
DRAFT MINUTES

**Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Environment Committee
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Hybrid meeting, via Zoom and at Union Flats, St. Anthony Park**

Present: Corey Butler, Val Cervenka, Rennie Gaither (co-chair), Michael Russelle (co-chair), Patricia Ohmans, Manu Junermann, Kerry Morgan, Ryan Murphy

Visitor: Mike Lukes (MWMO Commissioner representing St. Paul)

Regrets: Karlyn Eckman, Lizzy Logas-Lindstrom, Lisa Habeck, Aaron Hinz

6:10 pm — Meeting called to order

Land acknowledgement — Rennie

Introductions

Eco Fair report — Rennie

- Como Park District Council sponsored it on Sat., August 13; it is the brainchild of Jennifer Victor-Larsen (District 10 board member and founder of Donate Good Stuff)
 - Rennie attended for 4 hours, Lizzy could not come
 - Description: 12 vendors, 4k race took place before, only food items were apples and bananas
 - Rennie sponsored table about recycling, had a game (what goes to trash, compost, recycling)
 - Good opportunity to talk to people about a range of issues, from rent stabilization to composting, make connections and share information
 - Next year, as a committee, what would we like to see at the table? Get more resources there. We should brainstorm what we want to participate
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- Mike: Eco Fair at the State Fair might offer some ideas of things to promote
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- Patricia has organized a similar event, the Frogtown Carnival, on Sat., August 20; had more people, thanks to food and promotion, many more children
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New MWMO Commissioner — Mike Lukes

- Michael: MWMO has large granting programs, St. Paul has a very small sliver
- Received grants before for buckthorn removal (Karlyn and Stephen Massey wrote them)
- Kasota Ponds have fair amount of buckthorn still; excess salinity, from runoff from the roads and parking lots, very difficult to get rid of, would have to dilute it
- Runoff in the ponds, some connection between the ponds, pipes, eventually goes to stormwater system, Bridal Veil Falls study has been done, large document, interconnection of wetlands, these are remnants of the wetlands, north pond used to be an ash dump, also hospital waste, heavy metals, glass shards, and at the south end of creosote and petroleum products
- Goal is to clean it up and make it more public, want to support wildlife, three types of turtles, lots of invertebrates
- MWMO did long-term study, summarized 2018 or 2019, 5-year study, conclusion: need to find rate of inflow of water, there is a spring in the east pond, would like to increase it or the outflow rate; Aaron Hinz (grad student on EC) suggested setting up a solar powered desalination station, use solar-powered pump; good idea; have to be in middle of the pond; Aaron has connections to someone who has created that sort of system before
- Corey: better signage, discourage dumping
- Michael: there is some signage, had one made, complicated as the property has different owners: city, Napa Auto Parts, etc.
- Val: use buckthorn blaster?
- Patricia: Great River Association is working on buckthorn removal at Frogtown Green Farm, no herbicides can be used, cutting and bagging and goating (year 2)
- Mike: MWMO grant options are \$30-50K for community, planning, action
- Grant workshop this week and then in September - see MWMO website: <https://www.mwmo.org/events/stewardship-fund-grants-information-session-2/>
- Can we hire anyone? Conservation core?
- Kerry: Could we seek out help from Friends of the Mississippi River? They recently published a two-year study about different processes for buckthorn removal, see here: <https://fmr.org/conservation-updates/reduce-buckthorn-and-preserve-native-plants-study-results>

Rain Garden Maintenance Grant update — Kerry and Val

- Kerry has been in touch with Matt Wildenauer; he agrees that the Raymond/Ellis site cannot be improved as all the dogwood died; perhaps it is too dry? We need to get another grant to see that it is redone.
- Michael: Bayless does not drain well, but the city worked on it
- Kerry: Matt will be providing a summary of the maintenance he can do/oversee for us at the Raymond/Bayless site; he intended to get it to us by this meeting but he is up north and without computer access until later this week.

- EC can do maintenance via trash clean up at Ellis site, but focus will be on Bayless site this fall; have until Dec. 1 to submit request for reimbursement up to \$2K from CRWD
 - Michael: Need a summary/assessment before next CRWD grant cycle, convince them to fix Ellis pond, delay maintenance
 - Patricia: Check to see if Rachel Funke from CRWD will look at the Ellis rain garden for her input
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100 Trees Initiative — Manu

- Talked to Ben Shadlow, associated with Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), he did a fundraiser to raise \$ for a watering trailer, Mike Gunderson donated \$1K to get a trailer, not yet fully funded; general concern about the high number of trees that are dying
 - Kerry: The CEZ is organizing the watering of trees every Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m.; received an email from Angela Casselton about watering; not sure where they meet, what the process is, etc.
 - Val: The north Territorial dead trees have been removed, she corresponded with Ben
 - Manu knows people who would be willing to help water, as would other EC committee members; Kerry will email Angela to make sure our EC committee members are on the emails about watering
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Ice Cream Social planning, Sept. 17, 2 to 5 pm — Kerry, Bill, others

- Kerry read the info from the overview email that Jessica sent to SAPCC board members:
 - [Interactive Art](#) by Springboard for the Arts
 - Music by the Hampden Park Rounders
 - Kiwanis Malts (packaged in compostable cups/lids)
 - Storytime from the SAP Library
 - Tabling by local organization: **Confirmed** - Parks and Rec, Cities Health Care, First Responders, **Waiting** - CRWD, SAP Seniors, 100 Trees
 - Committee tables and interactive activities
 - Michael: Flyering is essential; would be good if people in apartments passed out flyers or spread the info, post at entrances of buildings
 - Manu – best approach is to use the neighborhood app and the list serv; she thinks it is difficult to reach people in her apartment building with flyers; talking to residents in elevators works better!
 - Schedule of flyering:
 - September 8th | 10am-11:30am - Flyering for Ice Cream Social
 - September 11th | 2-3:30pm - Flyering for Ice Cream Social
 - September 13th | 6-7:30pm - Flyering for Ice Cream Social
 - *Meet at Hampden Park and go out from there.

The Equity Committee will be out flyering in the neighborhood on the dates above and you're welcome to join them, but if you're able to flyer on your own, or help post flyers at local businesses, apartment buildings, or in other public spaces, please let Jessica know and she will make sure you get enough flyers. Jessica's email: jessica@sapcc.org
 - Suggested that the flyers and info be in Somali; would be helpful to have it in Spanish too
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- Jessica is looking for help with dairy free options
 - Suggestions: Looking for Sweet Frusi, Minnesota Nice Cream
- Each committee will have a table to highlight activities, volunteer needs, etc.
- Environment Committee table: Need to print out photos – Kathryn has some; Kerry is willing to take that on
- Kerry: EC needs to provide text, image, and color suggestions to Jessica Lopez Lyman by Friday, 8/26
 - Text for poster:
 - Saint Anthony Park Community + logo
 - Options:
 - We are all connected
 - Together we thrive
 - A Place for Everyone
 - There is room for everybody – image of mixed prairie?
 - Kerry will work with artist to decide on color and text

Chimney Swift Tower

- **Update from Karlyn with in-process photos by Bill Delanis**
 - We'll need to dig a hole, pour some concrete and set the tower in the concrete. Will try to connect with Bill today to check on his schedule and get a few possible dates/times that work for him.
 - We'll need a few folks to dig the hole for the cement and help with installation. We should also figure out what to do with the excavated dirt (maybe a wheelbarrow or two in volume?). Looking forward to seeing this go up!
- **Comments:**
 - Going to be a tall tower! Will it be painted? Who will paint it? Design?
 - What is the timeline?
 - Bill will talk to Sandstone about delivering the concrete
 - Val will recruit a couple of people from her condo association to help dig the hole
 - Val will send email to Karlyn, copying Ryan, Manu, and Corey on it as they are interested in helping but need more details

Cleveland Ave. Tree - Michael

- Requests for Phase 2 of Cleveland Ave.
- We were asking for documents, engineering drawings, etc., and the County never responded to the request.
- Found on the Ramsey County data site the 130-page Request for Bids, so all that they need is there.

- Michael read through the document, sent the county an updated suggestion (complete with drawings!) that they get rid of the in-road bike lanes and make the most narrow road bed as possible.
- No one has responded, after 3 weeks.
- Corey: Tree list is finalized, will not plant any cottonwood; sent list to city as the boulevards are city property, not county; final list is in the EC Google Drive for our reference

West Rock Tour - Manu

- Need to make a date in September or October, she will resend out the list of Tuesday evening options

Approval of last meeting's minutes - The minutes from the July meeting were approved: motion by Corey and seconded by Rennie; no objections

Next meeting, Sept. 28, 6 to 8 p.m.

Union Flats (Manu will check on availability)
SAP Library as backup