

## Special Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 6:30 pm

**This meeting was held remotely online via Zoom.**

A copy of that recording is available on the Mac-Grove Website at <https://macgrove.org/meeting-archive/>

### MINUTES

- I. Call to Order, Art Punyko, President (18:30:00) This timestamp indicates where the item begins on the recording. The timestamp can be found in the lower right-hand corner of the Zoom recording
- II. Roll Call, Art Punyko, President (18:35) All Members were present except: Brian W., Zak Y., Andrea P., Bethany L., Patty H., Gene
- III. **Youth Engagement & Summit Avenue Regional Trail Plan, Recommendation from Transportation Committee** (Recommendation on page 2 Vote: 8 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention) (18:36)

MOTION to SUPPORT the amended resolution from the Transportation Committee titled "MORE DAILY TRIPS ON FOOT AND BY BIKE; PLANNING SUMMIT AVENUE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE"  
(Hugo B., Dave P, ) APPROVED (12,0,1)

- IV. **Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area Plan Zoning Amendments, Recommendation from Housing and Land Use Committee** (Recommendation on pages 3 & 4 Vote: 10 ayes, 8 nays) (18:48)

MOTION to AMEND point 3 of the recommendation from HLU on MRCCA Zoning Amendments with the removal of the phrase "especially with regards to trees and the replanting of trees with a ratio of 2:1"  
(Colin F., Lynn I.). APPROVED (9-1-0)

MOTION to REWRITE point 1 to "restrict the use of RTC designations to areas that are actually river crossings or a river town"  
(Kathryn M., Colin F) FAILED (1-7-2)

MOTION to APPROVE the amended recommendation from the Housing and Land Use Committee regarding the MRCCA Zoning Amendments  
(Colin F., Lynn I.) APPROVED 6-4-1

- V. **WSNAC Working Group Resolution from West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee** (Motion to form a working group of WSNAC members, MGCC Board members, and UPDC Board members focused on creating a proposal to bring WSNAC into closer coordination and partnership with MGCC and UPDC WSNAC Vote: 6 ayes, 5 nays; UPDC Vote: Majority in favor). (19:30)

MOTION to TABLE the WSNAC Working Group agenda item with the addition of a speaker at the May meeting on the history and purpose of WSNAC  
(Dave P., Lynn I.). APPROVED 10-0-0

- VI. Adjourn (19:35)

**MORE DAILY TRIPS ON FOOT AND BY BIKE; PLANNING SUMMIT AVENUE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE**

WHEREAS the reconstruction of Summit Avenue presents a rare opportunity to restore, preserve, and enhance this city street as the leafy, expansive linear park and community social space of its original conception;

WHEREAS Summit Avenue serves as a route to seven middle and high schools in the area\* as well as many other youth destinations including parks, recreational centers, faith institutions, commercial establishments including tea and coffee shops, candy and ice cream stores, book and toy stores, dance and fitness clubs, and summer camps;

WHEREAS the current, 90% Draft, Summit Regional Trail Plan lacks information, analysis or explanations to develop Summit Avenue as a safe corridor for children, families and youth to make more of their daily trips to the many destinations near Summit Ave on foot and by bike;

WHEREAS the current, 90% Draft, Summit Regional Trail Plan does not refer to Saint Paul's 2017 Safe Routes to School plan, which does support children and families in making daily trips by bike or on foot;

WHEREAS the community engagement for the plan has not sufficiently included the community engagement and input from children and youth under 18 years old\*\*;

WHEREAS year after year, a well-configured and safer Summit Avenue could provide thousands of these children, youth and their families with the option to more safely bike or walk along one of the nations greatest Victorian residential boulevards--which, over a ten-year period would impact the lives of tens of thousands of children and youth on their daily trips to school and to many other destinations in the area;

WHEREAS these omissions the above becomes an issue of equity as well as children's and youth's rights to health, happiness, safety and protection;

WHEREAS promoting walking and biking on Summit Avenue for daily trips in this part of the city would show our commitment to support future generations and to combat climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mac-Groveland Community Council requests that the City Parks and Recreation Department will engage better document their engagement with youth community members and families, as well as school boards and PTO's of middle and high schools, faith institutions, and business associations in the vicinity of Summit Ave to inform and develop a section of the Summit Regional Trail Plan that presents information, analysis, requirements and recommendations to reconstruct Summit Avenue as a safe corridor for children and youth to make more of their daily trips to visit the many destinations along Summit Avenue by bike and on foot. This section should also have a few pictures of youth biking; not any such picture is included in the current plan.

\* Every year 500 to 600 students start grade 6, and a cohort of about 4,200 students is enrolled across all grades of these seven schools

\*\* For instance, in the survey of over 1,300 participants children and youth under 18 formed 7% of survey respondents, while this age groups forms about 17% of the neighborhood's population.

## MRCCA Ordinance Resolution

**Whereas**, the MRCCA was “designated a state critical area in 1976 to protect its natural, cultural, and scenic resources...through development standards administered through local government land use plans and zoning ordinances,” [[Minnesota DNR - MRCCA](#)]

**Whereas**, the City of St. Paul has proposed revisions to its MRCCA ordinance in response to the State of Minnesota’s updated MRCCA Rules [[MN Rules Chapt 2106 - MRCCA](#)],

**Whereas**, St. Paul’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan’s MRCCA Chapter describes several natural resources as Primary Conservation Areas (PCA) “to ensure that they are given priority consideration for protection,”[ [2040 Comprehensive Plan - MRCCA Chapter](#)],

**Whereas**, the property bordered by Cretin, Goodrich, Mississippi River Boulevard, Exeter, and Otis Avenues is located entirely within the MRCCA and is designated as a PCA under three categories: Bluff Impact Zone, Significant Existing Vegetative Stands, and Unstable Soils and Bedrock,

**Whereas**, St. Paul’s [2040 Comprehensive Plan MRCCA Chapter](#) identifies a number of policies to protect and manage PCAs including:

- Minimize impacts from public and private development and land use activities (Policy CA-3)
- Promote presentation and re-establishment of natural vegetation on privately-owned property (Policy CA-6)

**Whereas**, the property described above has been designated as URBAN OPEN SPACE in the MRCCA since 1976 to present day, providing desirable green space, open space, and wildlife habitat,

**Whereas**, the proposed MRCCA rule changes create a new property type called “River Towns and Crossings (RTC),” that easily applies to towns and development at actual river crossings, but that also inexplicably includes “institutional campuses that predate designation of the Mississippi River and that include taller buildings,”

**Whereas**, all of the University of St. Thomas property is classified as RTC, a designation that is inconsistent with that of all adjacent property, including that of the St. Paul Seminary, which are designated as River Neighborhood,

**Whereas**, RTC designation allows for building/development with taller building maximums and smaller property setbacks than RN designation,

**Whereas**, reclassifying a property from Urban Open Space to RTC after nearly 50 years is inconsistent with the City’s and the Macalester Groveland Community Council’s long-standing support of “preserving Macalester Groveland as a walkable, mixed use sustainable neighborhood with a pedestrian-oriented human-scale streetscape,” expanding and enhancing green space,” and “Encouraging preservation of the traditional feel and scale of the neighborhood;”

**Whereas**, aside from issues with property designation, the proposed ordinance contains several very positive elements to guide future building/development including requirements for shielding of exterior lighting, use of bird-safe glass, and minimizing disturbance in primary conservation areas during bird migration times.

*The Macalester-Groveland  
participation in government and  
neighborhood a great place to live,*



*Community Council fosters citizen  
community decisions that make our  
work, learn, and play.*

**Be it resolved** that the Housing and Land Use Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council supports the following:

1. Amend the title of the River Towns and Crossings property designation to “River Towns, Crossings, and Institutional Uses”,
2. Provide the highest level of environmental protection for all properties within the MRCCA in order to protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River in accordance with the stated purpose of the MRCCA,
3. In recognition of the policies of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, we encourage the protection of the preservation and reestablishment of natural vegetation within the MRCCA, ~~especially with regards to trees and the replanting of trees with a ratio of 2:1,~~
4. Require shielding of exterior lighting, use of bird-safe glass and minimizing disturbance in primary conservation areas during bird migration times, and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas.