

MGCC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – 6:30 pm

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

**II. Zoom Recording Announcement**

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

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

**Absent:** Brian Baird, Marc Manderscheid, Cindy Radtke

**IV. Approval of the February 2020 Minutes**

Motion and second – approved unanimously.

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

None

**VI. Special Elections: At-Large Student, At-Large Business, At-Large Renter Representatives**

No one present other than Board Members, so there was no special election.

**VII. 2020 Annual Meeting, Board Elections & Resolutions, Potential Resolution**

*Discussion:* Have we considered cancelling the meeting outright and move to strictly online voting? At this point, we don't feel we are as far along "tech-wise" as other district councils. Some are conducting an online survey or voting. It was suggested that we move a decision about whether or not to hold the meeting to our May meeting. Is there any risk to violate city ordinance if we don't abide by our by-laws? We do not feel this violates our bylaws. We feel the risk is very low by not having the meeting.

Friendly amendment suggested by Brian Martinson and added in red font to the resolution.

Brian W. moved approval, Tom D. seconded. Approved unanimously

Suggestion made to task the E-meeting Policy and Procedures group to develop plans for an Online Annual meeting and board elections with an update at each subsequent board meeting. Art moved approve and Kate seconded. Approved unanimously

## VIII. **FY2019 Financial Review, Tom Dietsche, Treasurer**

- 2019 Financial Opinion & Taxes, Potential Action

Tom provided an excellent review of our 2019 Finances and also reviewed possible changes for 2020.

Tom asked us to help with grant researching/options, if you know of any organizations please share with Alexa.

Motion to approve Anderson Baxter to conduct our annual review and complete our Form 990. Brian moved and Athena seconded. Passed unanimously.

The St. Paul City Council is expected to pass the 2021 City budget in July of 2020. We may know whether or not there will be an impact to the District Councils at that time. Alexa continues to participate in a monthly Skype meeting with the City District Council Coordinator.

We do expect a reduction in fundraising from individuals.

## **IX. Committee Updates & Recommendations**

### *Transportation Committee – Brian Martinson, Chair, **Recommendation***

There was discussion and the recommendation was passed unanimously.

### *Housing and Land Use Committee, Alexa Golemo, ED, **Recommendation***

There was a lot of research and engagement of MGCC and the Highland District Council, our ideas are included in these revised design standards. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

### *Inclusivity Task Force – Kate Baxter-Kauf, Chair, **Equity & Inclusivity Plan Part on Pg. 4***

### *E-Meeting Policies & Procedures Working Group, **Review Draft Policies & Procedures Document***

Resolution to approve the policies and procedures for remote participation in MGCC meetings. Brian m. moved approval, Colin F. seconded. Approved unanimously

*Community Building Committee* – research being done about how to host virtual community building events.

*Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA)* – With the cancellation of Grand Old day, GABA is looking for ways to maintain membership and keep supporting businesses along Grand Ave. PAWS on Grand is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>. Taste of Grand has been proposed for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021. Blood Drive being planned – Memorial Blood Center – May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

*West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC)* – The decision about the University of St. Thomas athletics moving to NCAA Division 1 is moved back. The WSNAC by-laws task force is moving along.

*Southwest Business Coalition (SWBC)* – The coalition met on Zoom a couple weeks ago, focused on how to support our business. A Zoom Town Hall is being planned for business owners.

X. **Staff Report/Updates**

Staff is working remotely. St. Paul Rec Centers are closed until mid-May. As mentioned earlier, we need help looking for grants! Please help promote MGCC community building activities. Follow MGCC on Facebook, Instagram, etc. We want to and need to build up our social media.

Community Resource page on the MGCC website. Please visit this site.

Please provide your feedback about our first Zoom meeting to Alexa.

XI. Meeting Adjourned at 8:27

### **Potential Resolution Re: 2020 Annual Meeting, Board Elections & E-Meeting Resolutions**

**WHEREAS**, the Macalester Groveland Community Council ("MGCC") is currently scheduled to hold its annual meeting on April 14, 2020, as provided for in the bylaws, and has scheduled monthly board and committee in-person meetings through 2020 and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, certain essential tasks, such as bylaw amendments, public input and election of directors, are to be completed at the MGCC annual meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, several regions of the United States have been swept into an emerging global pandemic of COVID-19, including Minnesota and the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the State of Minnesota declared a peacetime state of emergency that included guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health recommending that Minnesotans postpone or cancel "[s]maller events (fewer than 250 people) that are held in venues that do not allow social distancing of 6 feet per person," which would include the MGCC annual meeting and currently scheduled board and committee meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency in response to the pandemic, and on March 16, 2020 he announced new coronavirus guidelines recommending that all Americans avoid groups of more than 10 people, which would include the MGCC annual meeting and currently scheduled board and committee meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the City of St. Paul closed all St. Paul Parks and Recreation facilities to the public through at least March 27, 2020, which includes the MGCC offices and the two recreation centers at which MGCC board and committee meetings are routinely held; and

**WHEREAS**, Macalester College, where the annual meeting was to be held, is currently closed to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the MGCC board of directors agrees that the best way to protect the health and safety of directors, staff, and the public is to limit large group meetings and other gatherings in line with CDC, Minnesota, and local guidance;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Macalester Groveland Community Council that:

1. The MGCC shall postpone the 2020 annual meeting and elections until they can be held safely in a public venue **and shall revisit this subject at every subsequent Board Meeting until an Annual Meeting with Board elections is scheduled**; and
2. The MGCC shall allow current board members and officers to remain in their respective positions until elections can be held safely in a public venue; and
3. The MGCC shall allow committees and the board of directors to vote on resolutions/recommendations in online meetings; and
4. The MGCC shall publish this resolution and shall also seek retroactive authorization for these actions by the membership at the next annual meeting that can be held safely in a public venue.

**Transportation Committee Resolution:**

*"Whereas the St. Paul 2040 Plan consists of statements relating to developing nodes within walking distance (Policy LU #30) and "Vision Zero" program to achieve zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries (Policy T-5);*

*Whereas the St Paul Pedestrian Plan calls for "sparkling a culture shift" to make St. Paul a safe and appealing place to walk, while also referencing "maximizing impact within existing capital investments," and pursuing low-cost and creative solutions (pg. 16);*

*Whereas the St Paul Pedestrian Plan calls for making walking safe for everyone" through a strategy of prioritizing pedestrian safety in street design (pg. 15);*

*Whereas common sense and federal DOT government documents such as the Resident's Guide for Creating Safer Communities for Walking and Biking state that a traffic signal is "A visual signal to control the flow of traffic. Pedestrian signals let pedestrians know when they can enter the street to start crossing;"*

*Whereas drivers are trained to watch for lights and signals, so at traffic lights with pedestrian crossings when the light is green but the pedestrian light is "Don't walk," is confusing to both drivers and pedestrians;*

*Whereas consistency around the metro area (including LPis) helps train pedestrians to cross with the signal and drivers to always look for pedestrians;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that MGCC requests the City of St. Paul re-examine the policy of unsynchronized pedestrian and driver traffic signals and synchronize the signals to help meet the current 2040 foci goals of safety, walkability, resiliency, and low-cost."*

**Housing and Land Use Committee Resolution:**

*“The Housing and Land Use Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council supports the amendments to the District 14 and 15 Residential Design Standards as outlined in the memo from City Planner Mike Richardson to the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee of the City of Saint Paul, dated February 14, 2020.”*

**Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)**  
**Inclusivity and Equity Strategic Action Plan**  
**PHASE 2**  
Adopted 9/11/2019

**Goal 1: Increase the active participation by underrepresented groups in MGCC's internal structures so that we better reflect the demographics of the neighborhood.**

**Action Step 1: Create and implement standardized practices for live streaming of MGCC meetings, beginning with** meetings of the Board of Director of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council in September 2019.

**Milestone:** Report to Board of Directors on live streaming and present draft live streaming practices by February 2020.

**Action Step 2:** Examine potential bylaw changes relating to active participation in MGCC public board and/or committee meetings via electronic methods.

**Milestone:** Report to Board of Directors on potential bylaw changes by January 2020.

**Action Step 3:** Analyze current barriers to participation and expand outreach to student and renter populations to increase participation and build a base network.

**Milestone:** Create and build upon a list of school faculty and staff, students, and renters to draw upon for input, outreach, and filling board/committee positions. Report to Board of Directors by March 2020.

**Goal 2: Increase the active participation by underrepresented groups in MGCC's programming, projects and events so that we better reflect the demographics of the neighborhood.**

**Action Step 1:** Implement changes to current programming and events to make them more inclusive and meaningful for underrepresented groups, including renters and students.

**Milestone:** Implement changes to two regular MGCC programs/ events. ITF and CBC to evaluate event before, during, and after to consider the following questions:

- Who is this for?
- What is the purpose?
- Were the changes made (if any) beneficial to our community?

Report back to the Board of Directors in July 2020.

**Action Step 2:** Incorporate small-scale pop-up events, geared toward underrepresented communities, into regular programming throughout the year.

**Milestone:** Plan and host one event per quarter. Report to Board on progress in April 2020.