

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 6:30 pm
This meeting was held remotely online via Zoom

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, *Mike Sonn, President*
- II. Zoom Recording Announcement – Alexa confirmed we are recording the meeting.
- III. Roll Call, *Joyce Krech, Secretary*

Members Present: *Athena Adkins, Brian Baird, Kate Baxter-Kauf, Tom Dietsche, Gene Johnson, Saura Jost, Joyce Krech, Kensity Lipstreuer, Marc Manderscheid, Brian Martinson, Dave Pasiuk, Cathy Plessner, Art Punyko, Cindy Radtke, Mike Sonn, Brian Wagner*

Members Absent: *Colin Fesser, Nathan Zacharias*

- IV. Approval of the April 2020 Minutes

Cathy Plessner moved the motion, Tom Dietsche seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- V. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda - none
- VI. Special Elections: At-Large Student, At-Large Business & At-Large Renter Reps
 - At-Large Student Seat – no one present
 - At-Large Business Seat – no one present
 - At-Large Renter Seat – Kensity Lipstreuer. Kensity moved to Minnesota from Austin, TX. Works for Ikea as a Visual Merchandiser. There were no other renters present, therefore Kensity was elected by her vote. Welcome, Kensity!

- VII. Committee Updates & Recommendations

Transportation Committee, Update

Ruben Collins presented at the last meeting, discussed buffered bike lanes on Summit that are being installed. Also, discussed speed limits and cleaning of the bike lanes in both summer & winter. Alexa and Britta are submitting a grant proposal to AARP this week for an adopt-a-bus stop grant.

Housing and Land Use Committee, Update

1769 Grand Avenue owners attended the last meeting. In May, we will be discussing the topic of variance applications and how they are handled.

Inclusivity Task Force

Potential Online Elections & Annual Meeting Timeline & Process

- Kate reviewed the Draft Process for MGCC Online Annual Meeting & Elections. This draft was modeled after the Highland District Council (HDC) 2020 Election Process. Cindy R. asked about the impact on staff time, does staff have sufficient time to manage this process. Alexa confirmed yes, she and Britta have planned for the additional time required. Alexa also stated she has ongoing discussions with HDC.
- Alexa reviewed three possible timelines. Each timeline will take close to two months to complete.
- Discussion among board members, including preferred timelines, work effort required. Timeline 2 seems to be the favorite.
- Move approval for ITF to pursue Timeline 2 for Online Elections and Annual Meeting. Dave Pasiuk moved and Brian Martinson seconded. 16-1-0 Vote, Motion Approved.

Draft By-Law Change (On page 2), Potential Action

- Kate presented
- Brian Wagner moved, Cathy Plessner second. Motion to approve the bylaw revisions granting the board certain emergency powers. 18-0-0 Vote, Motion Approved.

Community Building Committee, Update

- Alley Garden Awards will be moved to mid-July from mid-June.
- Mac Grove Fest is still up in the air.
- Britta sent a survey out to past participants and businesses asking for their feedback.
- Plan to hold Mac Grove Master Classes held via Zoom. Topics to include gardening, Mac Grove history.

Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA), Update

- Cancellation of Grand Old Day has had a financial impact.
- Paws on Grand currently planned for August 9th, but may delay until September 12th.
- Blood Drive being held on Tuesday, May 19th from noon to 6 pm at 799 Grand.
- Possible "Taste of Grand" to be held in Q1 2021.
- Bingo Card created.

West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC), Update

- University of St. Thomas is all online, no final decision made when classes will be held
- Chapel and dormitory construction should be finished by the end of July
- Mandatory on campus living required for both Freshman and Sophomores in 2021
- University enrollment this fall is higher than expected

Southwest Business Coalition (SWBC), Update

Not much happening with due the current Covid-19 situation

Tenant Protections Ordinance, Discussion

Draft Ordinance Language and Public Comments:

<https://stpaul.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4386792&GUID=CAC11254-88C1-4CE0-BBF5-FE35D52366E8>

St. Paul City Council has reconsidered the timeline. Alexa presented the upcoming dates and possible scenarios.

Discussion from Board. Brian Baird prefers that this be brought to HLU. Marc Manderscheid would also like to read more about it before taking a vote. Tom Dietsche would also prefer to bring this to HLU. The next HLU Meeting is Wednesday, May 27th.

Suggestion for the Board to take an hour to view this documentary in preparation for the discussion at HLU: <https://www.tpt.org/sold-out-affordable-housing-at-risk/>

Another resource: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/safe-housing>

Community Members:

- Scott Hesselgrave spoke in opposition of the ordinance.
- Jeffrey Arnold confirmed that amendments will likely come from City Council and the language will likely change.
- Chad Skally spoke and stated that there was little involvement from stakeholders (property owners and landlords). Concerned about the lack of transparency from the City Council. Is there really an issue?
- Alisa Lein spoke and confirmed that landlords and renters both need to be involved.

Brian Wagner agrees that we need more voices in this conversation. Also, could we call a special board meeting if needed?

Marc – should all Board Members be encouraged to participate in HLU. All board members can attend and vote at committee meetings.

You can direct your comments to Alexa, or submit your comments directly to the City. It is suggested that the City staff attend HLU to answer any questions that might come up during the meeting. The Board agreed to move this topic to HLU.

IX. Staff Report/Updates

- Currently looking for an HLU Secretary. Please consider this role.
- Meetings will continue to be online through May and likely in June. The safety and well-being of our community members is key.
- Give MN is open all year long – please consider donating to MGCC.

X. Adjourned at 8:06

DRAFT BYLAW CHANGE TO GRANT THE BOARD CERTAIN EMERGENCY POWERS

Whereas, various safety concerns and legal restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have prevented MGCC from (a) holding any in-person meetings at a physical location since 3/12/2020 and (b) holding its Annual Membership Meeting in March or April (as required by Article VII of its bylaws), and

Whereas, in order to continue its ongoing operations in fulfillment of its mission and goals, MGCC's board (at its 4/14/20 online meeting) voted to allow all MGCC meetings to be held via electronic means such as video-conferencing software and email, and to seek retroactive approval for this action at the next Annual Membership Meeting, and

Whereas, it is unclear if MGCC already has the authority to do so, since (a) its bylaws neither explicitly allow nor prohibit holding meetings via electronic means, and (b) the Democratic Rules of Order (adopted in 2017) may already implicitly allow them, and

Whereas, MGCC staff, board and committee members spent considerable extra and possibly unnecessary time discussing, drafting and approving motions to provide additional retroactive legal support for the decisions already made to take these actions, and

Whereas, these events have shown that MGCC's current bylaws lack the flexibility and contingency planning that would have allowed the Board to act more quickly and decisively in making emergency decisions such as holding online meetings and rescheduling the annual meeting,

Therefore, be it resolved that MGCC's bylaws shall be amended as follows (changes in bold italics):

1) The first paragraph of Article VII, Section I(a) shall be replaced with the following:

(a) Annual Membership Meetings. The MGCC shall hold its Annual Membership Meeting in March or April of each year, ***unless postponed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of seated board members***. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be set by the Board of Directors. ***The "place" may be either a physical or online venue***. Public notice shall be published at least one (1) month prior to each annual meeting.

2) The following second paragraph shall be added to Article XII (Amendments and Changes):

In addition, the Board of Directors shall have an emergency power to enact any temporary amendments and changes to these Articles that it deems critical and urgent, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of seated board members. Any such temporary amendments and changes shall expire on the date of the next Annual Membership meeting or Special Membership meeting, unless approved at such meeting in accordance with the procedures specified by this Article.