

Minutes of the Prospect Park Association Environment Committee Meeting

March 27, 2018

In Attendance:

- Del Hampton
- Kathleen Davis
- Joe Ring
- Julie Wallace
- Jennie Michlitsch
- Vince Netz
- Vera Marshall
- Casty Toralla MN Daily
- JD Duggin MN Daily

Meeting Topics

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes

The committee did not meet in January and February meeting was cancelled so no approval of minutes.

- Review of Code of Conduct

No further review.

- Recap of PPA meetings about parks (Neighborhood Design Session at Luxton and PPA Feb Community Meeting)

Del Hampton reported on the design session which is part of the long range planning process of the East of the River Master Planning Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at Luxton Park in February. Many members of the community participated in structured visioning exercises to provide input regarding in future planning goals for Minneapolis Parks.

Update on Activities

- Tower Hill Refresh (Joe)

Joe was unable to get the Park Board to work with him in time to request a grant from the Good Neighbor Fund to remove brush from the Tower Hill. However, following the Luxton Neighborhood Design Session in late March, Joe sent comments to Carrie Christensen, senior planner of Minneapolis Park Board, about how Tower Hill has been neglected in the past and the enthusiastic community responses on social media in support of preserving the park, the Park Board has now indicated interest in landscape upkeep and is willing to pay for clearing of brush on park land.

- Defining the triangles and other greenspaces in Prospect Park

At the December meeting, Julie Wallace reported that many years ago the park board created several parcels of green space in Prospect Park. Julia has been cataloguing and identifying these plots. Most of these properties appear on the Hennepin County Interactive Map and these properties are owned and managed by the park board. Julia is concerned that there are additional green spaces that have not been identified as park board properties. She wants the park board to clarify the location and ownership of these properties. Julie reported at March meeting that no action had been taken yet.

Members of the community have proposed changes to the plan that changes the traffic intersection at Bedford and Franklin. The revision would offer the possibility of an additional green space at this corner.

- MPRB East of the River Community Engagement (CAC) Del Hampton

Del is the Prospect Park's CAC representative and has attended several meetings. The goal of the CAC is to listen to and catalogue community concerns about green spaces in the neighborhoods and advise the park board on developing a master plan for neighborhood parks east of the Mississippi. The park board has been actively talking to various community groups about their wish lists including the March Luxton meeting and gathering data. A CAC meeting and Design Week Kick-off will occur at Luxton Park Rec Center on Monday, April 30, 6-8 pm. Del indicated the planning process has been a good experience for him and he encourages community members to attend the April meeting. He also reminded everyone that Tom Kilton once again has organized the Mississippi River and Neighborhood Clean-Up on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21st.

New Business

- Fresh Thyme Opening Wed April 11th
- Good Neighbor Fund Applications

- The Wildflower Project

An application for a \$2500 grant was submitted to the Fund to provide signage and to build up soil of the wildflower garden at Towerside Community Garden.

- Green 4 Celebration

An application for funding for the October Harvest Festival at the Towerside Community Garden site was submitted to the Fund.

- Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan CAC Appointment

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is developing a master plan for the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park. This plan project will set visions and priorities for future park and trail improvements and will be guided by a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Tom Kilton, long time Prospect Park resident applied for and has been appointed the CAC representative.

- Bridal Veil Reginal Trails working group

A separate working group has been set up to coordinate and review this innovative and long term project.

https://www.minneapolisparks.org/_asset/w3w1ky/grand_rounds_masterplan_2009.pdf

- Developing the Green infrastructure in Prospect Park
 - Definition

Del notes that the neighborhood is rapidly changing with several new building projects on both sides of University Avenue. He advocates that the environmental committee and community members develop a policy that encourages and increases the green infrastructure in Prospect Park

- Input on neighborhood developments (Arts and Architecture project, Malcolm Yards)
Advocacy for green infrastructure includes challenging developers of structures such as the ones noted above to create structures that are energy efficient with green spaces around them and possible rooftop gardens.

- Prospect Park Garden Club changes
 - Administration

June 23rd is the date for the garden walk. There will be garden music and the walk will focus on the northeast quadrant of Prospect Park. The plant sale will be held at Tower Hill Park.

- PPCG Towerside parcel replatted

The Park Board and the owner of the Towerside community garden parcel are nearing an agreement regarding the property. The goal of the agreement is for the Park Board to assume control of the property in the future, with the property containing a community garden.

- Drill down on Environment Committee agenda for 2018
 - Neighborhood survey: What the environment means to you

Discussion of this issue was held over to next meeting.

- Adopt a Storm Drain project (Jennifer)

Jennifer has developed a presentation to kick off the campaign to get many of the 260 storm drains in Prospect Park adopted. Right now however, the city is implementing a new online sign-up process and so they are not currently allowing sign-ups. The city plans a roll-out of the improved plan to coincide with Earth Day (April 22nd). It was suggested that this project could be linked to an online map on the PPA website. Jennifer will investigate further.

- Drip communication campaign

Discussion of this issue will occur next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

- Next meeting date- April 24, 2018, 6:30-8:00