

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 – 6:30PM
Edgumbe Rec Center – 320 S. Griggs Street
MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order by President Erik Riesenbergs at 6:40PM, after waiting to reach a quorum. Discussion on whether Jason Bergum's seat should count in the quorum calculation, since he is temporarily on military duty. Issue not decided, but did not matter since there were nine board members in attendance, which is more than fifty percent of either 16 or 17 currently filled seats. Suggestion to consider amending bylaws to address this issue.
2. Tom Dietsche was appointed acting secretary, in the authorized absence of John Zwier.
3. Roll Call was taken by Liz Boyer, assisting the Secretary.
 - 9 board members present
 - 2 Macalester students present in the audience
4. Approval of July 2017 Minutes
 - Motion to approve by Brian Martinson, seconded by Cathy Plessner.
 - Approved by unanimous voice vote.
5. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda – None Stated
6. Special Elections
 - One candidate for the open student seat was in attendance.
 - Macalester student Adrianna Jereb was elected to the open Student Representative Seat by a vote of 2-0 of the students present.
 - No candidates for other open seats were present.
7. League of Women Voters (LWV) Mayoral Candidate Forum Introduction.
 - Scheduled speaker Amy Perna from the League of Women Voters was unable to attend, so Liz Boyer discussed this forum.
 - LWV is holding four forums. Ours is on Oct 11th at Highland Park Middle School Auditorium and is cosponsored with Highland District Council (HDC).
 - SPPN will record this debate and rebroadcast it later on their cable channel.
 - Forum will have a trained moderator, with questions presubmitted per guidelines.
 - MGGC can submit 1 or 2 questions that will definitely be asked (and hopefully answered).
 - HDC also gets 1 or 2 questions, one of theirs will be about the Ford Site Plan.

- Board members should email suggested questions to Liz by Friday Sept 22nd

8. Sweet Pea's Extension of Liquor License Request.

- Scheduled speaker Will Harshman could not attend, so Liz Boyer discussed this request.
- Sweet Pea's wants to extend their license to parking lot for one-day event on Sat 9/23/17.
- There will be no admission fee, no music, no alcohol sales outside.
- It will have a bean bag tournament and brat eating contest.
- Request is similar to those of previous years, which had no reported problems.
- Motion made to support the request by Brian Martinson, second by John Rozek.
- Discussion confirming that they will have tents and barriers to enclose foot traffic.
- Approved by unanimous voice vote.

9. Transportation Committee Recommendation

- The Transportation Committee submitted the following recommendation to the board:
"The Transportation Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Councils supports the launch of a new partnership to extend the Midtown Greenway over the Mississippi River and through Saint Paul."
- This is only a recommendation to support launching this partnership, not to approve any action at this time. Any such approvals would come later if this project continues.
- There was discussion about the language that says "the line serves JUST three customers". It was suggested that this sounds demeaning, since these businesses may rely on this rail line, even if there are only three of them.
- The bridge has been declared unsound and is not repairable. It only allows short trains of 4 cars or less, due to weight restrictions.
- The served businesses should have reasonable alternatives to rail, such as trucks for short hauls from the nearest rail/truck offloading site.
- Any action would require Hennepin and Ramsey County approvals for anything to actually happen.
- Recommendation approved 7-2 by a show of hands.

10. Mac-Grove Fest debrief by Liz Boyer

- Great weather and attendance
- Many positive comments
- The scavenger hunt was a big success, people liked it, many adults and children involved
- Food trucks were popular
- This year's great outcome built on Sheila's success in organizing this event in prior years
- Est. 1,000 attendance - 250 at best-counted corner, times the four corners used

- Staff will survey all exhibitors and vendors and use feedback to revise for next year
- Will need a new theme for next year
- Discussion on new ways to publicize it next year (lawn signs?)

11. Upcoming Events

- Fall cleanup Sept 30th, joint event with HDC.
- Needs about 100 volunteers, both heavy lifting and light tasks.
- A sign-up sheet was passed around so board members could volunteer.
- Hours are 8am to 1pm, two shifts of 7:30am to 11:00am, and 10:30am to 1:30pm.
- Volunteers will get a \$20 voucher and free lunch.
- Alley Garden Awards celebration event on Oct 5th, details to follow.

12. Other Business

- Cathy Plessner, one of MGCC's two reps to WSNAC, mentioned that the UST parking lot on the NW corner of Cleveland and Grand Avenues will be discussed at an upcoming WSNAC meeting. The city's current 3-year agreement with St. Thomas expires in January, and could be further extended to keep it as parking or convert it to green space. Any loss of parking would greatly affect Divanni's, who have worked well with UST and the community in the past. Cathy asked if the MGCC board and/or HLU committee could discuss whether to take a position on this issue that would be forwarded to WSNAC.

13. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote at 7:25PM.

Minutes submitted by Tom Dietsche, acting Secretary.