

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, March 19th, 2009, 7pm, Egcumbe Rec Center

Attendance: Rich Broderick (co-chair), Gena Berglund, Mary Davis, Tera Geiger, Craig Skone, Steve Gorg, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger (co-chair), Lorin Velikonja

Guests: Annmarie Dillin (SHA), Kate Pearce (SHA)

Rich called meeting to order at approx. 7:05 pm

Approval of February 2009 Minutes

Mary moved; Tera 2nd

MacGrove Moves

MGM→SHA wanted to get involved this year
Kate (SHA) has updated last year's brochure
Kate and Karmann went to GABA and got them on board
Grand Old Day Goes Green!

Correction GABA will pay for:

- 10,000 brochures
- 100-200 posters

Their PR firm will give exposure to the program
Added bonus of bike racks (hitches)

Updated brochure options

SHA involvement has increased and they are committed to the program.

Gena mentioned that board approved name "MacGroveMoves"→ we don't know if a new name is okay because it has not been approved by the board→since it is just the logo, we shouldn't need board approval
Melanie→we won't be able to ask for \$ in April (annual meeting in place of reg. board meeting)

Annual Meeting

Environment committee display board

Melanie—MGM—daughters will pass out info

Melanie will be there to set up

Gena and Melanie will go upstairs to find environment committee display board

Native Gardens

Sub-committee will include Craig and Melanie (and possibly Tom Ibsen)

Laminated flags

What do we need to do to keep our costs/time down?

Environmentally sound waxed cardboard

- won't last forever, don't need it to
- biodegradable—can put them right back into backyard compost

Craig would like to get a few folks together to come up with ideas/solutions by April so info can go up on the website—call for Environment Committee members to join

- growth of program—concern for Craig
- self-nomination process again this year?

2008 Judging: Last week in July

For 2009:

- make nomination deadline earlier
- make walkabout earlier

Want more info re: native garden awards? HIF/NCU—strip of paper with info

Home Improvement Fair

Earthworm Co. may want to lead HIF workshop

Natural Lawn Care

Give them the option to make the neighborhood an offer 10% and courtesy or \$50 off

Permeable Pavers

Discussion with WSNAC

Goodrich—pavers as replacement; very expensive upfront, pays for itself

Interlocks like a puzzle; soil where grass would go

Transitioning Roadways:

East-West streets turn into green park spaces (linear parks)

North-South streets continue to be streets—finding pleasant way to go N-S

How can we start looking at other options?

Is there permeable surfacing? More about permeable surface? Washington State example

Short term: getting permeable pavers

Long term: linear parks

Water runoff could be a problem

Next steps:

Possibly asking the mayor if we should explore this—part of his commitment towards a more sustainable St. Paul

Price difference—probably more expensive for pavers—more pervious

Road improvements are happening right now

Gena—another approach is not going straight to mayor, but rather public works

1st step—option made available as a matter of course

Melanie—have they been better built in other states than the example on Lexington Ave?

- Canadian facility?

St. Thomas students are currently researching the topic of permeable pavers

- St. Paul is using UST study as a case study

Exploratory situation?

Motion asking city to provide this information as an option in the spectrum

Talk to public works

How long would it take to implement?

How much time would they need?

Info from them—how do we move forward together?

When city sends out RSVP info, permeable pavers should be provided in the options

- Greener St. Paul
- Makes more sense in the long-run
- Neighbors are not forced to take that option—there is more than one choice.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 16th, 2009, 7pm, Edgumbe Rec Center