

Minutes of the Prospect Park Association Environment Committee Meeting

Logistics and Details

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 6:30–8:00 PM

Location: Conference Room, Prospect Park Association Offices

In Attendance:

- Del Hampton
- Jenny Michlitsch
- Joe Ring
- Tom Kilton
- Steve Zimmer
- Vera Marshall
- Andy Mickel
- Jeremy Bergerson (New business: water runoff topic only)

Chair: Del Hampton

Recorder: Jenny Michlitsch

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved on motion of Tom Kilton, seconded by Joe Ring.

PPA Letter of Support for Towerside Park

The PPA Board approved the letter of support for the Towerside Park at the January PPA Board meeting. The letter was sent to Carrie January 31st, 2019.

Update on Activities

East of the River Master Planning (Del):

- *Letter of support for the Bridal Veil Regional Trail:* The letter was brought forward for discussion via a motion by Tom Kilton, seconded by Joe Ring. The committee suggested a few proofing corrections and received a brief summary from Andy Mickel on past work by another PP group on this effort. The committee voted unanimously to approve the letter, following a motion by Tom Kilton, seconded by Steve Zimmer. The letter will next move to the Land Use Committee for review on March 12.
- *Towerside Park plans:* The committee received an update on the Towerside Park plans and target timing. After an expected approval from the Parks Board Commissioner in early March, the plan will move to the funding stage.
- *Towerside District concept:* The committee received an update on the current Towerside District concept.

Mississippi River Gorge Regional Park Master Plan (Tom)

- Tom Kilton shared a draft copy of the plan. The draft plan is currently in the public comment period until March 10.

Earth Day 2019 (Tom)

- Tom reported that the annual Prospect Park Earth Day River Clean-up will be on April 20, 2019 from 9–NOON.

Conservation District (Joe)

- Joe reported a group of interested folks met to discuss and the process is moving forward. The necessary forms have been requested.

Vermillion lawsuit (Joe)

- Joe reported the results of a Friday, February 22 hearing. The judge is currently reviewing a request for dismissal by the group of PPA residents and is due to issue a judgment within 90 days.

Adapt-a-Drain (Jenny)

- Jenny reported she is preparing a renewed communications plan and activity in preparation for the spring thaw.

New Business

Minnesota GreenCorps Host Site (Del)

- Del provided an update on the Minnesota GreenCorps project and shared his intent to apply to be a host site on behalf of Prospect Park. The committee discussed some potential projects, such as the hanging gardens or planting trees. Send additional ideas to Del if you have them.

Water runoff from trucking company (Jeremy)

- Jeremy provided the case for action regarding environmental concerns at 420 and 520 25th Ave. SE, where a trucking company leases property from a railroad, and gave an update on actions he has taken to date. Jeremy requested a letter from the PPA to support his efforts. Jeremy will draft the letter and the committee will review it at the next meeting. Jeremy also requested that if anyone sees fugitive dust at this site, to file a complaint with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/citizen-complaints>).

Planting trees on commercial property (Jeremy)

- Jeremy shared his vision for planting trees on some open commercial spaces within Prospect Park and offered some ideas on how to make that easy for property owners to do. No further action was taken at this time.

2019 Committee agenda, goals, etc.

- No discussion or action on this item.

The committee adjourned at 8:00PM on motion of Tom Kilton, seconded by Steve Zimmer.

Next PPA Environment Committee meeting – March 26, 2019