

St Anthony Park Community Council  
Environment Committee meeting  
July 24, 2019, Nico's on Como

Present: Tim Wulling, Stephen Mastey, Michael Russelle

Absent a quorum, we discussed several items from the agenda, but made no decisions.

Stephen reported that they had used some of the soil removed at the site next to Hampden Park Coop to the hill next to the Joy of the People buildings. Several score of oak seedlings have appeared, but despite Stephen's attempt to protect them, many have been mowed. He continues to work with Parks and Recreation to protect these native seedlings. He is working with a professor in the Forestry Department of the U of MN to develop a student project on this serendipitous establishment of a small oak grove from hyper-locally-sourced acorns.

Stephen reported that there were communication failures with property owners along Como Avenue regarding care of the newly transplanted trees. The City requires that property owners care for boulevard trees, yet some did not receive or follow guidelines regarding watering. As he understands, the City will wait until next spring to evaluate whether trees that appear dead will recover. Stephen will talk with Zack Jorgensen to learn whether the City still has water bags they will distribute, and, if so, will ask Kathryn to notify property owners that they are available.

Michael learned from John Shepard that noise from the maintenance work on the water tower at Cleveland and Dowell had been reduced and, furthermore, that the work was completed a month ahead of schedule.

There was no update on whether Kathryn or Emily have been able to contact landlords and renters about the Multi-Family Building Efficiency program or others offered through the Center on Energy and Environment.

Michael discussed the vision and activity of the Committee on Energy Resilience and Sustainability at the Zvago Saint Anthony Park housing co-op. They are hoping to have a whole-building energy audit and are investigating deep energy retrofits and a possible solar photovoltaic array on the roof.

Tim said he has a goal of convincing the developers of the Luther Seminary lower campus area to meet the Saint Paul Climate Action Plan. We met this idea with enthusiasm and discussed ways to help him achieve it.

Michael plans to make revisions to the draft Community Plan next week for consideration by the Board and committee members. We also discussed progress on the 2019 Committee goals.

Stephen reported that the ecological restoration work is well underway at Kasota Ponds. The Boy Scouts will be removing volunteer weedy species.

