

MINUTES
Macalester-Groveland Community Council
May 14, 2009

President Richard Broderick called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Gena Berglund, Michelle Crain, Jay McBride, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Richard Broderick, Jane Amberg, Steve Matysik, Susan Crumb, Lorin Velikonja, Andrew Olson, Carrie Au-Yeung, Gregg Curtis, Scott Swanson, John Haggemiller, Mike Kowski, Michael DeCourcy, Jr., Alan Yngve, Mikael Carlson, Rosa Maria de la Cueva Peterson.

Absent: Todd Curtis, Jack Fei, Leo Viktora, Joyce Krech, Joel Clemmer.

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 12, 2009 minutes was seconded and passed.

Introduction of Board Members: Mike DeCourcy (sister Beth served on the board for last two years) from Grid 17. Rosa Maria de la Cueva Peterson represents grid 5 (tangletown). She is concerned about literacy and the digital divide. Mikael Carlson represents Grid 3. He has lived in the neighborhood for 13 years. Jane Amberg is a nurse at the UofM and lives on Woodlawn. Gregg Curtis lives near Jefferson & Cleveland (Todd Curtis' brother). Michelle Crain represents grid 7.

Board Mentoring: Joyce Krech brought up the idea to partner new board members with returning board members. If you are returning board member that would like to volunteer to be a mentor or you would like to be mentored, please contact Melissa.

Authorization of Funds for Mac-Grove Moves (\$200): Melanie reports that the first two years we did the program it was very low budget. Last year Pat Harris got us over \$1,000 to help the program, but we don't have the grant this year. This year we are partnering with GABA and Summit Hill Association. GABA printed 10,000 brochures and 200 posters which will be delivered to businesses all along Grand Avenue. The brochures will also be handed out during Grand Old Day on the Ayd Mill road bridge (Grand Avenue). MGCC was asked to provide \$200 for the brochures. Motion to authorize \$200 for MacGrove Moves brochures was seconded and approved.

Pass Around Folder: Please sign up for Battle of the Bands on June 7, 2009 or the listening party this weekend.

Changes to Eureka Recycling Grant – Rich Broderick reported that a couple of weeks ago, he and Gena met with Susan Hubbard and Dianna Kennedy to discuss the status of the three year pilot grant program we entered into in 2007 with Eureka Recycling. The purpose of the grant, which called for Eureka to provide the district council \$36,000/year over its three-year life, was to allow Mac-Groveland to become the lead neighborhood in St. Paul in implementing innovative forms of recycling and waste reduction, the most important of which was the development of a curbside compost recycling program. For Eureka, the grant was part of its goal of creating waste-free neighborhoods. For our part, the money would help fund the position of Environmental Coordinator. Last spring, Melissa and Eureka agreed to suspend the monthly grant payments for May and June during the transition period from Andy to Karmann. In July, unfortunately, the City of St. Paul did not, as had been agreed, launch the curbside compost recycling program nor release the funding already allocated to make the program a reality; that funding, in turn, was going to underwrite most of the second- and third-years of the MGCC grant. In light of these changes, Eureka has proposed, given the loss -- we hope temporary -- of city funding, to alter the terms of the grant and reduce the amount the district council receives this year and next from \$36,000 per/year to \$18,000. The alternative we were presented by Susan and Dianna was to pull the plug on the grant entirely, leaving us to face a \$72,000 shortfall over the next two years rather than a \$36,000 one. Given that under the terms of the grant, Eureka has the right to pull out of the agreement altogether, the first alternative seems preferable and we'll be bringing that proposal to the board Thursday evening for a vote on approving the change. Meanwhile there are still issues on the table that we need to work out with Eureka, principally the apparent difference between their understanding versus our understanding of the number of hours per week Karmann will be expected to devote exclusively to Eureka-related matters under the new terms of the grant, but we will negotiate those over the next few weeks as best we can. At the same time, we have already begun the process of seeking alternative sources of funding for the council's environmental programs. The executive committee agreed that we ought to go with the only alternative presented by Eureka Recycling. A motion to accept Eureka's proposal to adjust the last year of the grant to a two-year period was seconded and approved. Rosa Maria de la Cueva Peterson abstained.

Presidents Report: Richard Broderick

- Update on Business Manager position and staff transition: The board's decision to approve the recommendation to respond proactively to probable cuts in our city funding has paid off; we are in good shape financially and fully able to meet our current and future obligations without major problems. (For those of you new to the board, the back-up plan -- which has now become our plan in the wake of cuts that were indeed made by the city -- was to take advantage of Melissa's departure as Executive Director in June to move from a three full-time district council staff, to a two full-time and one part-time staff, with Karmann and Afton adding parts of Melissa's portfolio to their current job descriptions and then hiring a 12 or 15 hour a week Business Manager to take up the slack). Last week, Gena and I along with Melissa, Karmann and Afton interviewed five outstanding candidates for our newly created part-time Business Manager position. One applicant stood out so clearly above all the rest that Melissa, Karmann and Afton decided that there was no need even for a second round of interviews. On Friday afternoon, Melissa made an offer -- and the offer was accepted. Melissa will be filling you in with the details at the meeting. This new position and staffing arrangement are part of a transition more challenging and difficult than any we've faced, at least in the five years that I have been on the board. As an example of just what a state of flux we face right now, the new Business Manager understands that, even though Melissa posted a detailed job description, this position is going to have to evolve and develop in ways that we may not be able to entirely foresee at this time, but which will undoubtedly come to include development work (fund-raising) as well as marketing in addition to keeping the books and advising the board on all issues related to the council's financial health. What put our winning applicant on top was our confidence that she not only understands the challenges that lie ahead but also has the requisite experience working in just such transitional settings. In a similar fashion, Karmann and Afton's jobs will also continue to evolve. Both are capable, wonderful employees, but in making the transition from their current positions reporting to Melissa into, in effect, co-Executive Directors of MGCC, both are going to need a much more active level of support and volunteer effort on the part of board members in the months ahead.
- Alan strongly suggests that we keep someone outside of the office involved in payroll.
- Please consider volunteering for an ad hoc committee to review projects, programs, and events in May & June.
- Rich encourages board members to volunteer to assist with actual tasks during this time of transition. With Todd's assistance, Karmann and Afton will be creating a list of volunteer jobs.
- Election of 2008 Executive Committee Members: one year position. Consecutive term.
 - President: Nominated: Rich Broderick; Steve Matysik. Motion to close nominations was seconded and approved. Melissa counted one set of ballots and the vote was tied (9,9). The first set of ballots were discarded and Melissa counted the second round of ballots and the vote was tied (9,9). Steve Matysik withdrew. A motion to vote for Rich Broderick for President by acclimation was seconded and approved.
 - Treasurer: Mike Kowski. Motion to vote for Mike Kowski was unanimously elected for treasurer.
 - Secretary: Todd Curtis. Todd Curtis was elected for secretary in abstentia.
 - Vice President: Nominated: Gena Berglund, Steve Matysik. Motion to close nominations was seconded and approved. Melissa counted one set of ballots and the vote was tied (9,9). Steve withdrew. Gena Berglund was unanimously elected as Vice President.

Board Profile: Susan Crumb is the Grid 11 representative. She has been on the board for over a decade. Her husband is from Wisconsin. She has two children. Her son is transferring from Madison to the UofM. She plays in an oldies rock band called Misspent Youth. She is the keyboard player and singer. Her big song is "Be My Baby" by the Ronettes. Her focus at MGCC is fostering community: Groveland Night Out, Frost Fest, Battle of the Bands; supporting Neighbor Reps (formerly Block Club Leaders).

Report of the Executive Director / Community Organizer: Melissa Martinez-Sones

- Kids Park fundraiser is in the pass around folder. You are encouraged to attend.
- KidsPark litigation continues. The responses to interrogatories and discovery are completed. Melissa is likely to be the person who is deposed.
- Training opportunities were in the pass around folder. New and returning members are encouraged to attend.
- Annual Meeting Evaluations will be solicited by email.
- Adios! Melissa Martinez-Sones said a heartfelt farewell. She was applauded. A motion to thank her for

her outstanding service to MGCC was seconded and unanimously approved. (Secretary's editorial note: Best motion ever.)

Staff Reports: Karmann and Afton

Afton reported about Teen Battle of the Bands and soliciting volunteers for the listening party and for the Grand Old Day on June 7. June 16 is "Meet Your Grid Rep Meeting." Help is needed at the next Beautification Meeting to put together award flags. She also reported on National Night Out. Karmann reported on a successful Spring Clean Up.

Other Business: Rosa Maria de la Cueva brought up the idea that Macalester Groveland could explore a tutoring program. The item will be added to the July 21 community outreach meeting, being mindful that it would need to be run by volunteers.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gena Berglund, Vice President (substituting for Todd Curtis, secretary)