

Macalester-Groveland Community Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Edgumbe Recreation Center – 320 South Griggs Street, Saint Paul, MN 55105

Members in attendance: Mary Davis, Gena Berglund, Johanna Anderson, Kellie Connor, Michelle Crain, Lauren Anderson (staff)

Meeting called to order: 7:01 pm

Approval of March 2011 Minutes: Motion to approve was seconded and passed.

Mac Grove Moves

- Prize update: all prizes have been picked up and we have a great bunch of prizes!
- 2011 Golden Shoe Hunt: One shoe will be hidden on each Saturday in May. Shoes will be hidden in locations that can be seen when traveling by foot or by bike, but not by car. Volunteers signed up to hide the shoes - Mary (27th), Kellie (13th), Johanna (20th), Michelle (6th). Volunteers will send an email to let the other shoe hiders know where she hid her shoe (so there's no duplication).
- Media/promotions update: Current media and promotions include - Villager, E-lluminator, Illuminator, Facebook event page, and the Twin City Daily Planet. Other suggestions for media and promotion: Pioneer Press or Star Tribune health and wellness writers; include in local paper city-wide events page; bring brochures to the Exercise Your Right to Feel Better 5K at Como on May 20th and to the walk with police (we can reuse 2010 brochures if running low). Fillable forms are now available on the MGCC website. The group discussed linking to MGM sponsors in our Facebook status updates.

Upcoming Rain Garden Workshops

- Attendance: There are 20 households signed up with 2 on the waiting list.
- Content for each session: The first workshop will cover an overview of rain gardens, information on the Capitol Region Watershed District grants, and an explanation of the homework assignments (infiltration test, photos, look at air photos, sketch). The second workshop will focus on helping attendees create a rain garden design specific to his/her yard.
- Volunteers needed: Volunteer tasks will include picking up information and supplies from the office and setting up the table, greeting speakers and helping with check-in and take-down. We'll need to be out of rec center by 8:30. Mary volunteered to help with set up and Johanna volunteered to help with take down both nights. Stuff to include on the table: old wooden NGA signs, MGM brochures, promote international composting week (1st week of May).

Native Garden Awards (tabled until May)

Other business

- Beautification committee: Plant Share, May 14th 10:00 – 2:00
- Home Improvement Fair update: The event went really well and was well supported by Environment Committee volunteers. The fair included good workshops and significant focus on green remodeling.
- Community garden update: Lauren met with the pastor of the Mac-Plymouth church on Lincoln. The church has a full city lot open and wants it put to use. MGCC was invited to submit a proposal for a joint garden group of members – Env Comm and interested residents, plus members of congregation - to form steering committee. Lauren expects to hear back from the church by the end of the month. One main benefit of this potential opportunity is the establishment of a relationship between MGCC and the church.
- Composting update: Progress on this project was delayed due to the Home Improvement Fair and the Annual Meeting. Lauren recently met with senior staff at Ramsey County Environmental Health and discussed the ramifications of trying to push organics collection in the neighborhood. One issue to consider is the statutory limitation on cities selecting one hauler (since organics is classified as MSW not recycling, organics must follow the organized collection statute in place for garbage). Lauren is looking into the possibility that this statute doesn't apply to non-profits. Next steps include putting together a list of Ramsey County haulers that are already delivering to SET (the compost facility), then look at guidelines and determine which haulers are interested in collecting organics in Mac Groveland. We'd need to request letters of interest from haulers and establish a general monthly cost. Once that information is gathered, we could provide a menu of options to residents. We need to convene an organics workgroup to get these tasks started.
- Eureka recycling update: Final conversation was held last week and the grant is officially over.

Meeting adjourned: 7:59 pm