

MINUTES
Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)

June 11, 2009

President Richard Broderick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendance:

Quorum reached. See Attendance Sheet after Committee Notes for detail.

Minutes: A motion to approve the May 2009 Minutes was moved, seconded, and passed.

Board Member Profile: Lorin Velikonja

A long time board member, born in Elgin, Illinois, the home of the Elgin street sweeper (spoken with pride). She was a Film major in college, lived on the coast for a while and then moved back to the Midwest and has been in Macgrove for 16 years. She's married, has two great sons whom she home schooled and they are off to college.

Board Training: Diane Wanner District Council Coordinator

Past training sessions have been well attended with great food and tons of pertinent information. Email Diane to register: diane.wanner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

- Building Blocks for Effective Zoning and Licensing on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the Rondo Community Outreach Library.
- Board Basics, July 23, 2009, 6:00 – 8:30 pm Oxford Community Center

KidsPark Update -- Rebecca Johnson, Co-Chair KPAC

KidsPark is transitioning both from Melissa's departure and finding new KPAC members. The new KPAC will work to build a consistent relationship with the MGCC. She's actively recruiting KPAC members, if you know anyone who may be interested, call. Invitation extended for the MGCC to have their monthly meeting at Desnoyer in Sept/Oct. The KPAC monthly meeting is the third Monday every month (July 20th is the next one). You are welcome to attend.

Event Owner List: Todd Curtis

Sign up! For an event and help out Karmann and Afton. Each event was created by the Board or members of the community with board support. Each committee should outline events, determine owners, define roles, establish a budget, estimate hours needed for owners, staff, and volunteers. Establish linkage to MGCC Mission Statement. Committees should get their findings to the Exec team to review for our July meeting.

District Council Collaborative Update: Joel Clemmer

Environmental Impact Statement for the Central Corridor will soon be available. Only 30 days from publish for public input process. This is our chance to have input into the process.

The following motion passed (13 Yes, 1 No, 5 abstentions):

WHEREAS the design plans for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit do not specify construction of needed stations at Western, Victoria, Hamline, and Cretin/Vandalia, despite clear evidence that one mile station spacing is too far in our urban geography; and

WHEREAS mitigation of the lack of needed stations and access to stations, such as maintenance of the current schedule of the #16 bus, new circulator buses, additional north/south bus lines are either inadequate or non-existent; and

WHEREAS there are, as yet, no confirmed, effective plans to preserve viability of local businesses by providing customer access, parking and mitigation of lost revenue during construction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, a member of the District Council Collaborative, strongly encourages resolution of these significant issues raised by concerned citizens before Federal Transportation Administration approval of the Central Corridor Environment Impact Statement.

Snelling Median Update – Susan Crumb

Pat Harris stated there should be some movement on this issue in 1-2 weeks.

Presidents Report – Richard Broderick

Our new Business Manager is Bethany Gladhill. Welcome!

The transition has gone well over the last 4 days. Sign up if you can for Staff needs in the pass around folder.

Staff Report: Karmann Peters and Afton Martens

- Audit Field work is complete. Audit report in July. Bethany will be here as well.
- Neighbor Rep Meeting show up! Tuesday, June 16th
- Transition Update: Volunteer Sign Up in the pass around folder
- Battle of the Bands was great
- Paint the Pavement Saturday, June 12 at 9:00am
- Macgrove Moves – gave away 10,000 bags. It was awesome!
- August 4th is National Night Out. Sign up!!
- Be patient in the transition

Other Business

Alan Yngve inquired about interest in an Audit Committee. He will bring a proposal to a future board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Curtis, Secretary

Attendance:

| First | Last | June |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Andrew | Olson | x |
| Carrie | Au-Yeung | |
| Gregg | Curtis | x |
| Jack | Fei | |
| Steve | Matysik | x |
| Alan | Yngve | x |
| Scott | Swanson | |
| Jane | Amberg | x |
| Joel | Clemmer | x |
| Mikael | Carlson | x |
| Todd | Curtis | x |
| Rosa Maria | de la Cueva Peterson | x |
| Gena | Berglund | x |
| Michelle | Crain | |
| Jay | MacBride | x |
| Leo | Viktora | x |
| John | Haggenmiller | x |
| Susan | Crumb | x |
| Melanie | Peterson-Nafziger | |
| Richard | Broderick | x |
| Mike | Kowski | x |
| Joyce | Krech | x |
| Lorin | Velikonja | x |
| Michael | DeCourcy, Jr. | x |

Committee Reports -- June 10, 2009

Beautification

The Beautification Committee did not hold a regular meeting in May, but instead met for Alley Garden Award flag-making. Alley Garden Award judging will take place July 5th through the 15th. Judges are still needed for several grids.

Community Outreach

The Teen Battle of the Bands was held on Sunday, June 7, 2009, and was a great success, despite the weather. Sixteen bands competed for prizes including 24 hours of recording time and performance at the Minnesota State Fair. Several local music businesses donated prizes, including Capitol Guitars, McNally-Smith College of Music, Best Buy, and Willie's Guitars. The top honors went to "Zero's Heroes," a ska band made up of students from our own Highland Park High School in St. Paul.

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 is our next "Neighbor Rep," event at Edgcumbe Park and Rec at 6:30 p.m. The event will provide an opportunity for "Neighbor Reps" to meet their "Grid Reps," and all Board members are urged to attend. We will be providing light refreshments and also have a presentation on garbage hauler consolidation.

At our last meeting, we also discussed plans for Groveland Night Out on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, as well as National Night Out on August 4, 2009.

One topic of ongoing discussion in our committee is the nature and content of our electronic Crime Reports. At present, our reports are based upon information shared with us by the police department. Some recipients have complained that they wish to have reports that are more in the nature of immediate reporting of crimes. We will have further discussion of this matter at our July meeting.

Environment

The environment committee discussed our presence at Grand Old Day, especially at tables in the shared booth with Summit Hill Association. Our primary goal in volunteering at the festival is to distribute MacGrove Moves brochures to try to boost participation in the program.

We briefly discussed how the Eureka Grant will work this next year and chatted briefly about curbside composting.

The native garden program is online on the MGCC website. Craig will investigate whether the Master Gardeners who volunteered to judge last year are interested again this year. Rich is reaching out to some new vendors who could be interested in joining our natural lawn care program.

We debriefed on the Neighborhood Clean Up a bit, discussing what went well and what might be able to change or adjust for next year.

Housing and Land Use

In summary, HLU met a week early in May, on 5/20, and the primary item on the agenda was the proposal by Green Mill to change the restaurant configuration at the corner of Grand and Hamline to a wine bar with 10 stools and the same amount of seating as before. The main request was a recommendation to approve Green Mill's application for a beer/wine license. This was approved unanimously, after a discussion with neighbors, with conditions that match those on Green Mill's existing liquor license for the main restaurant off of Hamline. This was acceptable to the neighbors who attended the meeting, and to representatives of Green Mill. I cannot recall the exact conditions, which would be iterated in the minutes.

Transportation

At our May meeting we spent the first half of the meeting making our final plans for the Paint the Pavement project (June 13). Our committee was awarded an Art of Traffic Calming grant (\$250) for this project. Next we reviewed the traffic-calming options that the city had made for the Grand/Syndicate intersection. Our committee recommended that the city pursue Option 1 which included bumpouts, moving a bus stop and changing Kowalski's parking lot design.

Next up on the agenda was RSVP process for traffic circles and specifically the Finn/Lincoln project.

We discussed with the city that we would like to be involved with these projects from the beginning and not at the end of the process. We asked that neighbors of the Finn/Lincoln project come to our July meeting. We have yet to meet any of them. Our committee does not want to sign a letter saying the District Council will be responsible for the neighbors' maintenance of the traffic circle until we at least meet them. Our last agenda item was the Snelling median. Not much is going on with this right now. It has been stalled by Pat Harris.

Next month we will be doing Paint the Pavement on June 13. On June 22 we will be hosting an informational public meeting about the Jefferson Bike Boulevard presented by the city engineers.