

PPA Environment Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
6:30 - 8 pm  
Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88063932803>

Attending: Mary Britton, Lydia McAnerny, Kathleen Davis, Britt Howell, Robin Schow

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. 5 year plan for Prospect Park Climate Action Plan: call for volunteers for sub-committee Mary B**

Mary would like to meet to create a five year Prospect Park Climate Plan. Lydia and Kathleen volunteered to be part of the subcommittee. During the meeting, Lydia emailed to members of the committee an invitation to review her proposed five year climate action plan as a starting point for the discussion. (See Attachment). The subcommittee will meet sometime in the near future. Mary stated she would like Prospect Park to reduce its carbon footprint by 2025. Based on CenterPoint data, Prospect Park uses 24% more natural gas than average Minnesotans. Mary would like to start with the goal of reducing this usage and decide how to make it happen. She believes energy audits and better insulation is a great place to start, given there are tax benefits and rebates for taking action.

Mary expressed her frustration in trying to interest more people involved in addressing climate issues. Although much work has been done to improve the committee's PPA website, it appears that no one looks at it so it does not appear to be the best way to disseminate information. There was a discussion about Next Door and the PPE list. Mary stated she would like a partnership with University students. Lydia suggested contacting Konstantin, off campus housing, to begin a discussion. She has worked with him in the past.

### **3. Budget and T-shirts Mary Britton**

Mary would like to print t-shirts that volunteers could wear when they are participating in an Environment Committee action to build community spirit and to increase our visibility. The t-shirts could also be given as prizes. The committee has funds available to fund this project. Lydia suggested another option would be bright vests to be worn during work projects.

Britt offered to find out if a contact of hers could print P.P.E.A.T (“Prospect Park Environment Action Team”) on the back of a reflection vest with the PPA logo on it and how much it would cost.

#### **4. Partnership with Indigenous Task Force Britt Howell**

Britt indicated that the taskforce is interested in partnering with the environment committee to work on issues of social and economic justice. She reminded members that focusing on inclusivity is paramount in developing initiatives. For example, the taskforce goal of community health and wellness was accomplished by creating community gardens that grew vegetables that were given to food shelves. She expressed her approval of the committee’s effort to include Glendale and Marcy-Holmes as part of Prospect Park. She is working on template to use as a model for many neighborhood associations that incorporates inclusivity and emphasizes putting people first. Mary expressed frustration at how difficult it was to get the word out about environmental issues. Lydia cited as an example the fact that no one responded to the committee’s online pandemic questionnaire offering assistance resources.

Britt gave an example of how to reach out to indigenous communities. She suggested that the garden club reach out to Glendale and Minneapolis Park Board with a plan to plant trees in Glendale next spring. She has connections there and said it would be a good start. Another suggested way to make connections would be for the garden club to reach out to the Indigenous Taskforce to schedule an urban farm tour.

Britt also suggested putting short articles in the PPA newsletter every month. This month the PPA Environment Committee can announce its partnership with the Indigenous Taskforce. Britt also noted that the world is consumed by social media and the committee needs to use it. (Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and Next Door). Mary reminded folks that she has created a group on Next Door called “There is no Planet B: Environment Initiatives in the Twin Cities”

#### **4. Results of Litter Be Gone Lydia McAnerny**

Lydia reported that 30 people participated in the Litter Be Gone campaign and felt it was successful. She thinks more folks would have joined if there was a better way to get out information about the campaign. Mary suggested church newsletters but Lydia says many of the church participants live outside Prospect Park. (Comment from Mary added to notes after meeting – P.P.U.M.C. actually did a neighborhood cleanup

around the church. Just because they don't live in the neighborhood doesn't mean we shouldn't include them.)

**5. Schedule for next 3 months (through Jan 2021)**

November 10 – Environment Committee meeting

December 8 - Environment Committee meeting

January – roll out to the neighborhood of natural gas reduction goal

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

**Action Items:**

**Britt** – will find out about reflection vest costs and whether or not we can use the PPA logo.

**Mary, Lydia and Kathleen** – sub-committee meeting to discuss 5 year plan for the Climate Action Plan.

**Items for PPA Newsletter:**

**Kathleen** - Adopt A Drain reminder

**Mary** - Invitation to next meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>.