Joint SAPCC/SECIA Environment Committee Minutes

March 25th, 2015

7:00pm-9:00pm

Staff: Cailin Rogers, Ricardo McCurley, Suyapa Miranda

In attendance: Susanne Maeder, Calder Hibbard, Kathy Knudson, Ray Bryan, Frank Adelmann, Wanjiru Mugo, Michael Russelle, Ayman Mohamed, Stever Yetter, Daniel Sarasti, Jake Jacobi, Matt Hass, Barb Spears, A. Johnson, Wendy Menken, Stephn Hankerson, Charlene Sundermann

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| Introductions  Approve Agenda | Both organizations introduced themselves and their respective committee members. |
| Emerald Ash Borer | Staff members from the City of Minneapolis and City of St. Paul Forestry Departments presented on the risks of Emerald Ash Borer. Both Cities and both neighborhoods struggle with EAB infestation and the need to cut down all infested trees. The City of St. Paul presented on the spraying schedule they keep Ash trees on (a three year rotation) to try to help protect at-risk trees. Both Cities have plans to take out infected trees over the next several years before they succumb to the pest. They mark the trees before they get taken out and re-plant in the fall or spring following.  Another future concern is the Chinese Longhorned beetle that attacks Maple trees among others. The Forestry Departments will continue to monitor the beetle as it moves towards the area although it has not yet infested anything here. |
| Bike Routes MSP | The group discussed the Grand Round project among other pertinent issues involving multi-modality and bike lanes. Both groups support increased advocacy around bike lanes. |
| Train Car Safety | City staff gave an update on the dangers that exist with the oil tanker trains that go through the MSP area. As other areas have seen, when accidents happen, major explosions wipe out large swaths of an urban area. Because the train lines go through populated places (like SE Como), many residents are at risk. The majorly affected areas fall within .5 miles of the train line if an accident occurs. This puts thousands of people and properties at risk. Little has been done on this issue. |
| Como Ave. Reconstruction | Cailin gave a brief update on SAPCC’s monitoring and desire to do public outreach on the planned 2017 Como Ave. reconstruction. |
| Interactive Industrial History Map | Susanne from CURA presented on a year long collaboration with SECIA to map the environmental and industrial history of the area from Sanborn maps. SECIA will have an interactive map on their website soon that will show the history of each site and the environmental degradation and any known actions taken to fix it. |
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