Macalester-Groveland Community Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 21, 2011 – 7:00 PM
Edgcumbe Recreation Center – 320 South Griggs Street, Saint Paul, MN 55105

Members in attendance: Mary Davis, Craig Skone, Ericka Belmares, Sheila Sweeney, Adam Janzen, Leo Viktora, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Johanna Anderson

Meeting called to order: 7:04 pm

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

• Organics Task Force
Task Force members gave an update on what's been going on over the past month. The task force has held 2 meetings so far. Activities to date include research on curbside collection in MN (price, services, how things are working for them) and sharing info via a Google Docs site. This research was used to develop a survey to request info from MacGrove residents. The survey is now accessible on macgrove.org website. Two door knocking nights are coming up and the task force is soliciting volunteers from last year's compost volunteers and the MGCC Environment Committee. Survey participants can be entered in a drawing for prizes.
Door knocking dates -
July 27 6:30-9:00 hosted by Sarah Cledwyn
Aug. 4 6:30-9:00 hosted by Sheila Sweeney
Next steps for task force – review survey results and bring recommendation to MGCC September Board meeting ideally.

• Groveland Night Out
Groveland Night Out is on Aug. 10, 2011. The Environment Committee will have one zero-waste station. Adam and Melanie volunteered to staff the station for the first half of the event; Craig and Sheila volunteered for the second half of the event. Johanna will ask attendees to complete the Organics Task Force Survey. Adam works in Rosemount and offered to take the compost from GNO to the compost facility in Rosemount. Ericka volunteered to do the MacGrove Moves prize drawing.

• 2011 Native Garden Awards
As of July 21st, 11 nominations have been received. Melanie and Craig will coordinate to choose dates for judging.

• 2011 MacGrove Moves
One final promotion for Mac Grove Moves appeared in the e-luminator. The last golden shoe has not been turned in - Michelle will check to see if the shoe is still there.
The committee began a discussion on ways to get better participation in Mac Grove Moves in coming years. Ideas include:

- do the prize drawing at GNO next year to raise publicity; could announce prize winners at the event, and any winners who attend GNO could choose their prize rather than us deciding what they get.
- display the MGM prizes on a table at GNO to raise attention for MGM program

• Other business

Community gardening: If MGCC proceeds with a community garden, liability insurance will be necessary (how much?). Gardening Matters suggests at least $1 million of liability coverage, up to $2 million if many youth are working there. Individual gardeners' health insurance should cover their own injuries. Lauren is following up with Bethany about prices for liability insurance. Possible costs are $60-$120-$600/year for liability rider for insurance.
Other considerations for community garden:

- availability of water
- Storage for tools, hoses
- Fencing
- What would MGCC be responsible for? (Debris? Disposal of organic matter?)
- How many people are interested? (several on Environment Committee plus an additional 10+ people based on Lauren's outreach)
- Picture portfolio (Leo has begun taking photos)

Ideal space for the garden might be 10-20 10x10 plots (1000-2000 square feet). Multiple spots within MacGrove neighborhood would be ideal – group should consider locations at churches, schools, parks, private property, colleges/universities. Question: Should we consider a side group of people to work on moving a community garden forward?

By laws and public office possible changes: Board members/directors (and possibly committee chairs and staff in future) need to step down from their positions if they are candidates for salaried public offices. Revisions to bylaws will be voted on at September MGCC Board meeting.

August meeting: Historically MGCC committees have not met in August. Pumpkin drop planning could occur in September. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to cancel August meeting unless one is called for special circumstances.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 15th, 7:00 pm Edgcumbe Recreation Center