline Midway	107	87	79	40
Mac/Groveland	50	48	46	12
Union Park	64	45	39	11
Highland	55	55	55	16
St. Anthony Park	17	13	13	5

- **Discuss Adopt-a-Drain Outreach Strategy**

- Announcing the drain name winners!
There were 65 votes. Drain Gretzky won with 18, Flo came in second with 15 and Stormy drew 8 votes. Everything else got 1 to 5 votes.
- How to celebrate the challenge?
Hamline-Midway (the challenger in this competition) suggested the winner host a social with ice cream or shaved ice as a celebration. Rewarding individual winners (Drain Gretzky, households that adopted more than one drain) with challenger-supplied gift cards to local restaurants was an alternative suggestion. Discussions will continue.
- How to utilize the video?
Video has been shared in the newsletter a couple of times. It's been offered to other organizations and we'll reach out to the Como Curb Cleanup for fall leaf efforts.
- Scavenger hunt?
There is available content, but ideas for how to implement are still percolating.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Discuss future presentation ideas

Suggestions:

Britt Forsberg - INaturalist app (expressed interest)

Kristina Mattson - Zero Waste Saint Paul (expressed interest)

Climate Reality Conference/Al Gore (committee member can present material)

Met Council location tracking (researcher presentation)

Kathy Lantry from Public Works will attend the September full board meeting; members are invited to bring questions and concerns about expanding fall street sweeping to a second pass in the area that drains to Como Lake. This would be a pilot project, but holds a lot of promise for keeping a substantial amount of leaves out of the lake.

- Gustavus Adolphus College's Nobel Conference, Climate Changed, Sept 24-25. More information and registration here: <https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2019/>

SYNOPSIS OF RECENT EVENTS

- Pollinator Garden Tour—Dawn Lamm, Erin Dooley, Mike MacDonald, Mike Ireland
Nine gardens participated and feedback was positive. Counts of participants aren't available, but estimates will be made. The most heavily visited seemed to be those that clustered together, suggesting that in future years focusing on a single subdistrict at a time may be a good strategy. It was also suggested to solicit nominations.
- Como Lake Cleanup--Erin Spry, Mike Ireland
Sixteen people attended the most recent Como Lake cleanup, substantially more than RSVPed on NextDoor and the D10 page. A similar ratio of RSVPs to participants occurred at the last event, too. The event was more efficient, even with fewer people more debris was collected (including the top of a lamp post). The next event will be October 12. Hip boots will not be borrowed for future events - they are heavy and unwieldy and rarely used. Funding hasn't been exhausted and supplies are still available - it's likely that these events can be continued into next year.
- Public Art St. Paul—Michael K.
The event was a success and feedback was positive, though no one present at the committee meeting was in attendance at the event.

COMMUNITY SECTION – *a time for anyone's input or concerns*

The Pathways report is progressing and is anticipated to be shared with the Environmental Committee next month to review before sending to the full board. While the budget cycle has already started and recommendations will not be addressed until next year, repaving of parking lots in the park is scheduled and it's possible that some of the recommended reconfigurations of bike trails may be able to be tacked on to that project, but that is still to be determined.

UPCOMING EVENT

- Como Lake Clean-Up—October 12, 9-12, Como Pavilion

ADJOURNMENT

- **Next NEW Meeting Time:** September 11 at 7 pm at the Streetcar Station

Land Use Committee - District 10 Como Community Council – 8/5/2019 - Agenda

1. Call to order: 7:00pm

Present: Maggie, Cody, Rebecca, Michael K., 9 additional neighbors

2. Amend/Adopt Agenda

Approved unanimously (Maggie, Cody)

3. Land Use Voting Procedures Reminders

4. New Business

1. Duke's Auto Repair: Business License Application

Auto repair and towing shop located on 977 Front Ave.

- 1. **Motion:** District 10 Como Community Council supports the business license application for Duke's Auto Repair with conditions set by DSI. (Maggie, Cody)*
- 2. Justin Pope: concerns for the application. I attempted to purchase this property but was told no by DSI. There have been multiple violations previously, such as car repairs happening on the street. The previous owner had multiple violations.*
- 3. Question from Rebecca: are the conditions included from DSI typical or is this a special case? Michael: not necessarily, but it's a standard practice for auto repair places.*
- 4. Question from Maggie: what happened with the operating without the license complaints we've heard about? Duke: It was not yet licensed under the new name; I thought I had a license for the business but it was actually a license for an alarm. When DSI came back to me and said I did not have a license, I shut down the business immediately. (Michael: DSI confirmed no business since the incident.)*
- 5. Wayne: Have major concerns about a tow truck loading and unloading on a small footprint. Will create a dangerous situation for traffic if tow trucks are going in and out. Think it's a safety issue and that building is too small for an auto repair shop.*
- 6. Luann: The bay doors from that property look into my house. Anything that happens with those doors will affect me personally and make my bedroom unusable because of the noise. It would be fine with me during working hours, but the previous owner did not abide by those rules.*
- 7. Our letter of support includes questions to clarify issues of tow operations, snow removal, and whether one parking spot is required to*

be designated as handicapped accessible.

8. Motion vote: passes

2. *Gabe's in the Park Bocce Tournament variance*

1. *Motion: District 10 Como Community Council supports the variance request from Gabe's By The Park for extension of service outdoors during the Gabe's Bocce Ball Tournament on Saturday, September 28 between 10am and 6pm. (Cody, Rebecca)*

2. Motion vote: passes

3. *Como Trail: Don Flaum from Public Works*

1. *Recommendations:*
2. *From Raymond -> Canfield will essentially be the same as what exists today.*
3. *Canfield to Snelling: road narrowed by 10 feet, four-three lane conversion (except during State Fair time) with two through lanes and shared left turn lane with bike lanes, will establish boulevard and trees between trail and road.*
4. *Snelling to Hamline: maintain all on-street parking, no bike lanes on the street, some crunches and a few intersections to consider where buses move. The street will be narrowed.*
5. *Questions:*
 1. *Question about crosswalk crossing Como at Pascal. What's going to happen to it? It will become shorter because of pedestrian bump out. Bump outs also improve visibility because there's no trees or other cars so the sight lines become better*
 2. *Why was parking kept in at the expense of a bike lane? Because louder voices prevailed — more people wanted to keep parking on both sides of the street.*
 3. *How will bikers move from the south side of Como to the North side of Como? They will have to make the decision.*
6. *No recommendation at this time. Michael and Cody to follow up with concerns about the lack of an eastward bike lane on the south side of Como between Snelling and Hamline.*

4. *ParkPoolr - Parking App for TC Events - Jackson Lefebvre*

1. *Jackson - student from UMN. Connects businesses with people looking for parking. Launched for MN United home games; homeowners sign up on their platform to park on the property.*
2. *Looking at launching for the state fair, but a couple challenges: hosts setting an hourly rate, so drivers only book for an allotted time vs. at MN United games where it's the whole day.*
3. *Want to launch for the state fair at least a week before the state fair*

starts

4. *Users get paid via Venmo or via check.*
5. *How to verify cars? Stop by houses and check license plate numbers; handle customer phone calls and emails*
6. *Go to parkpoolr.com and click on State Fair to register your parking spot.*
7. *ParkPoolr takes 5% of the price of the parking spot. 10 houses have already signed up; most near the St. Paul campus.*

5. Ongoing Business & Reports

1. Como/Front/Dale

1. Not much new to report; Rainbow Daycare project on hold due to some recent scope changes, but still on track to begin once smoothed out. Committee is still finalizing what remains of CVZ money after there's a leftover budget.

2. Dog Park Leadership

1. Kevin Dahm is no longer interested in leading the dog park group and is interested in handing off leadership of the group.

3. TCGIS/SHSA

1. Some tiles have been salvaged; demolition expected to come soon.

4. Updates/Staff Report:

1. Shalom Home

1. A developer has purchased the outstanding mortgages and is likely to foreclose on the current ownership group. Their representative pledges that they will call us immediately if that happens and schedule a meeting. Initial plans are to convert the existing buildings into rental housing, primarily studios and 1BR. Depending on mix of units, they could require a parking variance.

2. 1290 Snelling

1. The owner of the old firehouse wants the city to vacate the stub of Canfield next to the property to reduce unwanted activity. Apparently, that will take a petition and a procedure known as a hardship waiver to make it happen.

3. Como Senior High Athletic Field Pilot

1. Met July 18 with representatives from DSI, Como athletics, and several colleges that have outdoor athletic fields and/or stadiums. There was lots of advice shared on how to engineer systems (permanent and portable) to minimize impacts on nearby residents. Como still needs to work with its vendor and/or a sound engineer to determine placement, volume levels, etc.

4. Essence Event Center – Bandana Square

1. Site plan is finalized. A new owner (Long Nguyen) intends to do catering, corporate events and weddings. Unlikely to host events

until spring 2020. Eventually will be seeking full liquor license(s).

5. Wynne Ave/HCPA

1. School has planted dozens of trees, shrubs and vines on Wynne side of building – on its own. About 75 lilac bushes, a couple of dozen grape vines, and several crabapple trees. Neighbors also report that personal relations have improved between residents and school staff.

6. Como by the Lake Parking, Signage, Crosswalk

1. These crosswalk and parking issues also are at a standstill because of Elizabeth Stiffler's absence.

7. Lexington Crossing construction

1. Still no date scheduled. Also, Parks and Rec is getting funding through Met Council to repave the parking lots at the Lakeside Pavilion and golf course. We have requested discussions about building in routes for pedestrians and bicyclists as part of the repaving.

8. Tobacco Fines in D10

1. DSI has fined Carter's BP, Speedway, Walgreen's, and D&L Food and Gas \$500 each for tobacco product violations.

9. State Fair

1. Continue to speak with various departments on standardizing enforcement expectations for peddlers, lawn parking, street parking, etc. Those will be posted on our website. So far, city has fined __ peddlers for violations from last year.

10. 1227 Como

1. Lot split (near W. Como Blvd. and Horton) is finalized

11. DSI has fined two peddlers \$500 each (that we are aware of).

12. Licenses

1. Café 99: Beer and wine license is up for renewal on Oct. 1. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Nelson.

13. International Institute

1. Has received \$262,000 grant from MN Department of Employment and Economic Development for contamination work on land where it intends to expand.

6. Coming events

1. Next Board Meeting – August 20th @ 7pm – Streetcar Station
2. Next Land Use Meeting – Sept 4th @ 7pm – Streetcar Station

7. Adjourn 9:00pm