

MINUTES
Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)
September 8, 2011

President Joel Clemmer called the meeting to order promptly at 6:45 p.m.

Attendance

A quorum was reached.

Present: Fei, G. Curtis, Gerhardstein, Belmares, Shoemake, Davis, Allison, Clemmer, T. Curtis, Cledwyn, Sweeney, Lundmark, , Viktora, Connor, Hartberg, Peterson-Nafziger, Albrecht, Kowski, Krech, Papageorge.

Absent: Haggemiller, MacBride, Redmond, Wilcox.

Minutes

A motion was moved, seconded and passed to amend the June 2011 Minutes to change some language regarding the St. Thomas liquor application, the e-democracy Mac-Groveland forum, and a typographic was removed. A motion to approve the amended June 2011 minutes was moved, seconded and passed.

Addition to Agenda

Dennis Gehardstein requested and was granted a minute to address a topic under "other business."

Board member profile

Ericka Belmares: Ericka (Franscisca) grew up in St. Paul and attended Harding High School. She has two sisters, one is her twin sister. She studied at UMD for a few years, then spent some time studying at Metro State, but is now working on a degree in the culinary department at the Art Institute. She discovered this culinary calling while working for the past 5 years at our neighborhood coffee shop—Coffee Bene.' She has been the general manager there for the past year and decided to become a part of the MGCC board because she loves the neighborhood and wanted to get involved with the community.

KidsPark Update – Erica Kragerud Smith

KIDSPARK is now dealing with the details of filing the paperwork to become independent of MGCC. They continue to work on acquiring 501c3 tax status.

Enrollment numbers are still looking good. They had an anticipated drop in June, but got an uptick in August. The numbers are up from where they were last year at this time.

Presidents report, Joel Clemmer:

Change to the by-laws:

MGCC meeting went from “executive board meeting” into a special “general membership meeting” (which included the three neighbors present) in order to vote on the bylaws change.

The MGCC Bylaws previously stated: The seat of any director who has declared candidacy for public office will automatically be vacated.

The MGCC Executive Committee recommended the following renewed bylaw (Article V. Section 3): A Board member or committee chair may not campaign for nor hold a salaried, elective office. A Board member or committee chair under consideration for appointment to a non-partisan public office who does not conduct a public, partisan campaign may retain their position with MGCC until such time as they commence such a campaign.

The motion was moved by Bob Shoemake and seconded by Mike Kowski. Discussion held in which all members voiced favorable opinions regarding the change-- “a good idea,” “seems reasonable and straightforward,” additionally, “the change supports our mission of fostering citizen participation in our community.”

A hand vote was held to assure a 2/3 majority had been reached. The motion passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to revert back to a regular executive board meeting, as opposed to general membership meeting.

Personnel policies Motion to adopt the distributed proposed policy, as changed.

Discussion had on whether the day after Thanksgiving is considered a ‘holiday.’ Staff indicated it previously had been a “floating holiday.” Now, it is included in one of their total number of vacation days. Discussion also had on bereavement leave, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to change the bereavement leave so that it is “left to the discretion of the employee’s supervisor.”

Special Election: At-Large Business Representative: Although several people expressed interest in the position, no one showed up to the meeting. Steve Matysik (once again) graciously declined to be considered for the position. Steve already does a lot of work for MGCC in his role as HLU chairperson and his work with GABA.

Clean-up Events: After much discussion on whether we want to continue to offer two clean ups or only one, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, as a result of the MGCC Fall 2010 Retreat, it was requested that Staff & Exec Committee review the efficacy of continuing both a Spring & Fall Cleanup event (Events), and,

WHEREAS, an analysis has determined that only 2 of the last 7 Fall Events 'cost' MGCC a nominal amount (would not have 'cost' MGCC anything IF MGCC had hosted the Spring Event) and number of participants/tonnage collected were nominally the same in both Fall & Spring, and,

WHEREAS, these events appear to be mutually beneficial to residents of MGCC & HDC, and,

WHEREAS, it is ASSUMED that MGCC & HDC can continue to obtain use of a site for cleanups AND ENLIST SUBSTANTIAL and ADEQUATE VOLUNTEERS to staff two (2) cleanups per year,

THEREFORE Be It Resolved, that MGCC will continue to offer/participate in BOTH a Spring and Fall Cleanup Event,

FURTHER, Be It Resolved, that the MGCC Board directs its Executive Committee and Staff to pursue discussions with HDC with regard to which event each organization "Leads" in order to minimize costs with the goal of making the events 'break-even' for each Council.

All board members are encouraged to volunteer for at least one clean up/ year.

Social Event:

Sept. 23 @ Sheila Sweeney's home for board members and committee chairs. Formal e-vites were previously sent.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dennis Gerhardstein made an announcement regarding a fundraiser. Flyers were distributed.

Adjourned 8:04.