

MINUTES
Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)
June 10, 2010

President Gena Berglund called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Attendance:

Quorum reached. See Attendance Sheet for details.

Minutes: A motion to approve the May 2010 Minutes was moved, seconded, and passed.

Board Member Profile – Joyce Krech: Joyce has been a member of the MGCC for 3 years and is the newly elected MCGG Board Secretary. She also serves on the Community Outreach Committee. She is employed by Travelers Insurance in downtown St. Paul. Joyce grew up in South St. Paul, MN and has lived in the Macalester Groveland neighborhood for over 20 years.

Transportation Committee: Jay MacBride, Amber Dallman

Amber provided information about available funding resources from the Department of Public Works for public art in the Davern-Jefferson RSVP area. Recommendations need to be submitted to them by the beginning of July. Methods to gather feedback from the public were discussed.

Because of the tight time frame, recommendations may need to be approved outside the normal process of setting up public meetings. A suggestion was made to authorize the Executive Committee to approve recommendations made by the Transportation Committee.

Todd Curtis proposed the following motion:

That the Transportation Committee be given the authorization to approve public art related to the RSVP project bounded by Fairview, Snelling, Jefferson and St. Clair with review by the Executive Committee.

Resolution Passed: 19 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

KidsPark Task Force: Joyce Krech, Jane Amberg

Jane Amberg and Joyce Krech have formed a task force to review the KidsPark program. This review will include the following:

1. Compliance with Minnesota State Licensing Requirements for Day Care Centers
2. Finances
3. Enrollment
4. Policies and Procedures

Our goal is to provide recommendation(s) to the MGCC Board in the September timeframe.

President's Report – Gena Berglund

- Eureka Update: A work plan is being developed for 2010 to 2011. We are putting together a 6 to 8 week work plan now. Rollout of curbside composting pilot starting June 11.
- Board Meeting Start Time: Discussed our meeting start time which has been 6:45 p.m. for the past couple of meetings. Most board members are in support of the earlier start time.

A motion to change our MGCC Board Meeting start time to 6:45 p.m. was proposed and voted on. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendations from the Housing and Land Use Committee – John Haggemiller

Proposed Resolution: *The Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommends approval for the St. Clair Broiler's request to add a Liquor-Outdoor Service Area (Sidewalk) license to the existing licenses in accordance with the City of St. Paul's requirements.*

Motion made and seconded. Some discussion occurred before the vote.

Resolution Passed: 19 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

Proposed Resolution: *The Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommends approval for the requested variances at 2000 Wellesley Avenue upon completion of the required signatures.*

Afton indicated the Council received the notification the day of the variance. There was no public meeting. Steve M. confirmed nothing was out of ordinary with the neighborhood.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion: Discussion about why the MGCC is required to approve a variance. Normally, the HLU reviews/approves. In this case, the normal public process was not followed and there wasn't time to bring this before the HLU.

Resolution Passed: 19 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

Recommendation from the Environment Committee: Melanie Peterson-Nafziger

Statement of Support for Strong Clean Energy Jobs Legislation, to Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Proposed Resolution: *As trustees for our community, we call on you to work for passage of strong climate and clean energy jobs legislation in 2010. A strong bill is vital to curbing global warming, clearing our air, increasing energy independence, reducing consumers' utility bills, and creating new green jobs in the renewable energy sector. Immediate solutions to climate change are needed to protect Minnesota's northern forests and the Boundary Waters, which scientists say are at risk from warmer and more severe weather, drought, and invasive species because of global warming.*

Strong legislation should include the following:

- *Ensure that we meet reduction targets by reducing global warming pollution from ~~old, dirty power plants~~ **outdated power plants** from old, dirty power plants;*
- *Retain the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate global warming emissions;*
- *Increase renewable energy and energy efficiency standards to create clean energy jobs;*
- *Invest more in clean energy and protecting consumers, communities, and natural resources.*
- *We urge the Senate to strengthen, defend, and pass a strong clean energy jobs bill. Passing a bill this year is a much-needed response both to the climate crisis and to the persistent need for new Minnesotan jobs. It's time to transition away from dirty fossil fuels and toward a new clean energy economy of which we can all be proud.*

The Proposed Resolution wording came from the Sierra Club.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion: There was rich discussion about the language used and the overall resolution. Lauren confirmed that it was sent to many organizations, including district councils in St. Paul and similar organizations in the Twin Cities. Gregg Curtis suggested a friendly amendment to the language, replacing "from old, dirty power plants" to "outdated power plants". After additional discussion, a vote was taken on the resolution.

Resolution Failed: 6 yea, 16 nay, 0 abstention

A motion was made: Recommendation that the MGCC Board of Directors send the Proposed Resolution back to the Environmental Committee to rewrite with language that is reflective of our Board discussion.

Resolution Passed: 22 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

Executive Director Report: Afton Martens

- Green Mill: Green Mill went through a change in one part of their ownership – a new partner came in. This required an approval of their liquor license with no changes. The Executive Committee gave their support to this change.
- KidsPark Update: Carnival will be held on Saturday, June 12th.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Community Outreach Neighbor Rep meeting on June 15th
 - New Board Member Training
 - Special elections for Grids 3 and 5 and Educational Representative at the July meeting
- City Contract is complete. High Winds Fund funding will be requested in June; St. Thomas funding has been requested.
- Battle of the Bands: the Play Dough Project was the winner

Recycling & Environmental Coordinator Report: Lauren Anderson

- Recap of Clean Up: Very successful. 450 to 500 vehicles. \$10,180 collected. A lot of metals, bikes & electronics.
- Plant Share: May 15th. High attendance from neighbors. Collected \$403.
- Golden Shoes (Mac Grove Moves): still some out there!
- Alley Garden Awards: June 28th through July 1st – nominations. Judging will start on July 2nd. Training for judges is required.
- Composting Pilot: Media event to be held on June 23rd at 11 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Krech, Secretary

Attendance:

First	Last	June
Jane	Amberg	x
Matt	Beaver	x
Gena	Berglund	x
Richard	Broderick	x
Joel	Clemmer	no
Kellie	Connor	x
Michelle	Crain	x
Susan	Crumb	x
Gregg	Curtis	x
Todd	Curtis	x
Mary	Davis	x
Mike	DeCourcy, Jr.	no
Jack	Fei	x
John	Haggenmiller	x
Mike	Kowski	no
Joyce	Krech	x
Jay	MacBride	x
Steve	Matysik	x
Lou	Michaels	x
Melanie	Peterson-Nafziger	x
Lorin	Velikonja	x
Leo	Viktora	x