

**Prospect Park Association Environment Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, August 11th, 2020

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Present at the meeting: Mary Britton, Kathleen Davis, Tom Kilton, John Urban, Jenny Michlitsch, Lydia McEnerey, Kathleen Davis and Robin

Topics

1. Communication Plan Mary B.

The challenge is to increase the audience for the environment committee program. Mary noted that the PPA list is limited to 1300 residents. But the population of Prospect Park numbers 14,000. Communications from the Environment Committee, if only published in the PPA newsletter, reaches 10% of neighborhood residents.

Mary would like a mailing to all 14,000 persons in Prospect Park about the committee. She indicates the PPA has the money to do this and says her request will be discussed at the next PPA Board Management meeting. The committee will continue to post on the Facebook including Boost postings. The PPA website has been modified to accept comments and also folks can submit email to get blog updates.

The largest groups missing from the communication plan are residents of Glendale and students at the U. Suggestions for spreading the word included use of Next Door. Lydia suggested creating a group on the website. Mary noted that many residents of Glendale do not have access to computers, a major barrier to disseminating committee information. As for the student population, Lydia agreed to find out the name of the Off Campus Living Office contact person. The communication issue remains unsolved and will continue to be revisited during each meeting.

Mary also thanked Jenny for creating the map that includes all the subneighborhoods of Prospect Park.

2. Climate Action Plan- Virtual Initiative Mary B.

Mary indicated that there will be a link on the PPA environment committee to virtual energy audits from Center Point. Jenny Michlitsch and Lydia volunteered to do a virtual energy audit and report to the committee and post to the website about their experience.

Mary noted that data from CenterPoint Energy shows that Prospect Park residents use roughly 20% more natural gas every year than the average Minnesotan. Mary believes this information needs to be widely disseminated in an effort to persuade Prospect Park residents to work harder to increase their residential energy efficiency.

3. Partnering with Southeast Seniors Mary B.

Kathleen reported that she had spoken to Betsy Synder, director of SES who indicated an interest in exploring a partnership with the committee. Mary and Kathleen will meet with her in the future. Mary has suggested partnering with the organization to disseminate information about energy audits and how to decrease energy use in homes and apartments. Kathleen is on the SES board and will raise this issue with the executive director in the future.

4. Adopt a Drain Kathleen D.

Kathleen noted that she would like to put another blurb in the newsletter requesting that folks adopt storm drains. In the future, she hopes to connect with the garden club to both stencil the drains and adopt and clear the drains.

Mary also noted that Affinity Bank was collecting used computer equipment on August 15th

Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 8th

The next meeting, September 8th, will host Britt Howell as a guest speaker. She will discuss racism and environmentalism.