



District 10 Community Council Board Meeting
Historic Street Car Station
1224 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55108
Tuesday December 17, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES

I. Call to order

Chair Melissa Liu called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Introductions (name and neighborhood)

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

Neighborhood Introductions

III. Review, Amend agenda

MOTION: Approve agenda (first/second) passes

IV. Community Section

A. Community Concerns

Therese Hackenmueller, a Como By The Lake Resident, extended a thank you for the Thanksgiving turkeys, mashed potatoes, and dressing for the Thanksgiving Dinner. She gave the board a card. Thanks to the community members who came out to volunteer to serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

V. Board Business Section

A. Financial reports (Mike Ireland)

Overall, finances are looking good. This month, significant expenses include printing, and youth summit. We will have fully used the innovation grant by the end of the year.

Notable Revenue

- \$10,029 reimbursement from our Community Engagement grant
- \$1,275 donations from Give to the Max drive
- \$40 donations from yoga

Notable Expenses

- As noted at our November board meeting, we paid a double payment of \$560 for rent due to receiving October's invoice late
- \$1,348 paid under Professional Services primarily for our website redesign (\$930) and Survey Monkey annual survey (\$384)
- \$797.44 paid under the Innovation Fund (\$420 for the Youth Summit, \$315 to storyteller for North Dale Rec Winter event, and \$62.44 for refreshments for the October 27 Fireside Tales event)

Other Items

- We have approximately \$16,000 in Accounts Receivable reimbursements (\$5,800 from the Community Engagement grant, \$5,000 from the Innovation grant, \$1,800 from the CRWD Partnership grant and \$3,400 from the St. Paul Citywide Drop-off)
- At the end of December, it is anticipated there will be \$150 remaining available in the Innovation grant that can be carried over into 2020
- It is anticipated there will be \$2,027 remaining available in the Community Engagement grant. This money cannot be carried over and possible uses will be discussed toward the end of the meeting in a closed session

B. Minutes

MOTION: Approve November 2019 board meeting minutes and most-recent committee minutes (first/second) passes

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

We met last week. Michael, Mike, Melissa, and Jill attended the first youth summit. Youth attended representing three schools located in District 10. Board members listened and followed as organizer Emily Rodriguez and youth led the summit.

Realized the annual meeting is only four meetings away. Looking at how to change this up, securing a location to be able to host the larger draw due to voting.

Website - please hop on and let us know if there are any issues. It should be mobile-friendly so check on whatever devices you have.

Proposed budget for 2020 - thanks to the committees for submitting them. We did have \$2500 of donations in 2019, we do not know whether to count on this generosity in 2020 but are relying on past trends to guide our estimates for the 2020 budget. Environment committee has a new event for 2020. We now have a 'food, beverage, and events,' line-item which we couldn't have in 2019. We will not have a large training like we did with the Nexus training in 2019. Reserve revenue was included - it's unrestricted, it's nice to have reserve but it's there if we need it.

- **Action Item:** 2020 Budget

MOVED: The board adopts the proposed operating budget for 2020 (first/second passes)

D. Committee Updates

Environment (Sara Benzkofer)

Sara shared about the clean cars presentation at the last meeting. If adopted, there will be a lag before it's in action. If MN decides to do it, we will be alongside 14 other states. It will pressure car manufactures to make fuel efficient electric vehicles available in the state.

There were questions about how less gas impacts our road conditions. Answer: no, this was not a part of their presentation.

Land Use (Annie Huidekoper)

Annie shared about the discussion about the exterior lighting put in at 883 Front Ave. The variance requests were defeated. It was voted on and opposed by BZA

- **Action Item:** 883 Front Ave. Lighting Variance

MOVED: The Board retroactively authorizes the attached letter Land Use sent to the Board of Zoning Appeals opposing variances for exterior lighting at 883 Front (first/second passes)

There are some concerns from neighbors about Duke's Auto. Concerns about plowing. Neighbors have been vigilant to make sure business is complying with license conditions. Gray areas are working through talks with city and Duke's Auto. There are also concerns that are not compliance-related.

Interfaith Action, Ramsey County and Cameroon Community are exploring having a family shelter in Bandana Square. This would be the first family shelter in Ramsey County.

A talk about Shalom Home was held at a separate meeting. The community is raising their concerns and the developer's representative is trying to be responsive.

1290 Canfield Ave/Snelling - vacating the street between this property and Shalom Home is in flux as well.

Next meeting has been switched to Monday, January 6.

Neighborhood Relations (Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki)

Did not meet this month. 62 Seniors of Como by the Lake plus their family members took part in Thanksgiving dinner. We over-purchased, but the food was distributed to seniors throughout our neighborhood and the seniors at Como by the Lake were able to take leftovers home. A lot of residents brought a potluck, too. The only change suggested is to order less food next time.

E. Staff Report (Michael Kuchta)

Updates since what's in the minutes. Our lease expires at the end of 2019. Parks and Rec person who is in charge of this retired 6 months ago and they have not replaced that person yet.

Meeting with the interim in January to go over the terms of the lease. We hope to have access as usual moving forward and don't expect any changes.

We applied for a partnership grant from the watershed district. They liked 4 of 5 of the projects suggested and are looking into alternate funding for those projects, so we will likely be able to advance several projects.

Frankson/Lion house was purchased by a group running a sober house for women. We have scheduled a meeting with them.

Website is a work in progress. Developer continues to work on the punch list of issues and updating content. We will then get access to be able to make changes and take control and set it live. Both sites cannot be live at the same time.

Will try to schedule new board member onboarding/q&a session after the holidays.

F. New Business (Board Members)

D6 is hosting a communications training. We agreed to participate; we will host at Streetcar Station and pay \$100 per person. Currently, we have two staff, two executive committee members, and are looking for two board members. Let Melissa know if that interests you.

Voting took place for the Neighborhood Honor Roll.

MOTION: Moved to take a recess to go into closed session. (*first/second*) passes

G. Closed Session

- **Action Item:** End of year expenditures
 - **MOVED:** The District 10 Como Community Council authorizes its officers to distribute the remaining unallocated 2019 Community Engagement grant (estimated as of December 10 to be \$2146) supplemented by a portion of our checking account reserves for the purchase of office furnishings (2 gender-neutral restroom signs and window film to insulate the west restroom) and for a 5% net performance bonus for the executive director and the community organizer. *(first/second) passes*

MOTION: Moved to resume after closed session and recess *(first/second) passes*

Ballots were counted, and are the recipients of the neighborhood honor roll were announced.

- **Action Item:** Neighborhood Honor Roll
The Board selected Dawn Lamm, Therese Hackenmueller, and Jennifer Victor-Larsen from District 10 to add to Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm by Melissa by Melissa Liu. *(first/second) passes*

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

Land Use Committee – District 10 Community Council – January 6, 2020 Minutes

Como Park Streetcar Station

Board members present: Maggie Zimmerman (chair), Rebecca Calvo, Annie Huidekoper, Juan Miranda

Staff present: Michael Kuchta

Approximately 25 community members attended

Call to order, 7:02 p.m.

Agenda adopted

Chair reminded attendees of voting rights and procedures (no votes anticipated)

New Business – presentations from 2 relatively new organizations in the neighborhood

Interfaith Action – Bandana Square Family Shelter Proposal

Sara Liegl of Interfaith Action (formerly the St. Paul Area Council of Churches) spoke first to make us aware of their organization's 105-year commitment to Saint Paul and presented the need for a family shelter. She spoke of the "amazing plans" being chatted about with Ramsey County and the Minnesota Cameroon Community.

Background: 800-1000 counted homeless; families are harder to count because they are invisible/couch surfing. Currently there are just 105 dedicated beds for families in Ramsey County (65 at Maplewood Family Service Center and 40 at "Project Home" – a rotation of churches, synagogues, and schools). Financial issues are a common reason for lack of housing. The need: 35-90 families on wait list for emergency shelter

Proposed location new shelter location: in the building The Minnesota Cameroon Community (mincamusa.org) purchased at Bandana Square in 2014 - 57,000 square feet, two-floor building (former clinic space)

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo brought Interfaith Action together with the leaders of the Cameroon community. She is working with St. Paul City DSI/BZA, who have expressed support and guidance for this effort.

Two representatives of the Minnesota Cameroon Community spoke. Christian Akale (Board Chair) and Lillian Anderson provided an overview of their organization and its members. They were very welcoming to the Ramsey County commissioner's proposal and are being very open to this opportunity to address the "plight of the homeless" and serve others in their building, their gathering place.

Questions were addressed about access to the proposed site, who will be served at this location (Ramsey County residents get priority) and the timetable with the project and length of stays at a shelter. Families can access Bandana Square by car or bus; typically need a shelter for 3-4 months as they apply for other housing or look to move in with family who live further away, as our affordable housing opportunities are limited.

2 phases to this effort: Currently in Phase 1 - partnerships, space, feasibility, DSI, Zoning, D10; then City Council. Phase 2 - renovation plan, fundraising, retrofitting the space (showers, etc.) then implementation with government agencies. Goal is to be up and running late summer/early fall 2020.

1349 Midway Parkway – The Lion House Sober Home for Women, located on the northwest corner of Hamline and Midway (noted for two lions out front and green tile exterior)

The new co-owner gave a detailed presentation. He introduced himself as Patrick Flannigan, sober since January 2019. He pointed out that early recovery/sobriety shouldn't feel like further punishment.

He purchased the house with his business partner – who is in his 25th year of recovery and has an adult daughter in recovery (she helped them realize there are not enough options for women, so they feel this home helps address an unmet need). This is a residence for sober living for adult women; it is approved by the city for

14 residents – they currently have 6 residents plus 1 FT and 2 PT staff. (Might eventually go for 16 but no more.)

A sober home is about *connection* – reestablishing connections with family (who often don't want you back), community, and work. Sobriety is a requirement.

Lion House Sober Home is a member of MASH (Minnesota Association of Sober Homes), a governing organization that inspects houses and provides rules and regulations and members voluntarily agree to abide by. Home must follow city code and guidelines. He provided specifics; please see <http://mnsobberhomes.org/> for more details.

There are @ 4000 sober beds in the Twin Cities. his is not a medically assisted sober home; no drugs allowed, no men on second floor, other house rules. Typical stay is six months. Generally, Patrick said, the longer the stay, the better chance of long-term outcomes. This is a higher-end location in a beautiful home that is attracting a slightly older demographic – monthly rent is \$1200 for a single room, \$975 for all other beds (doubles and triples).

One member of the community referred to the Lion House as “our baby” and asked if he would seek historic designation. Patrick has no interest in doing so. He loves the house and the property and has no plans to change the outside aesthetics or features. (He did ask for help for who to turn to for restoring on the lion statues, 100+ years old). His goal “is to own the house for the rest of my life.” Patrick and his daughter were jazzed about the compass in the canopy... as recovery is all about finding your true north.

He is committed to learning more about the State Fair parking overlay district. He will read it and abide by it. He will maintain the grounds and work with his landscaper to repair the arborvitae – which were trimmed for better access/flow along the city's sidewalk but they likely will need to be replaced. If neighbors have concerns, they can call him 612-889-8192 or write to patrick@lionhousestpaul.com.

Ongoing Business & Reports

The following is from Michael's report:

Snelling Ave. Bike/Ped Proposals

In 2017, MnDOT proposed a series of changes to the stretch of Snelling between Hamline University and Como Ave. The proposal included:

- At Energy Park Drive and Pierce Butler Route, modifying the freeway-style ramps, eliminating the merge lanes on Snelling, and adding stop lights instead at each intersection.
- Between Como and Pierce Butler Route, adding protected sidewalks and bike lanes on each side of Snelling.
- Adding a designated path for pedestrians and cyclists to connect Snelling with Energy Park Drive and Pierce Butler Route.

Since the proposal was first presented, MnDOT has continued to develop the plans internally. The latest plan includes replacing 4 of the 10 bridges in that stretch. It also adds a bus stop on Snelling just north of Energy Park Drive. There still is no funding identified, according to MnDOT, but the plan continues to move forward internally.

East Como Boulevard Restriping

This spring, the city intends to restripe the portion of East Como Boulevard between Nagasaki and the Wheelock/Maryland/Victoria intersection. The restriping would:

- Add 6-foot-wide bike lanes in each direction, to connect that two-block stretch with existing in-street lanes and the Wheelock trail.

- Add designated turn lanes for northbound traffic at the Maryland/Wheelock intersection. One lane would be striped for traffic turning left onto Como Lake Drive or heading straight onto Victoria. The other lane would be striped for traffic turning right onto Maryland or Wheelock.
- Designate one travel lane in each direction, to eliminate the current four-lane, undivided configuration. This would conform with the existing lane configuration north and south of the two-block stretch.
- Add a painted median between Nagasaki and Rose, north of the existing concrete median.
- Add a designated left-turn lane for school buses and other vehicles turning from southbound Como Blvd. onto eastbound Rose.

1554 Midway Parkway

In addition to a parking variance, it appears the project, as proposed, may require a variance on density as well. 150 units would be in excess of what is allowed in existing city code. Current density allows 76 units on that amount of land, plus as many as 50 or so more units, depending on size of units and required parking.

1290 Snelling/Canfield Ave.

The request to vacate a portion of Canfield Ave. remains an open file, but Public Works will officially oppose vacating the street. The city intends to have further discussion with the applicant, Billy Turner.

Licenses

- **K&L Sales:** The secondhand dealer license for this used-car lot at 1523 Como Ave. is up for renewal on March 29. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 4 Councilmember Mitra Jalali.
- **Ted's:** The liquor license, 2 a.m. closing license, Sunday hours license, and entertainment license are up for renewal on Jan. 31, 2020. Anyone who has concerns should contact the office of Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen.

883 Front

The Board of Zoning Appeals rejected the variance request on exterior lighting on December 16.
(Note: The lights appear to have been turned off.)

A community concern was raised and Michael committed to following up, e.g. alley by new Buddhist Temple.

Coming Events

- Next Board Meeting, January 21, 2020 @ 7pm – Streetcar Station
- February Land Use Meeting – note, new date, February 10, 2020 @ 7 pm – Streetcar Station

Adjourned before 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Huidekoper

District 10 Como Community Council
Neighborhood Relations Committee
Tuesday, January 7th, 2020 @7:00pm
Como Streetcar Station

I. Deb Verber appointed to take minutes.

II. 7:01 Call to order -

7:02 Introductions - Board Members Present: Olivia Mulvey Morawiecki, Deb Verber, Mike Ireland, Jill Henricksen, Sarah Reuter, and Alexis Baker

Staff Present: Michael Kuchta

Community Members Present: Kathy Zieman, Bobbie Moormann, Jeanne Baumann, Sandra Peterson, Marie Trepanier, Sarah Wein, Dolores Rufenact, Jeremy Hernandez, Karen Ballen, Tom Krop, Rita Amendola.

7:07 Committee updates from Mike Ireland

Environment - Clean Cars of MN gave presentation about greenhouse emissions reductions strategies.

Land Use – Opposed lighting variances for 883 Front Ave. Heard news of a possible family shelter coming to Bandana Square.

III. 7:09 Block club network/information/update

Residents who identified as coordinators/leaders/contacts in their respective blocks shared what they do and what the program looks like currently and has looked like in the past.

In the past: The block club program was more active, the need was greater without the technology we have today like NextDoor, D10 Newsletter, Facebook groups and more.

Currently: Email and email groups are the primary way to communicate among block clubs. Some neighborhoods email almost weekly, some just as new residents move in or issues arise. Many block clubs host National Night Out parties, some have moved away from the official NNO date but still host one or two get togethers per year. Some clubs have done and do other activities such as: kids club, cookie exchange, Christmas dinner, and adopt a family.

Challenges and hopes: Some club leaders have found that new/younger families without kids seem less likely to engage and they have a tough time reaching out to them. As blocks expand beyond a strictly one block radius it can be hard to keep track of moving in and moving out. It is also difficult for new residents to know if there is an active club in their area and who is in charge. We are hoping to reach out to other Districts in the area to find out if they have a block program and how it runs. We hope to begin to make a block club network since it is currently not a network. We are looking at the possibility of a meeting in which coordinators and leaders can come and maybe eventually D10 can even have a map with contacts listed to give to a new resident who is interested.

8:10

Ice Cream Social - Date is tentatively set for July 10th. The ice cream social has grown and we are wondering if it needs a new name to reflect that. The current name appeals greatly to kids which is good, but could discourage single adults or families without kids. Ideas thrown out include: Como Community Celebration and Summer Social. Regardless of name, there will be ice cream.

IV. Current initiative update -

- Youth summit. We have learned some things to improve for the next round.
- Wilder foundation - Wilder foundation proposal for Bridge Building training is for two 90-minute sessions at \$1,100/session. The information and content looks good but there are concerns about how we will see it concretely improve the neighborhood and how we can generate interest and the right interest in the event to make it worthwhile. Can we get a Wilder rep to a meeting to answer questions?
- Storytelling at North Dale went well, needs better coordination for next year to make it run more smoothly.
- More social events at more rental units will be planned for the year.
- Yoga dates - Should there be more? Many would like more dates and a regular date so it is easy to plan. We will check with Meegan to see if this is possible. This also requires a board member to open the building.

Annual Business Awards from the city. Michael has more information and will publicize it. There are many categories such as New business, Established business, and more.

V. Next meeting, February 4, 2020 @7:00pm at Historic Streetcar Station

8:51 Adjourn

Como Community Council: Officers Meeting

January 9, 2020 (Foxtrot)

Present: Melissa Liu, chair; Cody Zwiefelhofer, vice-chair; Marika Staloch, secretary; Mike Ireland, treasurer; Michael Kuchta, staff.

Events

- **Sunday Series.** Discussed potential topics that had been suggested by committees and board members. Priorities will be Read Brave partnership with Library (possibly a climate documentary with discussion); local news panel with Star-Tribune, Monitor and Park Bugle; history topic (possibly Winter Carnival in Como Park); demystifying the court system (with Judge DeAnn Hilgers); decluttering (with Jennifer Victor-Larson); and Turtles of Como Lake (suggested by Susan Jane Cheney).
- **Communications Training.** Joint training with D6 will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 25. Officers Melissa Liu and Mike Ireland will attend, as will staff members Michael Kuchta and Emily Rodriguez. Melissa will seek two additional volunteers from board.

Community

- **Neighborhood Honor Roll.** District councils will not hold citywide celebration this year. Because D10 already has selected three honorees, we will hold local ceremony during annual meeting. Honorees will receive certificate (Michael will seek same format as in past years, including signature of mayor) and flowers. We also will create D10 plaque honoring all 55 Como selections since 2001.

Communication

- **Website** (view progress at <https://167d10cc.aeronauticvigilante.com>). Developer is fine-tuning final structure. Michael now has administrative access and is slowly updating content and photos. Cody also will troubleshoot.

Financials

- **Outstanding 2019 grants.** We are awaiting reimbursement from CRWD for lake clean-up and Public Works for citywide drop-off and recycling/composting activities. We have not yet filed final 2019 Innovation Grant reimbursement, or Community Engagement reimbursement from November and December. Total accounts receivable will be about \$32,200.
- **CRWD Partner Grant.** We did not receive funding through the Partner Grant program. However, we have been told most of our proposed projects will be funded through other CRWD sources. We expect to hear more after CRWD staff meets Jan. 13.
- **Lease.** Our office lease expired at end of 2019. City official who was responsible has retired. Michael has talked with new city official; we will operate on month-to-month until renewal can be executed. We expect similar terms.

- **Telephone contract.** Our telephone, long distance and internet service contract with CenturyLink expired Jan. 4. They are willing to issue a 2-year contract at roughly \$10/month less. Michael will contact Comcast for competing offer. Cody will inspect router and wi-fi before we renew.

Organizational Business

- **Board Meeting** (Jan. 21). No action items are anticipated. Parks and Recreation is not likely to be ready to present on study for paid parking in Como Regional Park. Guest presentation will be from the city's Labor Standards division, who will provide educational resources for workers and businesses on the city's minimum wage and earned safe and sick time ordinances.
- **Volunteers.** Student intern Helena Grilliot has made great progress on filing and compiling a business directory. Her next priority project will be designing a three-panel display board we can set up at community outreach events. Other potential projects: refine and update block club spreadsheet and create up-to-date volunteer list. In addition, former board member Tim Post is looking for volunteer work he can do for a 25-hour project (with financial match) from his employer; his daughter, Janey, a high school student, will join him to meet her volunteer hours. We will ask them to calculate parking capacity from the parking counts we did during the State Fair; this will help determine if we seek to add one-sided parking restrictions to additional blocks.
- **Bylaws language on committee appointments.** Current bylaws language has a glitch: Because board appointments expire 7 days after the annual meeting, technically, there is no way for committees to have a quorum and conduct official business during their first meeting after the elections. Options discussed included extending terms of board members for longer than 7 days beyond the elections, and allowing committees to conduct official business in May without an official quorum. Decision is to leave as is; if committees need to bring action items or other urgent business to the full board in May, business will need to be brought by an individual and receive a "second" at the board meeting before it can be discussed. Board chair will appoint interim committee chairs until full committee appointments can be made at May meeting.
- **Redefining the annual meeting.** Michael researched potential locations that would provide larger capacity and additional space for activities. Best sites at Fairgrounds would cost \$1,000. Humphrey Job Corps Center is unable to let us rent because it is a closed campus under Department of Labor regulations. Spring Café management has not responded to possibility of pairing our annual meeting with their proposed neighborhood open house. Zoo is willing to give us discount rate for Auditorium in Visitors Center (but we would need to use Lancer Catering for food, rather than bringing in outside donations or ethnic food buffet). Meeting will include elections and Honor Roll presentation; still looking for additional ideas for effective interactivities for community members.

Staff Report

- **Family shelter at Bandana Square.** Land Use heard presentation on Jan. 6; details are in website story. Earliest opening would be late summer.
- **Energy Park.** Michael met with Patrick Kyle of Wellington Management; officers gave approval to pursue larger meeting with other property managers and owners in Energy Park to discuss groundwork on small area plan that is called for in city's new Comprehensive Plan.
- **Community Garden.** Still pushing the city to file paperwork to renew our lease and expand garden. Though gardeners have their own small leadership group, board is supposed to devote a member to provide oversight. Need volunteer liaison for 2020; will officially be appointed by chair and ratified by full board.
- **Pathways.** Still trying to book presentation before Parks and Recreation Commission. Early guidelines from city's 2020 CIB cycle suggests this could be a good project to submit.
- **2020 Drop-Off at State Fairgrounds (June 6).** Michael will check if Maggie Zimmerman, Amy Perna, and Debra Pursley are willing to repeat as organizers.

Other Business

- Mike will not be available for June meeting as scheduled; Melissa will not be available for July meeting as scheduled.