

MINUTES
Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)
March 12, 2009

President Richard Broderick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present:

Andrew Olson, Carrie Au-Yeung, Mary Davis, Steve Matysik, Joel Clemmer, Steve Gorg, Mike Kowski, Joyce Krech, Alan Yngve, Eric Schroeder, Richard Broderick, Jay MacBride, Will Au-Yeung, Susan Crumb, Scott Swanson, Melanie Peterson- Nafziger, John Haggemiller. Leo Viktora, Lorin Velikonja.

Absent:

Todd Curtis, Beth DeCourcy, Gena Berglund, Joe Bagnoli

Minutes: After several minor revisions, a motion to approve the February 2008 Minutes was moved, seconded, and passed.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

- 1) Steve Matysik asked to discuss the Russ Stark town hall meeting – APPROVED
- 2) Melissa Martinez-Sones also wanted to update and discuss the Snelling Median project - APPROVED

Board Member Profile: Gena Berglund was not present

CIB Rankings: Mary Davis made the suggestion to go through the list line by line, the Board agreed.

Fairview Avenue Reconstruction - St. Clair to Summit -- HIGH
Jefferson Avenue Bike Lanes (unsure if this is the bike blvd) -- HIGH
Library / Parks Joint Use Facility (Highland Park Library Expansion) -- MED
Grand Round Implementation (Connection to Mid-Town Greenway) -- HIGH
Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) -- LOW
Duluth and Case Rec Ctr and Year Round Tennis Courts -- LOW
Payne Maryland Town Square (Arlington Hills Library) -- LOW
Traffic Sign Refurbishing Program -- MED
Energy Efficient Street Lighting Testing Project -- HIGH
Street Lighting Infrastructure Replacement Program -- MED
Bridge Enhancement Program -- LOW
Right-of-Way Acquisition Program -- MED
St. Paul Real Estate & Facility Asset Management System -- MED

STAR input: Board reviewed the applications for the FY2009 Neighborhood STAR small Loan and Grant process. The list contained no projects in district 14, so no action was required; however, several projects garnered the morale support of the Board: 1) MTM Energy Improvements, Minnesota Transportation Museum by Steve Matysik; 2) Restore St. Paul Loan Program, Historic Saint Paul by Alan Yngve; and 3) Mississippi Market West 7th Store, Mississippi Market Natural Foods by Rich Broderick

President's Report: Rich began by thanking all the committees for turning in their monthly reports. The board members all agreed that it seemed like a good system and enjoyed the detail (especially the verbosity of the environmental report). Steve Gorg noted that the submissions were reports, not minutes and wondered about their registration as official record. Rich noted that the reports were not formal or binding, so if changes are needed they will be amended. None-the-less the minutes from the committee meetings are kept on record and are considered official.

Rich then discussed a meeting called by Mayor Coleman at the Oxford Rec. Center. He attended the meeting with Melissa Martinez-Sones and several other board members and heard the Mayor and his financial people report on the city budget and the impact it will have on the district community council program. Rich noted that at that time, the Mayor hadn't gotten the final budget updates from the state because the state hadn't gotten final budget projections, but notified the audience that he would be asking for a 14.9% budget cut across the board, save certain mission critical functions. This cut will impact the funds we get for citizen participation, which is about half of our funding from the city. There will be no cut on crime prevention. Citizen participation funding equals \$40K per year, so our cut back would be \$6K. Rich believes there is no reason to believe that out years will be better, probably worse depending on a lot of things.

Rich reports that we are in good shape to deal with this and that the MGCC is not in any financial trouble. The staffing decision of not hiring a replacement for Melissa Martinez-Sones will help make up the gap.

The three are working on job sharing to make up the responsibilities. Could hire a part-time business manager because karmann and afton don't have the expertise. Not sure how many hours that will require... probably 7-8 hours. Hiring this won't make up for what we are saving by not replacing Melissa. Notice for applicant will be out next week. Hopefully we will have someone in place before Melissa is gone. One other aspect, we can't ask Karman and Afton to take on extra responsibility without giving them something more... ring. We are discussing (excom) what that will entail... will have to discuss to make sure its alright. Increase in comp, business manager, we will be in the black. No prospects of financial difficulties this year.

Will: Reporting structure... the part timers will report to these two.... Still finalizing the details. Working through the details now probably next month. Excom will probably have to play a bigger role in decision making until the system is fully implemented.

People on the board will need to step up and be more proactive in volunteering and offering help. We are facing very difficult times and we will get through them if we work together.

Jay McBride: It would be good if there was a point person on the board, so that they don't have 25 bosses.

Rich: Good point, we'll have more next month

Rich: ad hoc committee to look at outside funding sources... Joyce, Todd The more heads we have involved the better. If you want to participate via email, that's fine. Mayor meeting, advisability of district councils looking at ways to perform social services. MacGroveland is affluent, but still people on fixed incomes, hard time keeping building up, disabilities... looking for ways to offer services that aren't nec under our mission so far. Drop off location for food donations. Clearing house of info for people having trouble keeping their homes... references, not advice. Stuff like that. Top of his head. Think of other things we can do... don't over reach, to the extent that we can fill in the gaps... doing that accomplishes 1) make even more clear the importance of the district council, 2) valuable resource, 3) increased visibility, 4) go back and give better reasons to say we should be under written. We'll need to persuade city, neighborhood, etc. We need to make it a lose. Please think about volunteering, any ideas, resources, etc. Social service functions, bake sales, whatever...

Steve: stop watching the news

Rich: glad that we saw this coming and worked on it. We have one of the strongest.

Jay: when will we hear more information about the committee.

Rich: once I get a pool of people, we'll set up an email chain.

Jay: I think so

7:41 IX. Report of the E.D./Community Organizer

- **Audit status update**
- **KidsPark updates**
- **Annual Meeting updates**
- **Approve annual approves the rules for the 2009 annual meeting and board elections."**
- **Proposed amendments to the by-laws for voting at the annual meeting**

City wide meeting, do we fight it.

One half - Havent had a raise since 2005. We are cheap labor...

Other half – we are in a situ where the city is cutting police, we are saying fund us and leave the police alone.

What should our strategy be as a system... what does the board think?

Scott – what camp were you in?

Mel – its an impossible argument to win... can't win against more police officers. But if we don't advocate for ourselves, when do we. Mixed feelings, could make great argument, won't change anything.

Joel – if the boss tells you something, to some extent that's it. If you choose to fight it, the boss has to know what he/she is giving up. Documentation has to happen, succinct list of what's being left behind.

Rich: at the meeting, they made is clear that they are not doing this lightly. Thought it would be worse. Agree with joel, fighting back is not winnable, but need to make it clear what this means.

Susan: A lot of groups are finding that since we have been doing things cheaper, people don't understand what we've done. Not getting credit for the forethought, need to get the message across. All the services we provide for less... people just don't see it and don't appreciate. Until things don't happen, people don't think there is an effect. We are feeding right into it by solving the problem as we have.

Rich: Whatever the solutions, we need to couple that with a communication campaign... not just going with it. If we start to disappear, people might realize that things aren't needed.

Steve: It has to be a value... what we do... it has to have a value

Mel: A failure... if your stakeholders don't see the value, then you have no one behind you to save you. Why would they go down and say don't cut the city council system.

Steve: Block clubs come into play... at any one meeting, someone from the board attend. When someone asks what I've been doing when I travel, I tell them there is nothing else is like it in the country. Go somewhere else and try to find out where you can have a voice downtown? Who else puts up programs for the kids. Need to sell it here.

Melanie: Document... try to get qual/quant feedback from people on the value we provide. We spend 1000 of dollars out of our pockets as teacher budgets get cut. We just buy stuff instead and it doesn't work... cause you care about what you are doing.

Susan: advertising what we do... people don't realize what we do, snow sculpture. If they value it they know if they are cutting funding, they'll fight it.

Melanie: how about a questionnaire, top fifteen things they value, like...

Audit status – eric allen mike, mel has reviewed the audit proposal. Don't have a recommendation tonight.

Alan: we should allow the board to deputize the excom to make hiring decision on audit. Motion

Scott: second.

Approved.

Kidspark, we are up and running in desnoyer... for a month now. Open house last month, good event, people came to check it out. Infant room teacher, hiring this spot. Working on that.

Annual meeting updates

April 9th Thursday

Grid rep need to flyer

Sign-up sheet to volunteer for the night of the annual meeting

In-process.

Not sure if the mayor will attend

Russ Stark

Pat Harris – no peep

Need to approve the annual meeting rules. Leo, so moved. Eric, ok

Approved unanimously

Any board members have proposed changes to the by-laws

990 rules?

None

7:50 X. Staff Report – Afton Martens

Block club meeting on march 24th @ 6:30

Beautification meeting on march 16th

Check out welcome packets.

Volunteer on grid 7? Doug Berg... North half of the neighborhood. Summit to St. Clair...

7:55 XI. Other Business

STEVE

Town hall meeting with Russ Stark: Great to take the opp for people to show up. Pat Harris was not there. Citizen input on where budget could be cut.... Also wanted to keep their library open. 8 discussion groups 6-7 people each group. Presented ideas.

Samantha assistance taking notes

Russ is a pretty authentic guy. Quite impressed. No raises for the next few years. Across the board cuts, save life functions. More volunteers into the library system... cutting back hours. Parks and rec. charging for space... this space for example.

Thought it was good and put it out there. Good to see a council member there, mingling with the people

Pat blows Jane off too.

Anything else... league of cities bill saying they would not release prelim budget data. Jane is going to testify and go against mayor. Unfriend his press sec on facebook. Not going to get budget information till April. Open information fight. Jane is going to fight it. Bring it.

MELISSA

Snelling Median – what has been happening? Board should give some guidance to the transportation committee on the 23rd. we are at a pretty big road block. What are we going to do about it?

Karmann – Welna/ Pat Harris, what is the bottom line here. Harris is opposed to the project as it stands, so Pat will not introduce it to the city council. And he'll fight tooth and nail against it. Welna is putting some feeling out. His stipulation... add left turn into Lincoln, no turn onto Goodrich.

St: Welna also sent out a note about additional funding. 475K was for the Snelling median project. Don't know who proposed it. We don't want anything to do with federal money... add a year to start anything. It adds all sorts of federal regulations that will slow it down. Welna MNDOT will not fund anything unless its approved by the city the way Harris wants it, but that isn't true. They haven't made a decision yet. Trying to contact city engineer. Thought we had a final design... thought it was going to move forward. Support from the city is missing, without it, you can't get anything from MNDot. Waiting for the city to make a decision.

MELISSA: Tom did say he'd talk to some other council members to see, but we don't see that happening. Its not something that we are going to solve tonight. Please come to the next board meeting.

Alan: GABA is very interested in maintain the integrity of Lincoln commons.

Carrie: what is the board's stance?

MELISSA: we've passed two resolutions, reaffirming original support with no changes. Acknowledging the public process, sent to every city councilor.

Steve: How many city councils? Why is he not listening?

MELISSA: Pat says he is hearing from people... business owner.

Send thoughts to Karman if you have thoughts.

Scott: we had agreed to a change, but we've delayed because of the lack of support from Pat...

Right

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

LEO ANNOUNCEMENT: wsnac offered to pay \$6K towards the acquisition of ourcar... we need to get the other half.

Alan: mac has two.

8:39 meeting adjourned.