

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

Thursday, October 21, 2010 | 7:00 PM

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

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

**Guests:** none

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

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

**Added to agenda under Other Business:** none

**Saint Paul Port Authority Anaerobic Digester Update**

*Pushed to future meeting.*

**Eureka Recycling/ Composting**

The Committee examined the milestones created for MGCC's 2010 – 2011 partnership with Eureka Recycling (ER). The milestones were developed by MGCC staff members, MGCC's Representative to the Partnership, and ER staff members. Committee members were glad to see the inclusion of lessons learned and creating a model that other neighborhoods can follow. After discussion, the milestones were unanimously ratified by committee members.

**Eco-Forum on Energy Efficiency**

Our Eco-Forum is coming up on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 7pm. There has been a great response from neighbors – we currently have 36 people signed up to attend! Committee members will hang 1/3 sheet flyers in local businesses and schools.

**MGCC Board Retreat**

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Board had a retreat on October 2, 2010 to examine the organization's programs/activities and reduced staff capacity. The Natural Lawn Care program and the Pumpkin Drop were highlighted at the retreat as programs that should not be considered for 2011. The Committee would like to discuss the cost and logistics of the Pumpkin Drop in November.

As part of the retreat, each Committee needs to complete and submit a Scope of Work for 2011 that plans out activities, committee member duties, and staff duties to the MGCC board. Lauren created an initial draft for the committee to look over between now and our November meeting. Changes to committee member and staff member roles were not made in this draft because the bulk of work for programs is already completed by volunteers. Environment

Committee also needs to appoint a secretary to take minutes – thank you to Johanna for volunteering to take minutes!

The Committee also examined the 2010 City Contract Work Plan and made corrections for 2011, including removing the Natural Lawn Care program from the activities.

### **Native Garden Awards**

The Alley Garden/ Native Garden Award Celebration took place last night and was a huge success. Approximately 40 neighbors attended and the talk by a Ramsey County Master Gardener was focused on natives and butterflies. Melanie and Craig did an informal survey of past NGA winners – while many gardens are still in place, very few award signs are still up. The Committee discussed potential strategies to promote and expand the program for 2011. Gena brought up the idea of surveying past winners to get a sense of what motivates residents to nominate their or a neighbor's garden. Potential ways to recognize NGA winners could include award signs, certificates, tour maps, etc. The Committee also discussed ways to promote the planting of native gardens, including an Eco-Forum, and would like to revisit this program in November.

### **Pumpkin Drop**

This year's Pumpkin Drop is coming up on Saturday, November 6, 2010 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Committee members took flyers to distribute at local businesses and schools. We will again have student volunteers from Highland Park Senior High's Student Council and need one committee member to help Lauren supervise the event. Thanks to Craig and Johanna who both volunteered to help.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:15pm**