

**Prospect Park Association Environment Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, July 28th, 2020

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Present at the meeting: Mary Britton, Kathleen Davis, Tom Kilton and Paul Elison

Topics

1. Partnering with Luxton/ Fishing in Mississippi with neighborhood kids Mary

Mary explained that she had invited Monta to meeting to talk about using the Environment Committee as a vehicle to work to schedule a fishing outing with neighborhood children to learn about the environment, get outside and have fun. But the project cannot go forward until the Luxton Park building opens up and staff returns. Tom suggested approaching AB Dicks for equipment donations.

2. Neighborhood resiliency and inclusiveness Mary

Mary discussed how neighborhood resiliency is part of the committee's Climate Action Plan. Mary would like all neighbors, be they tenants in private or public housing, high rises or homeowners to feel that they belong to our neighborhood. One of the major problems is how to communicate with such a diverse group of over 14,000 residents to build resiliency and strength in the community. She believes that present vehicles like a Facebook page, the PPE-list, Twitter, Next Door and the PPA newsletter are disjointed and only reach a portion of the community. She calls for ideas how to reach new residents. She gave as examples reaching out through the U of M off campus housing office, or connecting with apartment owners.

3. Climate Action Plan- Virtual Initiative

Virtual Energy Audits

Given the limitations of in home audits, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy are currently offering free virtual Home Energy Squad visits. During a virtual visit, a consultant will guide customers on a walk-through assessment of their homes via video chat. Residents will receive energy

saving tips to start saving energy right away as well as recommendations for next steps that may include a future in-person visit.

<https://www.mncee.org/blog/july-2020/cee-helps-16-cities-promote-home-energy-efficiency/>

Data From CenterPoint Energy, setting baselines and communicating out goals Mary

CenterPoint Energy is providing data on the natural gas usage for 1-4 unit housing within Prospect Park for 2019. This will give us a baseline for future goals in energy reduction in the neighborhood. Mary will be consolidating the data for the neighborhood and communicating it out via the ppe list and other sources.

Partner with Southeast Seniors Mary

Mary has suggested that the committee reach out to Southeast Seniors (SES) about the possibility of partnering with the organization to disseminate information about energy audits and how to decrease energy use in homes and apartments. Kathleen Davis is on the SES board and will raise this issue with the executive director in the future.

4. Neighborhood Clean-up Tom Kilton

Due to COVID issues, as with the spring clean-up, Tom has had to cancel the fall Clean-up.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11th, 6:30 – 8 pm