

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
SAPCC

In Attendance: Betty Wheeler, Steve Yetter, Michael Russelle, Stephen Mastey, Sarah Goodspeed

6:30	<p>Introductions, approve agenda, minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 28 and August 23 minutes, Stephen move, Betty second.</li> </ul>	Approve all
6:45	<p>MPCA Air Monitoring Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with 3 MPCA staff, Kari, Lisa, Derek, about results of air monitoring near Community Garden. If monitoring exceeds benchmark is worth looking into to mitigate, if exceeds standard must act. Arsenic and Cobalt exceeds benchmark on 21/28% of samples, could be noise, formaldehyde exceeds benchmark on all samples. With one year of data hard to draw statistical conclusions. Never included in online updates, automatic reporting of PM2.5, new lab analysis only now available. Likely cobalt source in neighborhood, looking into emissions inventory. Formaldehyde commonly high across twin cities, typical from combustion/wood fires, not much to do with that. Arsenic in soils can pick up in dust, wind. Loosely carcinogenic, not causally linked. Willing to come speak with community after turn of year. Would this be worth including as data point/appendix to 10-year plan? Call out talking about air quality, ultimately may be considered baseline for improvement. Last 10-year plan did have air quality goal adopted by City, one strategy to create baseline and monitoring program to achieve measurable goals, target businesses and other programs to achieve goals. Linking to GIS database. 2018 monitoring will be looking at criteria pollutants in each zip code, likely within district. Share MnRisks comparisons with IHB spatial modeling (vs. monitoring).</li> </ul>	
7:30	<p>10-year planning - review previous discussion, survey results, equity scorecard, draft timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael drafted list of priorities developed through previous committee work. Approach to use same titles from city comp plan and Macalester model. Mike Richardson (PED) encourage steering committee to add new topics, Met Council encourages climate change and resiliency, affordable housing, new kinds of topics, which Michael has mixed into previous categories. Also drawn from Transition Town groups working on resilience, water, zero waste, and transportation. A lot from our previous draft was not approved by city, but revisiting goals and Karlyn's draft from May. Next will pull out community feedback separately for Environment, run through Equity Scorecard.</li> <li>• Not wordsmithing tonight, focus on ideas and issues. Community feedback sessions in mid-November, send drafts to PED in December, will incorporate edits for April deadline.</li> <li>• Climate resilience – more public spaces with AC, drinking water, how to address air quality affects on asthma, respiratory conditions.</li> </ul>	Update

Heat waves, high humidity.

- Flooding, rainfall events – less risk in SAP, but passed onto neighbors, Midway floods, still experience lack of drainage, infiltration, more raingardens, gutters flood alleys, french drains, not pass it on, think of neighbors in larger rain events. Identify low-lying streets, basement flooding, mold, indoor air quality, unprepared properties connect with SRC, NEC, CEF, think of whole-house, older homes, other resources or incentives. New development stormwater planning. Include ventilation with energy retrofits, heat recovery ventilator mold abatement. Rainbarrel education, not overflowing next to house. Raingardens get water away from house. CRWD grants, look at map of watershed, see areas of other districts with concentrations of raingardens, we have a few on Raymond, more collaboration with watershed for education, maintenance. Developer guidelines increase stormwater, sustainability requirements. CRWD map shows existing stormwater capture, limited spots throughout neighborhood. Stormwater fees reduced for runoff treatment, St. Paul has standard for type of property by size, possible role for Council to help navigate reduced fees, increase education for lower assessments.
- Contributes to Sarita wetland north of Como, CRWD southern part. Kasota ponds in MWMO. Water quality protection, street sweeping education, measurable goals.
- Limit noise and light pollution, new developments have more floodlights pointed at neighbors, no ordinance to reduce, developers want exterior lighting, point down, thoughtful, lights everywhere by UHaul, etc. Brownfields developing into affordable housing safely.
- Question about increasing urban wildlife, turkey flocks, coyotes, foxes, rabbits, raccoons, how to manage, improve habitat, mosquitos, biodiversity responsibly. Bee-bird-bat friendly habitat as well, raptors, housecats not really feral cats. Water fowl at Kasota Ponds, muskrats, improve water quality.
- Top pollution concerns from community feedback noise, air, trees, green space. Increase urban canopy in South, parts of North, by 40-60% reported by City. Trees address heat, air and noise pollution, food and habitat. State Law to protect solar resources for energy production, choose shorter trees that won't block roofs, etc, still gives canopy cover. With changing climate also risk increased die-off of urban canopy, more insect blight, diseases, need to replace. Dead trees at risk of causing property damage, also need to financially support removal of dead trees. Connect to Urban Wood to donate. Can trees be harvested for fuel to district energy plant, Mdewakonton biomass plant, or area mulch/compost if not contagious. Facilitate organized "bulk" harvesting. NEC give low-interest loan for tree planting on private property? Many without resources, more seniors on fixed income, more at risk for impact. Support for aging in home, snow removal, etc. talk with SAPAS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway lid over 280 as green space, discussed 10-years ago, Tom Fisher back in Land Use, in Edina property value can justify, Rondo historical justice.</li> <li>• Sustainable approaches to multiuse boulevards includes volunteering to maintain projects, filter silt in raingardens, etc.</li> <li>• Urban gardening - city ordinance allows chicken coops, not being encouraged, any rabbit hutches? Goats? Organized collecting, gleaning for food and fertilizer. Beekeeping allowed. Incredible Edible (Nadine Horchner) efforts on multiuse boulevards, Deep Winter Greenhouse at Community Garden, more area and take back if roofers leave, distributed food production, connect with Food Justice program to reduce food desert.</li> <li>• Forestry – tighten tree protections, enforcement. Clarify ROW protocol. Balance tree cover with solar coverage. High priority for community feedback, especially increasing trees and green space in SSAP.</li> <li>• Concepts in equity scorecard less applicable to environment directly, shows process for community inclusion, ask questions about how strategies impact different communities, how pollution affects those most at risk, how resources are invested for POC.</li> <li>• Considering highlighting climate change rather than bury/integrate into existing categories. Theme throughout, like “equity in all we do” note in preamble, highlight in different color or sidebar, logo like spicy items on menu not reliant on color. Connect with transportation, reducing SOV, electric infrastructure, etc.</li> </ul>	
8:15	<p>Other updates - waste, Green to Go, Transition Town, MWMO/CRWD grants, board elections Oct-Nov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Betsy attended healthy communities workshop related to transportation, met Julia Wolfe (Healthy Aging RCPH) offers presentation or conversation with her office. Experience with economically disadvantaged folks, ie Seal?</li> <li>• Transition Town community meeting about emergency preparedness, City staff talk about shelters, emergency response teams, Ramsey Sheriff CERTs training, evacuation plans, weather emergencies, household emergency kits, bugout bags, preparation.</li> <li>• Elections coming up, currently 8, room for 15, lots to do, learn a lot, contribute to governance of neighborhood. Recruit more committee members as well. Business/industry includes nonprofits, self-employed.</li> <li>• MWMO has supported planning grants for out-of-district projects, mini grant and action grants coming up, best if shovel-ready. Fencing needs, can be part of the matching funds, MnDOT approval on 280. Easy things like buckthorn removal. Ramsey-Washington more money can support planning. Maintain raingardens. CRWD for engagement, education.</li> </ul>	Update
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