

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 14th, 2019 – 6:30PM

I. **Call to Order**, *Mike Sonn, President*

II. **Live-Streaming Announcement**

III. **Roll Call**, *Joyce Krech, Secretary*

Present: Kate Baxter-Kauf, Brian Baird, Dave Pasiuk, Brian Wagner, Tim Schmidt, Cathy Plessner, Tom Dietsche, Brian Martinson, Saura Jost, Athena Adkins, Joyce Krech, Mike Sonn, Nathan Zacharias, Gene Johnson

Absent: Colin Fesser, Cindy Radtke, Marc Manderscheid

IV. **Approval of the October 2019 Minutes**

Motion: "The Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council approves the October 2019 Board Minutes" was moved by Cathy Plessner. Seconded by Dave Pasiuk. The motion was approved with unanimous consent.

V. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

VI. **The Future is Grand Task Force**, *Draft Recommendations*
Brian Wagner & Sherry Johnson, Co-Chairs

Sherry and Brian shared and discussed their document summarizing Phase 1 of the Task Force, including business and landlord feedback. The narrative surveys will be incorporated into Phase 2. The six recommendation/priorities were reviewed.

The Task Force would like our feedback and is also seeking feedback from other constituents, including business owners and landlords.

Q&A: Why have businesses left Grand Avenue? Many reasons, often retirement, rising costs, property taxes, wages. Business owners said taxes have not been reinvested in the corridor. It should also be noted there have been several business recently opened that are very successful. What about density? This will continue to be a push & pull. Perception that we've been holding the line on density and what if it becomes a free-for-all, desire to have structured collaboration, intentional planning and development versus reactive. How does Grand Avenue define itself, how far north & south? Should Grand Avenue be considered a business zone? Some type of zoning overlay?

Next Steps – move into Phase 2 which will involve community engagement. Would like to get the buy in from the organizations, meet with 3 council members before taking it to the City Council.

VII. **Special Elections:** *At-Large Student and Business Representatives*

No one present for either Special Election

VIII. Committee Updates & Recommendations

Transportation Committees: *Updates & Consider recommendation*

“Whereas, St Paul Transportation Plan Goals. are, “true transportation choice throughout the city with policies to ... reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 40% by 2040... [And] shift mode share towards walking, biking, public transit, carpooling, ridesharing and car sharing...”

Whereas, St Paul off street parking minimums create complexity and cause distraction making it harder to plan and focus energies on the 2040 City Plan,

Whereas, parking minimums increase construction cost and financially constrain building options, and may place St Paul at a disadvantage with Minneapolis (which eliminated off street parking minimums),

Whereas, eliminating parking minimums should lead developers and businesses to create parking spaces based on economic calculation and market demand (instead of meeting municipal requirements),

Resolved, *the Transportation Committee* of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council requests the current section of municipal code, “Sec. 63.207. - Parking requirements by use,” be removed.”

There was significant discussion. Confirmation that the code only refers to on street parking. Could permit parking become an issue? How can we soften the blow to surrounding streets? Who supports variance requests on parking requirements? MGCC can offer our recommendation if requested. Can we compile/summarize all our resolutions? Transportation Committee will start to maintain a log of all resolutions. Should MGCC summarize all the work that we’ve done during the past year, to demonstrate our momentum.

- **Motion:** “The Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council approves the Transportation Recommendation as written” moved by Brian Baird. Seconded by Tim Schmidt. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transportation Committee: Next meeting will be held at Macalester College. Route 63 Route change will be discussed.

Housing and Land Use Committee: Upcoming meeting at Groveland Rec next week. Mike Richardson (City of Saint Paul) will be presenting the Ward 3 Design Standards.

Community Building Committee: A grant proposal for MRAC (Metropolitan Regional Arts Council) to support Mac Grove Fest will be submitted. A task force will be established for Mac Grove Fest 2020. The Read Brave Saint Paul 2020 theme is “Our Climate Crisis”. Frost Fest will not be held in 2020.

Inclusivity Task Force: Second Live Streamed meeting. Potential by-law changes will be proposed at our January retreat (other participation in meetings and alternatives to voting). Thanks to Tom for all the work on developing suggested changes. The October livestream had 750 views.

Executive Committee: Anna Savelsberg has stepped down as a Board Member and our Vice President. Thank you, Anna, for your contributions! Let Alexa know if you are interested in the VP position. Grid 4 will also be also be an open seat.

IX. **Administrative/Financial Updates**

- 403(b) Plan – wrapping up some loose ends
- BenefitsMN (Health Plan) – MN Council of Non-Profits has been working to develop a Health Plan for non-profits; the minimum requirement is 2 employees. We expect to receive a quote soon. MGCC must decide by 12/13 if we want to offer the coverage to MGCC staff.

Tom Dietsche moved, Cathy Plessner seconded a Motion to “Allow the Executive Committee to make the decision about whether not to offer Health Care through Benefits MN”. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Financial Reports through September 2019 were reviewed. Nothing significant has changed since the last review. Everything continues to be healthy and on track. The 2020 Budget will be reviewed/approved at our January 2020 board meeting before the retreat.

X. **Give to the Max 2019: Thursday, November 14th**

Please consider donating to MGCC!

XI. **Staff Report/Upcoming Events and Reminders**

- **Board and Committee Retreat:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Location TBD.
- **Two prospective new board member meetings**
- **April 16th Annual Meeting**
- **December 25th to January 1st** – MGCC office will be closed
- **Mac Grove Fest** – September 12, 2020
- **Please provide Photo/Bio**

XII. **December Meeting**

- **Motion:** “The Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council approves the cancellation of the December Board Meeting” moved by Dave Pasiuk. Seconded by Cathy Plessner. Approved unanimously.

XIII. **Adjourned at 7:50**