



**District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday, August 20, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

- Action Item: Fiscal agency for North Dale Booster Club Toys for Tots campaign
- Action Item: Business License: Duke's Car and Towing
- Action Item: Gabe's By The Park Bocce Tournament

I. Call to order

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. Introductions (name and neighborhood)

Board Present: Alexis Baker, Rebecca Calvo, Thomas Coburn, Jill Henricksen, Annie Huidekoper, Mike Ireland, Melissa Liu, Amy Perna, Sarah Reuter, Amanda Rohrer, Marika Staloch, Debra Verber, Jennifer Victor-Larsen, Maggie Zimmerman, Cody Zwiefelhofer
Board Absent: Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Sara Benzkofer
Staff: Michael Kuchta

Neighborhood Introductions: 8 community members present

III. Review, Amend agenda:

MOTION: *Approve the agenda (Victor-Larson/Perna) passes*

IV. Community Section

A. Guest Presentation: County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo

Trista is the new Ramsey County Commissioner (as of 8 months ago.) They have been working on transit/transportation issues. Saved and increased ridership for the 62 (Rice Street) transit. Redesigning Rice Street with bus pull-outs, largest population without cars. Working on traffic calming and road safety. Lane restricting, restricting, protected bike lanes, especially important as after two pedestrians were killed on Larpenteur. Just started similar safety measures on Maryland. Maryland is the heaviest county road in Ramsey County, looking to see if this helps and will use findings on Dale, Rice, etc.

Ramsey County has now closed Boys Totem Town due to criminal justice reform which is now helping with family services. Courts, social services, and law enforcement came together to find alternatives to do better by our youth.

Organics recycling will start in Ramsey County - about two years out before we have curbside organics. Trying to reduce the amount of food waste. Then moving into organics recycling for all residents. Currently working on education, onboarding, and equipment in order to obtaining recycling.

Serve on the community action board. Added a new head start site for 3-5 low-income kiddos near Lexington & Thomas. They are currently enrolling.

Work force: working on increasing women and minority owned businesses for county and city contracting purposes.

Budget: Currently learning about the budget themselves and hearing from public. Two public hearings are soon. Will be voted on in December. Proposals are to close The Ponds Battle Creek golf course. Proposal put additional money into remaining golf courses. There's no new money for housing in the current proposal.

Transforming systems together is about criminal justice reform including several agencies working with the criminal justice system. Looking at systemic changes at reducing the demand for other services by preventing issues (homelessness, crime, etc.) before they become needing of services.

Levy, just under 10% by the county. That is to meet inflation needs. About half of the work the county does is mandated by the federal government.

Housing is an issue that is underfunded in the current budget. She is looking outside the box to how to solve these issues. Homelessness is on the rise. Want to look at solutions that are not just band-aids. You can report tents and car sleepers to Ramsey County office and they'll send an outreach worker to find housing or a safe parking spot. Avoiding the law enforcement route as it puts them into the cycle.

Questions and comments:

From community: Is there a plan for the Totem Town site? Perhaps to add housing? Time frame? Currently a committee being assembled with neighbors starting in the next few weeks.

From community: Long term vacancies? Shalom home, duplex on Como. Though they may be keeping up on maintenance and taxes, can a nudge help add housing into the community.

Michael updated that there is a new owner of Shalom home, had a conversation with him today. He would like to convert to apartments, mostly studios and 1-bedrooms. As soon as a plan is ready, there will be a community meeting. No news about price ranges.

From community: New apartments that are higher end, is there a requirement for those new builds have 20% low-income. She responded that the county only has jurisdiction if they receive county funds.

The county has an HRA with no money in it, and investment is in conflict with St Paul. In order to get out of this needs to be EDA, which there is legislative process is starting now.

From community: Wants to know if Ramsey County will prioritize "current residents" over "people from Africa." Trista responded that Ramsey County focuses on longevity of residence, not where they're coming from. They are helping all people who need housing.

From Thomas: Explain the four to three lane structure. Rice Street is currently four lanes (two on either side) and will shift to one lane on each side with a turn lane down the middle. From Debra: Why is this better? Hearing criticism and wants facts. Response: She is happy to share studies on why it's better. On Maryland, traffic is faster. Shots fired is down by 75%.

From Thomas: Regarding composting, wants to know how the trucks are adequately equipped to handle additional liquid weight. She will bring that up in an upcoming meeting, but hopes this problem will be offset

From Thomas: What about a roundabout at Como/Front/Dale? She said it's her dream and it's the perfect intersection for this.

B. Community Concerns

Community member Barbara Clark: Made aware today of an issue with the old Firehouse (now a single family dwelling) on Snelling Avenue asking for a hardship waiver.

Michael: It's a request for a hardship waiver, not a vote on whether or not to vacate the street. The owner of the firehouse is asking for the waiver. If it's passed on Wednesday, then the process starts.

Maggie confirmed that District 10 has not been asked to weigh in. Barbara had several concerns about this not being addressed at all. Concerned that D10 didn't take a stand or communicate out. Maggie explained this would come before land use if there was a variance, community concerns where we can help elevate and answer questions. D10 is an advisory, not

compulsory. With hardship waiver, it does not come to D10. Maggie asked what D10 could do for her. Barbara feels it is being pushed through without community discussion and that D10 should notify city council that there is a new owner. Maggie invited her to come to the land use committee so that her voice is heard.

Barbara Clark looked on the D10 website to see if it was in the minutes and saw no reference. Why, if we knew about this, was this not in the news.

Michael: We didn't know this was advancing to the City Council until Friday, which wasn't time to put into the newsletter.

Maggie: Until there's a formal request, we didn't know about this. Invited Barbara to join land use to work through this.

Community member James: Asked for an updated about the crosswalk on Lexington near the golf course.

Cody: It was supposed to happen (several dates cited) and it hasn't happened yet.

Michael: Parks and Recreation is trying to get this done through the city contractors so they at the mercy of their timeline. We ask every month. There is no update.

James: Also a suggestion. Can we remove one-way bicycle signs from a section of the bike lane from the streetcar to the pavilion. To bike home from streetcar station, his option is to go around the lake or to go on shoulder of Lexington.

Michael: Two-way trail proposal is recommended in upcoming Como Pathways report. Also, possible re-striping and re-laneing of the south parking lot.

V. Board Business Section

A. Minutes

MOTION: *Approve July 16, 2019 meeting amended minutes (Zwiefelhofer/Calvo) passes*

B. Financial reports (Mike Ireland)

Mike reported that the July credit card statement was not received in time for individual charges to be allocated to specific line items. The statement was then received and Mike sent the revised treasurer's report earlier today that allocated expenses to each specific line item (the overall "Total Expenses" remained the same).

Revenue

- 2019 Innovation Grant for Equity Work: We were reimbursed \$4,709.20 of prior expenses from the City.
- General Fundraising & Donations: At our ice cream social, we received \$263 in cash donations. Mike is tracking unrestricted donations for future D10 use
- ComoFest and Neighborhood Days: We received a total of \$1,316.70 for ComoFest and the Ice Cream Social expenses (\$580.20 from PayPal for Art Fair registrations, \$436.50 from NW Como Booster Club, Lyngblomsten, TopLine Credit Union for ComoFest expenses and \$300 from Thrivent for ice cream)

Expenditures

- Rent: As mentioned last month, due to invoice timing, we did not receive an invoice for July's rent. July and August invoices were received and paid in July totaling \$560
- Printing: \$316.04 to return our old printer to Great America Financial Services
- ComoFest: \$1,285.22 includes printing promo cards and posters (\$250.52), Monitor flyer (\$600) and reimbursement for Art Fair for PayPal table registrations (\$434.70)
- Ice Cream Social: \$894.56 includes cash withdraw for ice cream (\$420) and the bike rack rental (\$425)
- Citywide Cleanup: \$642 for reimbursable food for the June 8 event
- Como Lake Cleanup: We have spent \$1,280 of the \$2,420 CRWD Partner Grant with one more clean up scheduled for October 12. Our remaining expenses will be approximately \$120. The

unused grant money does not carryover into next year but we can reapply for the grant this fall for next year

Overall

We are about 60% through the year, and our expenses are about 60% of the budget, plus our big events (Ice Cream social) have already passed, assuming the remaining budgeted grant reimbursements are received as expected, our 2019 outlook is good.

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

Melissa: Our neighborhood is hurting, and D10 are going to try to let the dust settle. Decisive non-action to let time go by as emotions are raw. We do not want to divide the neighborhood more. Try to bridge gaps with neighbors.

Maggie: This is the important stuff that we do. We don't need to try to be liked, we need to try to help guide people through processes. We are a conduit, we need to maintain open channels, it's not about choosing sides, it's about helping people understand.

Melissa: We will set up a listening session for board members to ask questions and debrief after this process. Talked about community forums versus open houses and to think about our process in getting community voices heard.

Our leadership meeting (executive board + chairs) will look at community survey and make sure each committee takes on the major issues.

It's Amy's last meeting and we appreciate her love and service and care for the community. Her seat will be open next month. Please tell Melissa if you're interested.

- **Action Item:** 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 2019 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. (*passed*)

- Special Election Sept. 17 for vice-chair vacancy

D. Committee Updates

- **Environment** (Amanda Rohrer)

Talked about events: lake clean up, drain clean up, pollinator garden tour. All are successful and will continue. Want to celebrate having the most drain clean ups. Watershed district mini-tour of Como including history and several other topics. September 9, 6-7:30 starting at Pavillion to fishing pier. Emails should go out. Share it out. (Will repeat on September 25.)

- **Land use** (Maggie Zimmerman)

- **Action Item:** Business License: Duke's Car and Towing Motion: District 10 Como Community Council supports the business license application for Duke's Car and Towing with conditions set by DSI. (*passed*)

Rebecca: Have we heard about concerns about plowing, towing issues? Michael: Sent email and have not heard back yet. Maggie: The owner seemed anxious to comply. DSI has looked at this with a fine-toothed comb. Annie: Were the conditions about the noise levels during what times. Maggie: He seemed to have set business operation hours, but we should continue to solicit feedback from the neighbors. Annie: is there a city ordinance about decibel levels during certain times? It would be good to know.

- **Action Item:** 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. (*passed*)

Tournament happened last year as well. They'd like to serve alcohol outside of their building in their parking lot.

Other items: Como Trail (between fairgrounds/Snelling and park/Hamline) plans to put protected bike lanes here. Will not lose parking or space for driving and will try to protect trees. Cody, Rebecca, and Michael met with Public Works to discuss how to make this make sense for bikers. They were receptive to concerns. There is no solution that will make everyone happy, but they are being creative to try to make things safer for everyone. Hopeful that they'll try to solve some issues.

Also, had an app developer talk to land use about an app for State Fair parking called ParkPoolr. Allows people to reserve spots in advance. Jennifer: what questions came up? Maggie: Lots of questions. What if people don't leave when they said they would? What is the privacy policy/what data is being kept and for how long? Might make sense for an individual event instead of an ongoing need like the Fair.

Dog Park: don't know what's going on at the moment. Head of the group has stepped down.

Michael:

Shalom Home has a new owner. They'll park cars during the State Fair. He's working on architectural designs. Plans to keep all the buildings. Jeff Laux is the new owner, he's local. As soon as they have enough to present, they'll be happy to present to the community. They hope to start construction in January. Maggie: Neighbors want it to not be vacant, but they also don't want it to be apartments. Should we let the new owner know community concerns? Jennifer: If he's open, it's not a bad idea to reach out and start a conversation.

State Fair parking. 1563 Wynne has a neighbor who has not allowed them to park, they are appealing. We are on record saying they did not meet the 10-day notice. We did not have time to weigh in.

Como Park is going to have a survey to get people's opinions on paid parking within regional parks. Watch for it this fall.

TCGIS decided, due to construction interrupting access from Como, they would like to change pick up and drop off procedures to a plan that is not in their traffic plan. City is recommending they put the buses at the park (Chatsworth woods) keeping car traffic to the school area. Details are still being worked out. Interim solution until the school gets data on how many students are taking the busses. Based on impacts, we can determine what else needs to be pursued. Details to follow.

Cody: land use had someone from TCGIS (Gael) attend regularly. Maggie: Gael has left TCGIS. We certainly should ask. The school should be the one to communicate to the community about these changes. It's D10's job to provide information, but we should not be spokespeople. Melissa: Perhaps we ask TCGIS what is the plan to communicate to the community? Maggie: We don't ask that from other SPPS schools - they don't communicate regularly to the neighborhood. What is our role here? Amy: Perhaps invite TCGIS through construction? Maggie: Yes, perhaps invite them without an agenda item.

• **Neighborhood Relations and Safety**

Didn't meet. Debra shared about attending Como Park Apartments event.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by Melissa by Melissa Liu. (Calvo/Zwiefelhofer) *passes*

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

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

Sept. 5, 2019 (5 p.m. Ted's)

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

Events

- Community yoga: Sept. 8 and Dec. 1
- CRWD Tour of Como Lake: Sept. 9 and 25
- Lake Clean-Up: Oct. 12
- In addition, organizer Emily Rodriguez is trying to schedule a cook-out and conversation for renters in Energy Park; a "slow roll" bike ride for renters in Hamline Pointe and Como Park Apartments; and a youth summit for representatives from high schools in District 10. Officers suggest that the "open spaces" technique might work well for the high school event.

Community

- **State Fair.** Spurred by the shootings and car accident on the final day of the State Fair, residents attended both the Neighborhood Relations and Land Use committee meetings this week to offer viewpoints and suggestions about crowds, police presence, and other safety topics.
- **Sholom Home.** Chuck Repke, a representative of the new owner, outlined initial plans at Land Use to convert the property into market-rate, rental apartments. He had a thorough discussion with residents on their thoughts and concerns about different approaches to redevelopment, including the likely need for a parking variance.
- **Canfield Ave.** City Council approved the hardship waiver requested by the property owner at 1290 Snelling and accepted the petition to vacate part of Canfield. City departments now have 60 days to research and make their recommendations; a public hearing is required. If the street ultimately is vacated, half the right of way would attach to the 1290 Snelling property; the other half would attach to the Sholom Home property. Residents raised concerns at Land Use about the loss of parking that vacating the street would cause.
- **Parking meter survey.** Parks has not yet released the anticipated survey about creating paid parking in regional parks. Como Friends has sent out a letter to donors opposing paid parking. Officers recommend that we share links to the survey when it becomes available, and that the topic go to Neighborhood Relations for a recommendation on whether board should take a position.
- **TCGIS.** The school appears to have implemented the interim traffic plan the city outlined in meetings before Michael went on vacation. It does not appear to have notified neighbors directly, though it does include information in its weekly newsletter. Officers believe D10 should phase out of the role of being the primary source of school news.
- **City council elections.** All 4 candidates in Ward 5 have committed to a forum Oct. 10 at Washington Tech that we are co-sponsoring with District 5, District 6, and the League of Women Voters. It sounds like other district councils in Ward 4 are working on a more-focused forum with the St. Paul Housing Coalition.

Communication

- **Website.** We've given the developer an Oct. 15 deadline. (view progress at <https://167d10cc.aeronauticvigilante.com>)

Financials

- **In-house audit.** It sounds like the volunteer board members plan to try again on Sept. 8.

- **Transition of financial accounts.** Credit cards and bank account authority have been completely switched from Amy Perna to Mike Ireland.
- **Electronic payroll signatures.** The accountant says this is doable; Michael has to follow up to implement.

Organizational Business

- **Board Meeting** (Sept. 17). Agenda items include the special election for vice-chair, a presentation from Public Works director Kathy Lantry, and an action item from Land Use regarding State Fair overlay districts. Environment meets next week, so there may be more action items. Priority for October presentation is housing director Kayla Schuchman.
- **Maggie Zimmerman.** Amy Brendmoen has asked Maggie to provide a testimonial for election campaign material. Maggie understands that there can be no mention of her role as a D10 board member or Land Use chair.
- **Leadership meeting.** Officers and committee chairs will meet Sept. 10. Melissa hopes to use the Community Survey results as guidelines and a “yearlong plan” for what committees and the board will pursue in 2020. She also will email the entire board for suggestions of other topics for the agenda. Looking ahead: Melissa will seek board input for staff reviews (including more guidance on how detailed to be – or not), and urge committees to formulate work plans and budget requests so board can vote on 2020
- **SPNN Forum.** Mike taped an interview Aug. 27. He was not happy with the format.

Staff Report

- **Spring Café.** Michael is still trying to reschedule meeting with Lancer management to discuss plans for off-season and investigate ideas for special events or activities.
- **New copier.** New vendor still has not returned old machine; previous vendor continues to invoice us until that happens.
- **Welcome postcard and booklet.** Printed versions are complete. PDF of welcome book will be added to website.
- **Newsletter notifications.** At recent meetings, a few residents have accused D10 of filtering or hiding city information. To provide more transparency, Michael will include in newsletter routine information about business license applications and actions; short-term rental, animal, and other residential license applications; and building permits and sound variances. This will be re-evaluated at the end of the year.

Other Business

- Mike will take on task of recognition of Amy Perna for her long board service.
- Officers asked Michael to investigate changing restroom signs in Streetcar Station to conform with city’s unisex bathroom policy.

Land Use Committee – District 10 Community Council – 9/4/2019 meeting - Minutes

Called to order – 7:03 with a quorum – Board members present – Maggie Zimmerman (chair), Rebecca Calvo, Annie Huidekoper

About 20 community members and one guest, Chuck Repke from North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation (NENDC)

Land Use Voting Procedures – refresher from Maggie

Amend the agenda –Moved State Fair de-brief behind Shalom Home and later tabled some items

Back to the 50s vendors – Mark Erickson and Brad Neverton, who own property on Midway Parkway near Snelling, had a request: 120,000 people attend the Back to the 50s weekend at the Fair. The current city ordinance is for vending only during the State Fair; they were seeking our support to expand this to include Back to the 50s. Other residents requested that if vending is expanding, the parking overlay provisions should expand, too. Consensus was to keep the focus on Back to the 50s, not to include other events at the Fairgrounds or the Hmong Festival.

A motion was made by Maggie, seconded by Rebecca, stating that:

D-10 will explore activating the State Fair Overlay District for vending and parking during the Back to the 50s event.

Motion carried: All yeas; no nays.

Shalom Home -- Chuck Repke shared initial thoughts and plans of new owner Jeff Laux. He passed out hand drawings, saying it's so early in the process that there are no architectural plans yet and no clear sense of what exactly will fit there. The past 10 years show assisted living isn't going to work. Their plan is for rental units, from 450 sq ft. (studio) up to 1000 sq. ft (3 BR). The four buildings have unique characteristics; a consultant has been hired to look into whether Building B could be eligible for an historic tax credit. The west building is deeper and has window issues – it will be for 2-3 BR units; the skinnier buildings will be studio/1 BR. Thought is there will be 120-150 total units. "Smaller units are by their nature, more affordable." Studio units should be available for less than \$1000 – so "affordable" but not likely to qualify for Section 8 (although "any good landlord will not exclude Section 8").

Chuck focused on the bike-friendly, transit friendly location, and hopes to have it be an Hour Car spot. Said our "strong neighborhood" will be appealing to renters. Expectation is that building will appeal to college/grad students and empty nesters ready to downsize while still staying in the community they love, but not ready for senior living.

Parking lots are going to stay. Likely to have 1 floor of indoor parking spaces. 29 spots in there + others = about 90 spots. Community members expressed concerns that street parking will be needed to accommodate the renters and their guests. A parking variance will be needed – this a big reason Chuck was doing this early community engagement work.

Chuck asked for thoughts on whether or not to keep the lower patio area or convert it to a transit hub or a transition area to the bus stop.

Community members asked about appealing to small families (response: site is not really a kid-friendly set-up), bike storage, town house-like walkouts, handicapped accessibility, whether it would be a smoke-free buildings/grounds, whether pets will be allowed, possibility of rooftop gardens, state of the

elevators, why the decision to keep the buildings rather than start over from scratch, and the impact of all these decisions on the neighborhood.

One person said the state of that property is an embarrassment. Others criticized the new owner for taking the fence down to allow for State Fair parking. Sounds like he didn't ask permission from neighbors (not required but it would have been courteous to do so). Was it a charitable group, or not? Chuck was going to learn more; said it sounds like some lessons were learned that will be valuable for the future.

Chuck pledged to return by year's end with a timeline and a plan to continue the conversation. Through his work with NENDC, he knows there will need to be trade-offs. He wants to get to a point neighbors feel comfortable even though there will be a parking challenge. He asked for ideas on lighting, plantings and landscaping for the back side of the building that would be good for neighbors.

Ongoing Business & Reports - Warrendale Construction/TCGIS – tabled, as all attendees were from west of Hamline

Staff Report

- The beer and wine license for Café 99 on Como Ave. is up for renewal on Oct. 1. The pallet recycling permit for the business at 1607 Breda is up for renewal on Nov. 28. Anyone who has concerns on these items should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Nelson.
- The gas station license and liquor license for the Speedway convenience store at Lexington and Front are up for renewal on Dec. 1. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 1 Councilmember Dai Thao.
- Property owners at 1571 Chelsea and 1347 Arona have filed for short-term rental licenses (better known as AirBnB licenses). Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Nelson.
- A sound variance for the Out of the Darkness walk on Sept. 15 was being voted on by City Council today.
- The variance request by Mark Lentsch to park cars on his lawn at 1563 Wynne without his neighbors' consent was denied by Board of Zoning Appeals 6-0 on Aug. 26.
- The Run Like a Girl 5K is seeking a sound variance for its event Sept. 29. A public hearing is Sept. 18.
- The City Council approved a hardship waiver on Aug. 21 for the petition to vacate the portion of Canfield Ave. adjacent to the old firehouse. City departments now have 60 days to research and issue their recommendations on whether to actually vacate the street, and to set a price. City Council then will schedule a public hearing; there must be at least 20 days' notice before the public hearing takes place. Potential that ½ the right-of-way goes to the Firehouse owner and ½ to Shalom Home owner. Issues: Access to Snelling sidewalk (is a right of way possible for neighbors?); emergency vehicle access; residents upset that waiver was granted without consulting new Shalom Home owner.

Issues reported by residents

- The Frankson property on Midway Parkway was sold. Neighbors were told plans are to use it as a sober house.
- Beloved Tattoo shop on Como has moved to Roseville. New tattoo/permanent make-up shop is moving in.

- Parking meters at Como Zoo - Como Friends sent out a letter opposing this. D10 has been told city is doing a study for all regional parks; a survey will be part of the study but is not available yet. Neighbors said D10 needs to stay ahead of this and keep neighborhood informed, not filter information.

State Fair De-brief –

Maggie noted that residents also raised issues at Tuesday’s Neighborhood Relations meeting. Comments from residents –

- City of Saint Paul needs to increase security around and beyond the fairgrounds.
- A 911 call took 45 minutes for response (via Ramsey County Dispatch)
- There was “intense” violence, shots fired, garden hardware/equipment thrown at people.
- Concern was raised about the Fair being free the to enter during the last hour of the last night. Some felt this added to the tension... and ultimately the “hostile” vibe noted by vendors and community members.
- Things were better back when the Fair has buses (and bright lights) along Midway Parkway – lights are preferred to crime. The big pine trees make visibility difficult. Need to explore options with the Fair, the police, and the community.

Maggie encouraged the attendees to continue to participate in Land Use meetings... we need to work together to be proactive, beyond the “D-10 Basic State Fair Do’s and Don’ts” created last year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Coming Events:

Next D-10 Board Meeting, 9/17/2019 at 7 PM at the Streetcar Station

Next scheduled Land Use Meeting, 10/2/2019 at 7 PM at the Streetcar Station

Respectfully submitted by Annie Huidekoper on 9/12/19

Neighborhood Relations Committee Meeting Notes
July 2, 2019 – 7:00 PM

OPENING

- Call to Order at 7PM.
- Olivia, Mike Ireland, Michael, Alexis, Sarah
- Reviewed minutes from June 4 NRSO meeting; No changes
- No additions to tonight's agenda
- No updates from Board Meeting

NEW BUSINESS – Ice Cream Social

- Sarah to pick up ice cream
- Olivia to pick up ice
- Michael to procure compostable bags
- We are good on coolers and lawn games

NEW BUSINESS – Como Connect

- 24 organizations signed up. Political candidates have been invited.
- 5 people available for table set up
- Flyers are made. Olivia will take some to the Front St. high-rise.

NEW BUSINESS – North Dale Summerfest

- Amy, Michael, Sarah possible. Will ask Emily to table.

OLD BUSINESS

- Recent Events Review: Hamline Point Cookies and Convo had a few visitors. It was suggested to pick a later time and have more food. One idea from the event was to have a community garden and a dog park. Emily has contacts of who are interested in the community garden. Issue of food access also came up. There are many international students in the building and the idea of a slow roll bike ride to introduce people to the neighborhood was raised.
- Welcome Kit: Close to being printed. Evaluating printing options. Budget is to be determined.
- Food Access: Tabled for next meeting. No update from Keystone on their space issue.
- Equity and Nex Gen: We had Hamline Point meet-up. Emily confirming July 23rd cookout at California Drive building for a potential grill out.
- Community Concerns: Alexis wondering about who a neighbor can contact regarding train concerns. Michael said there is a BNSF city liaison and phone number.

CLOSING

- No meeting for August 6th because of National Night Out. Next meeting scheduled for September 3rd. Adjourned at 7:50p.

Meeting begins at 7:02p. Alexis baker Minute recorder.

OPENING

A.

B. Introductions: Olivia Morawiecki, Alexis Baker, Michael Kuchta, Darcy Rivers, Sarah Reuter, Jeff Dole, Sheldon Moe, Edaine Engelby, Mike Ireland, Deb Verber, Betsy Werwein, Jill Henricksen, Josh Engelby

C. No review of prior minutes, we don't have notes.

D. Shelden adds agenda item to talk about neighborhood violence.

E. Enviro: como have 168 drains. Pollinator garden tour well attended. Aug 3rd was Como lake clean up. Next one is Oct 12. Watershed district having a tour Sept 9th, 6-730.

Land Use: Auto shop on front had variances approved with eye on how things are progressing. New ownership of shalom home found out about that day. No NRC updates at the board meeting.

NEW BIZ

A. Flags: Please call if flags are needed in the cans at the cross walks. Cans are only refilled when Michael is notified or someone comes to the office and grabs a replacement.

B. Innovation Grant: A community bldg project and partnership with other organizations like churches for cultural competency and implicit bias trainings. Cultural competency a new requirement for teachers when renewing their license. Possibly community resources to host the training. This could be a good fit for use of the innovation grant. The Inno grant is for equity. We've used it for rental outreach and training. 2020 is available and there may be remaining funds from 2019 grant. This could be something that is made available to a certain group or big group. Could see if there are other partners in the community who could partner. Have the training out in the community. Potentially, depending on cost, we could do multiple sessions in the community. Intergenerational could be really valuable, like children and adults. Possibly having it at a rec center a possibility. Darcy not aware of anything going on like this. The City has training for staff, not sure about for the community as a whole. There are consultants with private organizations. Typically half day trainings, several hours. Would shorter sessions be more accessible? Or incorporating the training at other, already-scheduled events. There are many sub topics that could bring a more diverse group, getting them involved in some capacity. Maybe a fireside chat. Or the Sunday series. Cultural competency helps people see the backgrounds and cultures that influence people and their behaviors. Implicit bias is more about stereotypes and ideas that society has taught. Sunday Series planning meetings will start in November or December. Jill will look into cost. Want to be thoughtful about who we ask to host the training, so that we get a diverse set of skills and broad training. Jill to look into details and report back.

C. Sheldon: I've lived her for 5 years, and state fair. We had major incident 3 of those years. We had shootings this year and roving gangs in our neighborhood in Tilden park and there was the beating last year and a shooting the year before that. I know the fairgrounds itself is not in st Paul but what happens east of fair, we need more patrol. I saw no patrol, I only see patrol when people call. We need more patrol in the areas. Elaine: We used to have something call NCOs who are volunteers for police dept who would patrol the neighborhood who would just drive by. The NCOs do a neighborhood watch. Patrolling neighborhood would help a lot. It's called SP Reserve NCOs. Betsy: If there's bad behavior going on and people are being told to leave the fair. Maybe good to talk to Fair organizers. Michael: These issues about the fair are vetted thru land use. They are trying to approach comprehensively the fair like traffic, noise, etc. There's St Paul police, parking enforcements, reservists, and a joint force between SP-State Fair-Metro Transit-Roseville.

Multiple channels to deal with. There's a lot of law enforcement to deal with. Suggestions are good. I'm sure they are aware of most of it. Betsy: I want to know from State Fair how they are handling problems. Alexis: Increased patrol is not the only solution. Need to think about community trauma and other ways to engage community members to create a safe event for everyone. Deb: Neighborhood watch groups can be a way to engage communities in addition to increased patrol. Edaine: the officers aren't taking the initiative to help out the community or the general public. There used to be horse mounted patrol which might be more visible. Police on bikes could also be an option. Jeff: I had cops tell me that it's not their job to go after some people. Land Use meets tomorrow and the board meets on the 17th. Darcy: You're talking about respect. I would like to suggest going to the district meetings. 3rd Tuesday of every month at 930a and 630p police headquarters near the hemline. Patty Lammers is there. It's run by the commanders. Michael will bring the issue to Land Use tomorrow. Deb: the fair is growing each year. There's a bubble or zone of security and it's perhaps time that bubble increases. Betsy: We should also talk about proliferation of gun violence. Sheldon: trash seemed minimal. No other major issues were noticed. St Paul Parks also has park security. There was a crime meeting last year about camping going on at the park.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Community Engagement: Deb, Olivia, and Emily went to a cookout at Como park apartments to talk about what D10 does and it was a positive experience. We got to hear about the community there. Emily is trying to contact more rental communities. Lots of conversation about increase in housing costs. Emily also working on meeting with the Burlington and MacLaren Hills Condos for something in the next month. North Dale Rec also a great event.
- B. Welcome Kit: book and postcard is done. Anything else to add to the kit? Maybe recycling containers or coupons. The plan was to mail postcards to all new residents that we learn about thru new water service. How far back do we want to go? About 300 new water customers a year. Not a lot of block captains engagement. There are about 80 block captains. Postcards were meant to supplement not-strong block captain engagement. Kit could include booklet, compost kit, tickets to the zoo, seed packet. Could send out on a lag. Mike Ireland will ask Dawn for packets of pollinator seeds. Michael: send out end of September for May, June, July.
- C. Food Access Summit: Let's make it a Sunday Series and discuss in October. Talking about food access and food insecurity, letting neighbors know about where to get food if they're in need of food. Had some speakers this summer and we need to think about what's next.
- D. Long Term Initiatives: Como Connect and Ice Cream Social a success. Sarah R: We should talk about whether we want Como Connect to recur or reoccur. Participants didn't respond a ton. The responses were positive. Equity: Emily is working on rental community events. Also reconnecting with schools for youth summit for Next Generation. Talk about doing Slow Roll tour for new residents of Como. Talking to Move Minnesota organization. Yoga this Sunday 9:30a.
- E. Any additional Community Concerns? Nope.

NEXT MEETING

- A. Tuesday Oct 1 at 7p at Streetcar. Adjourned at 8:20.