

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10th, 2019 – 6:30pm
Edgcumbe Rec Center - 320 S. Griggs St

6:35 I. Call to Order, Mike Sonn, President

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Sonn.

6:36 II. Live-Streaming Announcement

This meeting will be live-streamed on Facebook (if the technology works!)

6:37 III. Roll Call, Joyce Krech, Secretary

Joyce being absent by prior notice, Tom Dietsche was appointed as acting secretary. The roll call was held, and a quorum of 11 board members were initially present. One new board member (Lauren Nielsen) was added during Special Elections (item VII).

Present: Brian Baird, Colin Fesser, Dave Pasiuk, Brian Wagner, Cindy Radtke, Lauren Nielsen (new), Cathy Plessner, Tom Dietsche, Brian Martinson, Saura Jost, Mike Sonn, Gene Johnson

Absent: Kate Baxter-Kauf, Tim Schmidt, Marc Manderscheid, Athena Adkins, Joyce Krech, Anna Savelsberg, Nathan Zacharias

6:38 IV. Approval of the September 2019 Minutes

Dave P. moved approval of the Sept. 2019 minutes, Cindy R. 2nd, unanimous approval.

6:39 V. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

6:40 VI. Ward 3 and Ward 4 City Council Candidate Introductions

All candidates for St. Paul City Council seats in Wards 3 and 4 were invited to speak. Two candidates were present: W3 Chris Tolbert, W4 Mitra Jalali Nelson. Each candidate spoke for about 4 minutes, followed by several minutes for Q&A.

6:56 VII. Special Elections: At-Large Renter, Student and Business Representative; WSNAC Representative appointment

Nominations were requested for the three open board seats and the WSNAC rep.

- One candidate was nominated for the At-Large Renter seat – Lauren C. Nielsen. Lauren introduced herself and was unanimously approved by a vote of all renters in attendance. (Welcome, Lauren!)
- One audience member is considering being a candidate for the Student seat.
- There were no candidates present for the open 2nd Business seat.
- Tom Dietsche was nominated to serve as an MGCC rep on WSNAC, to replace Cathy Plessner. Motion by Cathy P., 2nd by Brian W., unanimous approval.

7:00 VIII. Capitol Regional Watershed District ("CRWD"), 2020 Watershed Management Plan

Anna Eleria (Planning, Projects & Grants Division Manager, CRWD) gave a presentation and Q&A session about CRWD and how it will be updating its road map for the next 10 years.

Background: Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) is a local unit of government dedicated to protecting, managing and improving the water resources of the District, which includes parts of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville and Saint Paul. It consists of:

- 5 Board of Managers, appointed by Ramsey County
- A Citizen Advisor Committee.
- 20 staff members.

Mission: CRWD works across geographic and political boundaries to protect the health of the District's wetlands, lakes, streams and river. Through research, planning and action, CRWD helps solve and prevent water-related problems within the 40 square-mile District.

Statistics for CRWD's area:

- 41 square miles
- 5 cities with 250,000+ population
- 5 lakes (fewer than most watershed districts!)
- 42% impervious (paved) surfaces.
- Over 500 miles of storm sewers.

Anna discussed CRWD's various activities including partnering with community groups and businesses for projects such as special water runoff capture on the Green Line and at Allianz Field.

CRWD's Management Plan:

- roadmap with a 10-year timeframe
- resource inventory
- issues & goals
- implementation plan
- state requirements

Community Engagement Actions:

- 4 community conversation events
- 4 district council meetings
- 6 face-to-face meetings
- 8 community events
- online survey

Three survey questions:

1. What are the valuable resources in your community?
2. How does the health/quality of water resources affect you?
3. Are there parts of your community & environment you'd like to see improved?
How?

They have gotten over 800 comments to date. Key findings include themes around:

- vegetation, green space, benefits for recreation and quality of life.
- impact of climate change on water resources and vegetation
- community participation via rain gardens etc.
- increase public awareness of local resources and CRWD's work

CRWD is holding a special event this Saturday (October 12th) for the opening of their new office at 595 Aldine Street (2 blocks N. of the AxMan store on Univ. Av.), in the Hamline-Midway district.

Following the presentation, there was a lengthy Q&A session.

7:35 IX. Committee Updates & Recommendations

Transportation Committees: Recommendations attached

A motion to approve the attached "Resolution for Consideration of School Zones and Bike Lanes During Technical Analysis of Appropriate Local Speed Limits in the City of Saint Paul" was made by Brian W., 2nd by Cathy P., and approved by a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the attached "Request for Traffic Study of Ayd Mill Road During Reconstruction of the Summit Avenue Bridge in 2019-2020" was made by Cindy R., 2nd by Colin F., and approved with one abstention (Brian W.) and all others in favor.

Housing and Land Use Committee: Updates

Alexa summarized the latest meeting results and upcoming agenda topics for HLU.

Community Building Committee: Updates

Alexa summarized the latest meeting results and upcoming agenda topics for CBC, including:

- whether to continue Frost Fest
- possible new popup events
- renter meeting
- business meeting

Brian Wagner reviewed GABA's recent activities and upcoming events and meetings.

Inclusivity Task Force: Review draft language for potential bylaws revision

Alexa summarized the latest meeting results and upcoming agenda topics, including potential changes to MGCC bylaws to allow the board to enact policies and procedures for:

- Active remote participation at meetings (such as video conferencing)
- Actions without a meeting

8:00 X. Give to the Max 2019/Annual Fund-raising

Reminder for board members to please donate if you can during this event (or anytime), and to promote this to your neighbors via social media postings and personal conversations.

8:02 XI. MGCC Board Volunteerism

Reminder that all board members should volunteer for events whenever possible.

8:04 XII. Staff Report/Upcoming Events and Reminders

- **Vacations:**

Alexa on vacation from Oct. 24-29, please contact her in advance for anything you'll need during that period. Britta on vacation starting next Tuesday.

- **Ward 3 City Council Candidate Forum:**

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at Macalester Community Center.

- **Mac-Grove Fall Faith Roundtable:**

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 5:00 pm @ Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

- **Give to the Max Day:**

Thursday, Nov. 14.

- **2020 MGCC Annual Meeting:**

April 16, 2020. Time and location TBD.

8:11 XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Sonn.

Minutes submitted by Tom Dietsche, acting secretary, on October 11, 2019.

Attachments to the MGCC Board Meeting Minutes for October, 2019

Transportation Recommendations to MGCC Board of Directors

Attachment 1:

Resolution for Consideration of School Zones and Bike Lanes During Technical Analysis of Appropriate Local Speed Limits in the City of Saint Paul

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council has previously asked the City of Saint Paul to begin citywide implementation of lower school zone speed limits, regardless of road jurisdiction by City, County and State;

WHEREAS, the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) for Randolph Heights School and Groveland Park Elementary School in Saint Paul have passed resolutions asking that the City of Saint Paul commission an engineering study to examine lowering the speed limits around their respective schools;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature, on August 1, 2019 has granted cities the authority to set speed limits on city streets under the city's jurisdiction without conducting an engineering and traffic investigation (MN Statute 169.14 Subd. 5h);

WHEREAS, Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Works are collaborating to analyze appropriate local speed limits;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommends that the studies to be undertaken, and any resulting changes to speed-limits proposed by the City, must include consideration of MN state statutes with regard to speed limits in school zones (MN Statute Sec. 169.14 Subd. 5a) and MN state statutes with regard to speed limits on roads with bike lanes (MN Statute Sec. 160.263 Subd. 4), regardless of jurisdiction by City, County, or State.

Attachment 2:

Request for Traffic Study of Ayd Mill Road During Reconstruction of the Summit Avenue Bridge in 2019-2020

WHEREAS, Mayor Melvin Carter has proposed a reduction of "car traffic to its [Ayd Mill Road's] westernmost two lanes and repurpose[ing] the eastern side as a dedicated, protected bikeway to facilitate non-motorized transportation options";

WHEREAS, the reconstruction of the Summit Avenue bridge from October 2019 to October 2020 will require the restriction of Ayd Mill Road to one northbound lane and one southbound lane;

WHEREAS, this restriction of Ayd Mill Road to one lane in either direction provides a year-long period to do a formal traffic study and collect data on alterations to traffic patterns on Ayd Mill Road and the surrounding streets;

WHEREAS, Macalester-Groveland includes the portion of Ayd Mill Road with two exit and entrance ramps onto residential streets, St. Clair Avenue and Grand Avenue;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council requests the reduction of Ayd Mill Road to one lane in each direction during the reconstruction of the Summit Avenue Bridge be extended for the entire length of the road from 35-E to Selby Avenue, and a traffic study be conducted during the bridge reconstruction period for as long a duration of that period as is practicable, but a period of no less than six consecutive months; the purpose of which will be to assess the alterations in traffic patterns and to include traffic counts on Snelling, Lexington, Hamline, Saint Clair, Randolph, Grand, and Summit.