

**Macalester-Groveland Community Council**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 21, 2011 – 7:00 PM

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

**Members in attendance:** Gena Berglund, Mary Davis, Michelle Crain, Johanna Anderson, Craig Skone, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Kellie Connor, Lauren Anderson (staff)

**Guests:** Steve Gorg

**Meeting called to order:** 7:02 pm

**Approval of November 2010 Minutes:** Motion to approve was seconded and passed.

**Neighborhood Sustainability**

Steve Gorg, Macalester Groveland resident, shared information he presented at an international sustainability conference, including the need for communities to factor in the true costs (ecological, health, etc.) of potential projects. He also shared information on the theory that a loss of connection to nature can lead to many other problems. In the interest of fostering neighborhood sustainability, Steve initiated a discussion with the committee on potential environment committee projects, including a "Grand Ave currency" barter/trade system, eVictory gardens, and CSA drop sites. Since the committee is operating in a "reduced" capacity, it cannot take on any new larger effort projects at this time. The committee will consider some lower effort ideas such as promoting food crops at a designated plant share site, promoting an eVictory Garden interest group through e-lluminator, Villager, etc., and considering some ideas for future EcoForums. Steve was encouraged to work with the Grand Avenue Business Association on the Grand Avenue currency idea and the Beautification Committee on the others. Mary agreed to discuss the ideas at the next Beautification Committee and follow up with Steve.

**Upcoming Eco Forums**

An additional Energy Efficiency EcoForum will be held at Macalester on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Lauren has been promoting the event through flyers, Illuminator, e-lluminator, and Villager. The Composting EcoForum has been scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include a panel of speakers consisting of city staff and Eureka staff. The committee brainstormed questions for the panel:

- What's next for composting in the city? What's next for curbside composting?
- When will the pilot results be ready and available?
- What are the obstacles to implementing citywide compost collection?
- Discuss the role of organized collection, Pay-As-You-Throw, and current state

- laws on volume-based pricing in implementing citywide composting.
- Discuss the status and impacts of the PCA rulemaking process.

The committee also discussed a plan for the Native & Rain Garden EcoForum. Lauren reported that Ramsey Conservation District can conduct a 2 part workshop series this spring. Conservation grants available through the Capitol Region Watershed District could pay for plans for the rain gardens. The watershed district also donated 30 Blue Thumb guides that could be given away to workshop participants. The committee agreed on tentative dates for the workshops (April 26<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>). Lauren will check with the Conservation District to confirm their availability.

### **Mac Grove Moves**

Mac Grove Moves is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year! Melanie drafted a request for donation letter and Lauren will prep and mail the letters soon. Mary offered to provide the stamps. Businesses will have 2 weeks to reply. Mary and Johanna volunteered to do follow up phone calls and visits to potential donors. Mary and Michelle volunteered to pickup donations. Lauren will use leftover brochures from last year's MGM and will create a 2011 sponsor sticker to place on the back of the brochure. Mary can provide the stickers and Melanie's students can apply the stickers. Next committee meeting will focus on more details for MGM including publicity, Facebook posts, and online contest submittals.

### **2011 Environment Committee Planning**

The committee discussed the final versions of the Scope of Work and the City Work Plan. Gena reminded the group that she will be moving so the committee will need to consider replacing her role in the Scope. Minor edits to the final version of the Scope and Work Plan were proposed. Motion to approve the 2011 Scope of Work and City Work with minor proposed edits was seconded and passed.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:08 pm