

Minutes of the Prospect Park Association Environment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Main Classroom, Luxton Park Recreation Center

112 Williams Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

In Attendance:

- Mary Britton
- Kathleen Davis
- Ken Hampton
- Sean Hart
- Steve Zimmer
- Allison Sawyer

Meeting Topics

Introductions

Organics Recycling for Renters Allison Sawyer

Allison works with a program that oversees the organics program at the University of Minnesota. The program is having problems because student renters in the area do not have organic waste containers and so are using campus organic containers. The U containers are not equipped to handle excess organic waste from outside the campus. Allison would like the neighborhood associations surrounding the U to partner with the U to resolve this problem. One suggestion was to use the Whittier Neighborhood Association as a model. Whittier partners with the Wedge Co-op to manage an organics drop off site. The neighborhood association pays a fee to manage the site.

The Committee discussed whether students would be willing to pay a small fee for the service. Mary will reach out to students who are also interested in the Climate Action Plan for feedback. Also Allison will reach out to off campus housing management. It was suggested she also bring the issue to the PPA Land Use Committee since they work with landlords in the area. It was agreed that the dialogue will continue.

Climate Action Plan

Mary reported that she presented the committee's Climate Action Plan to the PPA Community Meeting and the plan was approved enthusiastically.

Mary suggested and the committee agreed that adaptability should be added to the Plan.

Mary reported that CenterPoint Energy has agreed to supply a dashboard that will track how much natural gas is used by houses and up to 4 units apartments in the Prospect Park area.

Starting with present usage figures, this information will help determine how much natural gas use is lowered by 2025. The Committee's present goal is to decrease usage by 20% by 2025. The committee discussed names for the energy reduction initiative. Suggested names included Operation Warm and Cozy, Energy Security for Everyone, Warm/Cool and Cozy-Save the World, Save Gas, Save the Planet. No decision was made on a final name.

Mary has drafted a one page explanation of the Prospect Park Climate Action Plan (copy attached).

The committee discussed the fact that the greatest challenge will be helping neighbors take steps to reduce energy use following energy audits.

Climate Action Plan Kickoff Saturday, March 28th, 10am-2pm

The Climate Action Plan Kickoff will be at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church. The Kickoff will include information about ways to save energy, cut utility bills, an energy audit sign-off and information on help with the cost of conversion following the audit. Food and entertainment is included with a 1:00pm drawing for a Chinook Book. There will be a greeter and a map and games for the children. Mary wants to involve all subneighborhoods of Prospect Park and include renters. Volunteers are needed for the Kickoff and its planning.

Sean Hart said he would contact the solar garden coop to see if they are interested in attending the kickoff. <https://www.cooperativeenergyfutures.com>.

Wrap Up

Next Steps

Get more volunteers for Kickoff.
Get more people to attend the committee meetings.

Next PPA Environment Committee Date: February 26, 6:30 pm

Adjourn

Future Meeting Topics:

Kathleen – Adopt-A-Drain partnering with Garden Club

Upcoming Events

Fire and Ice at Luxton Park, Saturday, February 1st, 6:30-8
Environment Committee table