Saint Anthony Park Community Council

Environment Committee Meeting

Lori’s Coffeehouse

March 27, 2019

1. April 2018 public session on air and soil quality.

This public meeting was at the SPNN studio. SPNN recorded the meeting and has aired it 59 times since then. Link: youtu.be/Lhd0JEQ7nzY

**Suggestion:** Community Council use URL shortening. This would allow monitoring number of views. Steve Yetter suggested that *all* of the community outreach items should get a shorten URL, so they are easy. He said he thinks we need to coordinate this with the Board, so they can establish a standard policy on this.

2. Raymond Station apartments project – petroleum contamination

This is an active MPCA site at southwest corner of University Avenue and Hampden Avenue. The building is proposed as slab on grade. Environment Committee’s effort to get a ground water map around Minnesota Chemical should be extended to this site. This is an example of challenges to expect when building in an industrial area.

Should Environment Committee invite MPCA to discuss this at one of our meetings? No, focus first on ground water mapping and getting a larger neighborhood view of pollution plumes that affect not only new development but also existing structures.

Watershed districts probably would be more interested in ground water than particular chemicals.

**Stephen** will ask American Testing what data they found when they recently installed a stormwater system.

Karlyn mentioned the pollution from the old Elm Street Ash Dump, which shows 2 significant plumes. She also noted that, during remediation efforts, some portion of the pollutants become airborne. The committee poses this question for consideration: Should we ask the MPCA for public notice when a pollution site within the neighborhood is undergoing remediation?

3. Kasota Ponds cleanup Saturday, April 27 (Saturday after Earth Day).

Rain date Sunday, April 28.

Steve Yetter is maintaining and monitoring the task list, but we can all add tasks and edit it, as we complete our tasks. The task list is on a the following Google sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1c8T3QKGvQGgsLc\_eB49xVeMPqwO3Q\_Wlypfb1AynxH4/edit?ts=5c7ed615#gid=0

**Michael Russelle** has printed flyers to post in the neighborhood. He said he will also post notice of the event on the neighborhood list serve.

**Steve Yetter** will send out an email to all those who have attended in the past.

**Lisa Habeck** volunteered to post flyers at businesses around the neighborhood.

**Betty Wheeler** sent an article to the Bugle, and it will be published in the May issue, which will come out 4 days before the event. (Her article was overlooked for the April issue.)

Stephen Mastey asked that we include that he is giving a tour of the buckthorn removal and our other efforts at improving the water quality and habitat of the ponds. That information has already been submitted for the Bugle article.

Kathryn Murray has contacted the city, to pick up the trash after the event. She is also coordinating the food donations. **Michael** will contact the railroads. We could write a flyer about the cleanup and add “We would sure love your help”, to deliver to the local companies in the immediate area of the ponds. **Margot Monson** will do an educational activity.

Buckthorn removal from north and east side of main pond will occur Friday, March 29. **Karlyn** will mark the hard stem bulrush before the buckthorn removal, so it is not cut down. Getting that grant project completed will allow **Stephen** to submit second grant application for removing buckthorn from west pond.

4. Wood fire smoke and other emissions

Michael is getting more information about inversions and how they affect the dispersion of smoke. Should the neighborhood be notified when there will be a temperature inversion, when air quality could deteriorate? We added the problem of wood fire smoke into our goals in our 10 Year Plan.

An additional air quality issue is caused by Ettel and Franz Roofing, which has tankers (for hot-applied roofs) that emit odors while parked in their lot.

5. West Rock paper recycler

West Rock has significant emissions of greenhouse gases and air toxics. Its location in South SAP is close to many new apartment buildings. Michael has inquiries in to MPCA. Kathryn Murray says it appears that West Rock is open to offering a tour.

6. Unified design standard

An effort is underway to unify the design guidelines of Prospect Park Association, Towerside, SAP Community Council, and others near us. Comments on the draft standard are invited from Environment Committee members – send to Sherm Eagles, chair of Land Use Committee.

7. Air quality monitoring

Betty reported that Bang Brewery or another South SAP site will likely be the site of another MPCA air quality monitoring station this year.

8. Planning for Cleveland Avenue construction

Trees will be lost. How many depends on which of four options is chosen. One option could keep most trees on campus side. The committee will write a request that trees replaced along Cleveland during the 2020-2021 rebuild be a diverse mixture of primarily native tree species. **Stephen** will send out the proposed plans, and committee members will seek consensus by email to make recommendation to Transportation Committee.

What is committee’s preference on having a rain garden in the triangle within Cleveland, Raymond, and Scudder? How large will it be? We would want to have input on the mix of plants (preferably natives and pollinator-friendly) for that area, too, especially if they are asking our neighborhood to handle the maintenance.