

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

Thursday, November 18, 2010 – 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, Lauren Anderson (staff)

Guests: Charlie Peterson, Jack Shelley, Julian Sellers

Meeting called to order: 7:01 pm

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

Added to agenda under Other Business: St. Paul Audubon Society's Native Plants Guide

2011 Environment Committee Planning – Scope of Work

The committee considered events and activities to add to/retain in the Scope of Work and Work Plan and agreed that collaboration with the Green Institute should remain in the scope of work since it is not a significant drain on staff and will end in March 2011. The committee agreed that the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MnRES) bulk purchase program and the Natural Lawn Care campaign should be cut from the 2011 Scope of Work. Instead of creating a new campaign for idle reduction, the committee decided that resources from Vancouver and MPCA can be posted to the MGCC website and idle reduction should be considered for a future EcoForum. The committee agreed that EcoForums and the collaboration with the Watershed District should be continued. EcoForums should be focused on committee priorities. The committee agreed that the Watershed District collaboration should connect to the native garden campaign and suggested creating an EcoForum on the Watershed District's programs, including neighborhood success stories. Although the Board proposed cutting the Pumpkin Drop from the 2011 Scope of Work, the committee voted to keep it since the event can be used as an outreach opportunity and much of the work can be shifted from staff to volunteers.

2011 Environment Committee Planning – FY 2011 Work Plan

The committee voted to approve the FY2011 Work Plan with minor changes.

- Update neighborhood cleanup activity → remove references to "twice-yearly" cleanup, change to "assist" and "once yearly".
- Update Native Garden Award activity → change "implement" to "continue", remove reference to creating a new celebration
- Update pilot project for curbside composting activity → change "recycling" to "composting"

Composting Project – Lynn Hoffman, Eureka Recycling

Wasted Food education update

Eureka is preparing to launch into the final stage of the composting project with a focus on wasted food. Christie Manning, a psychologist at Macalester, is conducting opinion and behavior surveys of Macalester Groveland residents and Eureka will use the results to develop communication and education tools on preventing wasted food. Eureka plans to conduct a Wasted Food education pilot on a subset of the Macalester Groveland neighborhood in December – February. Since the initial waste sort made a distinction between “food waste “ (i.e. fruit and vegetables peelings) and “wasted food” (i.e. uneaten leftovers), Eureka will be able to gather data on the effectiveness of the wasted food education pilot once the spring waste sort is complete. Final focus groups on the entire composting project will be conducted in March.

Plan for future EcoForum

The collection pilot will end in mid-January and the committee agreed that an EcoForum would be a good venue to answer questions regarding the pilot and next steps. The EcoForum would be open to all Macalester Groveland residents, but residents in the pilot area would receive a direct mailing. The committee discussed potential panelists for the EcoForum – Christie Manning (Macalester psychologist focused on the psychology of sustainability), City of St. Paul representative, Sara Wolbert (blogger, “Urban Nutrient Detritavore Infrastructures”), MPCA representative. Lauren will solicit help from the committee in preparing for the EcoForum (Melanie and Johanna volunteered). Late January (potentially January 27th) would be good time for the EcoForum. The event should be publicized in the Elluminator, through the neighborhood representative lists, and on the MGCC website.

EcoForum on Energy Efficiency

Michelle gave an update on the EcoForum on Energy Efficiency. The event had an overwhelming response and Lauren had to cut off registration. Approximately 60 people attended the event, which included a great presentation. Since the events have been so successful, the Green Institute is considering scheduling another one in mid-February.

St. Paul Audubon Society’s Native Plants Guide – Julian Sellers

Julian attended the meeting to share the Native Plants Guide created by the St. Paul Audubon Society. The guide was developed using many resources to recommend plants that are attractive, native to the area, and attract butterflies and moths. The guide is available online and in print in limited quantities. The committee agreed that copies of the guide should be made available in the MGCC office and the guide should be linked on the MGCC Native Garden webpage. The guide should also be shared with the Beautification committee. This topic should be considered for a future EcoForum.

Other Business

Committee chairmanship is up. Melanie agreed to keep her role and Johanna agreed to co-chair the committee.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 pm