

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

Thursday, September 16, 2010 | 7:00 PM

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

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

Guests: none

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm

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

Added to agenda under Other Business: none

Idle-free Campaign:

Mary talked to Kate Wollan, the Principal at Nativity School, about idling and parking lot lights. Parking lot lights should be turned off at 9:30pm. Nativity has one bus so most students are picked up and dropped off by parents. The school policy is that parents park and go in the building to pick up their children. After talking with the Principal and dropping off some information, anti-idling messages will go out in Nativity's November newsletter. Johanna also brought some great resources from the MPCA that are tailored to MN and cold climates. The Committee would like to revisit this topic in November and create information (including statistics from the MPCA and Idle-Free BC resources) for the E-Illuminator and/or Illuminator.

Eco-Forum on Energy Efficiency

We are working with the Green Institute for the upcoming Eco-Forum on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 7:00pm. The Committee would like to promote in the Villager, distribute flyers, and send information to neighbor reps and potentially National Night Out folks. Lauren will send the flyer out to the Committee for distribution and bring copies.

Neighborhood Clean-up

The Fall Clean-up will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2010. We have a new charity called Families Helping Each Other scheduled to pick up items from the reuse area. We hope that this will mean far fewer items left in the reuse area at the end of the clean-up. Thank you to everyone who is able to volunteer this fall!

Native Garden Awards

Craig awarded a fantastic garden on Berkeley Avenue and plans to survey past NGA winners in the next few weeks. The combined Alley Garden/ Native Garden Award Celebration will take place on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at Macalester College. To promote the Native Garden

Award program, we plan to have Native Plant flyers available, talk about the program specifically, and our keynote speaker will even focus on native plants!

30 Days of Biking program

Gena gave a brief overview of this program, which helps get people out of their cars and onto bikes through social media and interactive events that encourage biking. The program occurs in the fall and spring. The Committee discussed promoting the program on the E-Illuminator next spring and making use of the community aspect to co-promote the kickoff of MacGrove Moves 2011. Having an ongoing facebook event page for MacGrove Moves that could connect to 30 Days of Biking's website could be a great way to increase participation in our program and reinforce the social aspect of both biking programs.

Eureka Recycling/ Composting Pilot

The MGCC Board approved the Eureka Recycling Representative job description at the September board meeting. Gena currently holds this position, but the description is written so a board, committee, or community member could serve as the Eureka Recycling Representative. We are currently looking for someone to take on this position next year who can work with Gena and start to get a firm grounding in MGCC's work with Eureka Recycling. We are also looking for a composting enthusiast on the Environment Committee who can promote and build excitement/enthusiasm for composting throughout Macalester-Groveland.

Additionally, the composting pilot has been extended until January 28, 2011 so winter collection data can be gathered. The Committee discussed that we are in our final year of funding from Eureka Recycling. We hope to see continued involvement in this project through City-wide composting collection.

New Environment Committee Brochure

Lauren created a draft brochure for the Environment Committee that outlines our activities and programs. The Committee discussed and gave feedback – we should be set to start using this at events!

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm