

DRAFT MINUTES

**Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Environment Committee
Wednesday, September 28, 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), Kerry Morgan, Lisa Habeck, Ryan Murphy, Karlyn Eckman, Manu Junemann, Aaron Hinz

Visitor: Mike Lukes (MWMO Commissioner representing St. Paul), Brad Engleman (SAP resident)

Regrets: Lizzy Logas-Lindstrom, Patricia Ohmans

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Land acknowledgement - Rennie

Introductions

Approve August minutes – Corey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Val. No objections.

Raingarden maintenance - Kerry and Val

- Organized 4 days of maintenance: 9/29, 9/30, 10/2 and 10/3
- Have 7 people signed up outside of EC committee members, approx. 48 hours of community service should be completed (toward the 80 that we need for the CRWD grant match); in addition, we already have 10 hours between Val and myself
- Matt Wildenauer, who is contracted to do the replanting for the Raymond/Bayless site, will be on site Sept. 29 and Oct. 3
- Focus will be Raymond/Bayless garden since that needs to be cleaned out for Matt to plant new plants and add mulch, but we should also have time to cut down as much as possible out of the Raymond/Ellis site (nothing is worth saving, except maybe some of the roses)
- Kerry has supplies from Langford Park Rec Center, will have volunteers sign waiver
- Goal is to have rain gardens that are functional, maintainable, and environmentally sound
- For the Raymond/Ellis site we need to submit new project grant to CRWD by Oct. 31; Kathryn and Stephen wrote the last CRWD maintenance grant for 2022
- Michael: That site drains too quickly; need to reduce permeability, needs to drain over 48 hours
- Karlyn: Ask Capitol Region to lend us one of their staff people; ask them to assist us with the redesign; ask them to fund the materials
- Michael: The Bayless site had the opposite problem, it does not drain, always wet; they added a standpipe to let it drain
- Ryan: could put in a shade tree at the Bayless site
- Michael and Kerry will work on the CRWD grant; Michael will contact CRWD; Kerry will contact Kathryn

- Michael shared Brad Englemann's concern about the need for rain garden maintenance
- Val suggested that we set up a regular maintenance schedule; every month ask a different community group to help out
- Brad Englemann then joined the meeting via Zoom and Kerry and Michael provided recap of what was just shared

Ice Cream Social – review

- Lots of people, lots of interaction
- Push back about the armored police vehicle; the optics were not good; felt off-putting
- Equity Committee had asked for different emergency response presence, only thing that was available was a hostage recovery vehicle
- The kids loved it, but parents were upset
- Bill has resigned from the board as he was the one who coordinated the request for emergency response vehicles and personnel as Sept. is Emergency Preparedness month. We are sorry to lose him.
- Transportation committee had an interactive activity about the dangers of speeding designed by Betsy Wheeler
- Rennie: Como Eco event should be a model for us, invite other organizations; make sure we more fully represent activities going on in the neighborhood
- Need more interactivity
- Patricia Ohmans did a great job designing the Environment Committee brochure that was handed out at the Ice Cream Social; look it over; give feedback about anything to add, like SAPCC website.
- Ryan: does the EC have its own email list for volunteers?
- Michael: No, the SAPCC staff want to protect people's emails

Chimney Swift tower – Karlyn

- Karlyn: Lisa, Val, Aaron, Bill Delanis worked hard to dig the hole for the chimney swift tower; Karlyn and Bill framed it in, wired in the rebar, ready for concrete
- Waiting for Cemstone to deliver leftovers, never materialized
- Perhaps buy Quikrete ourselves and pour it in; waiting for Bill to return next week
- Once base is in then the tower can be assembled.
- Need to add siding, need some volunteers to help with that
- Rennie: he built one for Frogtown Green, he is concerned about the weather, cold and wet
- Karlyn: Have budget of \$2500, only cost is Bill's materials
- Need less than 6 yards of concrete (1 yard is 3x3x3 and we need 81 cubic feet)
- Best bet might be using Quikrete
- Aaron: use a bucket or wheelbarrow to mix it; dispose of it in the bucket
- Karlyn: get siding on in October, before the snow flies; Bill will source it from a re-use center
- Val: She will make sure there is a spigot and 50' hose with spout
- Aaron: should not require use of more than 40 gallons of water
- Karlyn: will check with Cemstone tomorrow, but will be out of town next week; Michael will grab the wheelbarrow and other tools to have them on hand

100 Trees Project – CEZ

- Kerry: she volunteered once and Patricia did as well; seems to go pretty smoothly with the current set up; in a two-hour period only able to do about 65 trees, not all of them at

once; Ben and Angela with CEZ are only ones able to drive the pick-up truck due to liability issues; two volunteers walk while the truck is driven, they fill up the gator bags

- Manu: Two more trees at Dominion died, wondering if the CEZ watering truck could take care of watering the trees around Dominion; Ben Shardlow did not return her phone calls
- Maybe there should be some labeling with the 100 Trees; not sure if CEZ should be asked to water all trees, especially ones that they did not plant
- Encourage businesses and property managers of buildings to take on some more responsibility
- Manu: CEZ should work on communications; they do not do enough publicity and advertising
- Ryan: CEZ community tree planting on Oct. 8; check out their website

Kasota Pond - grant proposal ideas, SAP Garden Club funds

- Michael: SAP Garden Club has \$1900 to use toward invasive weed control, Pat Thompson is on board and chair of Transportation Committee, will try to figure out what to do with the funds; they might be willing to let us have the money as a match for a grant; could be use for buckthorn control; hiring someone with bushhog to mow down saplings; could we use it?
- Mike: Mississippi Watershed grant might be a possibility; check their website for grant info and deadlines; He has talked about what is going on at Kasota, someone mentioned that it has been part of a greenway plan
- Karlyn: This is an ongoing issue, the Mpls Park Board wants to finish Grand Rounds, greenway would go along the west pond, but that would have put a lot of pressure on the pond; railroad tracks are on the way, thinking about a bridge that would connect Malcolm Yards; challenging engineering; thought that it was dead in the water.
- Mike: there are administrative grants, community grants, action grants (due Nov. 4); meetings about how to apply happened earlier in Sept.
- Ryan: Covered Up study might be of interest; U of MN is conducting a study about plant mixes, need to cut down buckthorn first, but need to know what would help compete
- Karlyn: West pond good news: sandbar willow has taken hold; in competition with the buckthorn, and hardstem bulrush that has held on, original vegetation, propose grant to support and expand those two species, way to maintain vegetative cover, stabilize banks; they will propagate themselves; prune out buckthorn; hardstem bulrush can be driven into bank, make a gravel bed and help root, help stabilize bank; technique was used a decade ago in Duluth; snapping turtles are doing fine, painted turtles are everywhere, have not seen spineless turtles, need more floating logs, need some downed trees, drag them out this winter, leave them out there with concrete blocks, turtles need to bask in order to reproduce
- Karlyn: there are free workshops and certifications through MWMO, training by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; one for businesses and one for homeowners; we should be in contact businesses with property near Kasota Ponds like PK Property Services—letter should come from Kathryn as exec director—free training, they can be certified for safe salting practices, it will also save them money; for timing see here:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mpca-smart-salting-for-property-managers-training-tickets-392550086877?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- Corey asked if the Cleveland Trees suggestion had been passed on to the County; Michael said that it had.

Adjourn: 8:04 p.m.

Next meeting - October 26, 6 to 8 pm, 808 Berry St. (Rennie's residence)
Park on Berry Street.

Come early if you want to tour the new park at Westgate.