

Saint Anthony Park Community Council

Environment Committee Minutes

May 24, 2017

In attendance: Stephen Mastey, Betty Wheeler, Michael Russelle, Karlyn Eckman, Steve Yetter

Staff: Cailin Rogers

<p><b>7:17 pm Minutes and Agenda</b></p> <p>Betty moved to approve the minutes and the agenda. Michael seconded. It passed unanimously.</p>	<p>This will be Cailin's last Environment Committee meeting.</p>
<p><b>7:21 pm JOTP Park</b></p> <p>Cailin shared a letter from JOTP on the artificial turf planning. Stephen has been meeting with staff at JOTP about the project planning for the turf. Stephen shared concerns over how quickly stormwater will go into the Mississippi River with the proposed plan. He has proposed an alternative system that will store ten inches of stormwater in a single event. He would also like to capture 3/4 of the rain off the top of the building. The plans he has could capture most of the rain off the top of the building in a 5 inch rain fall. The MPCA is willing to do free monitoring on this project. This process would also tie up phosphorus by the steel in the tire shreddings which has important environmental impacts by keeping phosphorus out of the watershed.</p> <p>Stephen has concerns over the recyclability and recycled nature of the products being used here. There are enough environmental impacts that this project needs more involvement.</p> <p>Capital Region Watershed District is willing to put in funding in order to capture treat water on site.</p> <p>This is a public space and public land so the environmental issues need to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Stephen has been speaking with Alice Messer at Parks and Rec to reconfigure this project but there are a number of moving parts here and several groups to get on the same page.</p> <p>Stephen is suggesting breaking a 27 inch pipe in the park in anticipation of the re-do of Territorial Road that could help with watershed management issues on this site. The funding coming from projects like this could help with other work to improve the site.</p>	

<p>Stephen suggests that this project also regrade and reseed the field and put in an irrigation system.</p> <p>Hopefully the funding for the project to put nicer products in this space will come from the watershed treatment.</p> <p>The plans will need to be revised and resubmitted to the City so we may have an opportunity to give some input again. Stephen's hope is that with the free money coming from different places that the rec center itself can have some upgrades (i.e. taking care of water damage issues).</p> <p>This does not need to come to a resolution, Stephen is just updating the group on the possibilities.</p> <p>Betty wondered amount the of water capture that would be increased with Stephen's plans. The answer Stephen gave is about half an acre at half a foot. It will also come with good monitoring work so we know what is in the water there which will be important data.</p>	
<p><b>8:22 pm Ten Year Plan</b></p> <p>Our ten year comp plan will be judged against the City comp plan and what the City wants to put in their next comp plan. Michael read out portions of the adopted plan for the committee to consider putting into our new plan.</p> <p>Comp plans have to do with our contract with the City. When the City approves it and leaves it in the plan, it means that we are getting support from them to do the work.</p> <p>We should include water, parks, alternative energy, and more in our comp plan. The group walked through what the Environment Committee at Mac Groveland put into their comp plan.</p> <p>Interesting pieces of the Mac Groveland plan include district grid, solar roadways, informational campaigns on pesticides and insecticides, and gray water usage.</p> <p>There are good goals in the Mac Groveland plan that can be used as a foundation for our ten year plan.</p> <p>We have other issues and resources than Mac Groveland that need to make it into the plan.</p> <p>If our goals are similar to Mac Groveland and other district councils, it helps echo those goals and gives them more legitimacy in the eyes of the City.</p> <p>We can come up with great ideas on our own, but we also need to engage the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Members of the committee need to look at the Mac Groveland plan and identify what is missing from their plan that we want in ours and what we like from theirs. Members should also look at our current ten year plan and see what needs to be continued.</p> <p>Michael to send out the Mac Groveland plan.</p> <p>Stephen to ask about seed packets to give out to attendees at movie nights. The upcoming movie nights include June 10, July 15, and August 12.</p> <p>The group needs to come up with lists of maps that we will need to include in</p>

<p>Noise pollution and maybe the state fair will need to go into this.</p> <p>We can do engagement with seed packets at a movie night to hand out to neighborhood residents.</p> <p>There are about five air quality indicators that are above established health limits. One of them is heavy metals. This will need to be a component of our ten year plan. We have asked the MPCA to come to the September meeting.</p> <p>We could potentially stamp the seed packets with a link for the ten year plan.</p> <p>The maps we need for the ten year plan will need to be decided quite soon. We already know that we need to have maps of the slopes that are 12% or more.</p> <p>These will include: a map of the ponds, the green space in the neighborhood, the community gardens and the prairie. Maybe we have a whole environmental assets map that we ask for.</p> <p>We want big and electronic maps for the ten year plan.</p> <p>We want to think about the things we want for the next ten years as well. Something like the map that exists for solar rooftops because we have so much flat space on rooftops. We should display that information in order to make it easier for people to invest in solar.</p>	<p>the plan. People need to turn in their map ideas in the next two weeks.</p>
<p><b>8:54 pm Kasota Ponds Work</b></p> <p>Someone appears to be cleaning up the dumping that is going on around the ponds continually and fairly immediately.</p> <p>We would like to see the area be a more public place, clean enough and safe enough to have the public spend time in.</p> <p>Cailin suggested drafting a letter to the MWMO about the goals for Kasota Ponds. We could reach out to Ramsey County Conservation District, SECIA, and the CRWD and put the visions they have for that space into the letter. We also need to include Towerside</p>	<p>Stephen is going to reach out to RCCD and CRWD.</p>
<p><b>9:03 pm Other</b></p> <p>Michael shared from a meeting he attended about water quality. Rain gardens need maintenance included in grant proposals. It's about \$1/square foot for maintenance. Marcus from Met Council shared about issues with wastewater maintenance. Inflow comes from the surface and infiltration has holes in the pipes or breaks in the pipe. 20% of the flow comes from that. The Met Council is working on grants for integrated solutions to process the water from this.</p>	<p>We will need to revisit this next month.</p>

<p>We can explore some funding for submeter piping and stormwater pipe changes.</p> <p>Trust for Public Land is going to have a Gathering for Our Future Park Thursday May 24th from 4:00-7:00pm.</p> <p>It would be interesting to partner with the Trust for Public Land on funding some aspects of the new Weyerhauser site for the park. They are already collaborating with the City of St. Paul on funding a park. Maybe the Environment Committee can have them come to a future meeting.</p>	
<p><b>9:15 pm Adjourn</b></p>	