

PPA Environment Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
6:30 pm - 8 pm
Zoom Meeting

Attending: Mary Britton, Lydia McAnerny, Kathleen Davis, Britt Howell, Lupe Castillo, Robin Schow, James Reinardy, Jane Stockman, Jay Benedict

Rain Garden Update Mary \ Lydia

Mary reported that the rain garden grant to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) for financial and technical assistance from Metro Blooms for the plan, design, and supervision of rain garden installations in the neighborhood made it through the first round. In the second round, the Post Office dropped out as a potential site and feedback was requested on the impact to habitat. Jay noted that the rain garden at Pillars will be close to the child care center, Growing Together. Mary wants to find out where the rain gardens in Glendale will be located. Lydia is the point person for the project and was the drafter of the grant proposal.

Minneapolis Parks for All All

Mary reminded committee members that comments for the Park Board Comprehensive Plan are due on January 18th. Members agreed to read to proposed plan and let her know if comments are needed.

Creative Center at Luxton Mary

Mary reported that Lenox may be opening a creative center in the near future. Steve Zimmer informed her the center could include a print shop that the committee could use to print t-shirts for Earth Day. The final decision will be made in March.

Climate Action Plan 2021 Mary

Mary will be presenting about the Climate Energy Plan at the January 25th Prospect Park community meeting. Then on February 13, at 10 am Mary will give a Zoom presentation from offices of Minnesota Center on Energy and Environment (MNCEE) on home energy improvements, audits and insulating. She will focus on the problems created by greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas. She emphasizes that participants will get \$30 off a home energy audit. Mary has spoken to Steve Zimmer about hiring teens in the Glendale neighborhood at \$15 an hour to distribute flyers about the presentation. Mary acknowledged and thanked Lupe for her offer to do a

formal respectful orientation for these youths. There was discussion about the reasons the committee focused on natural gas usage as well as what sector is most responsible for the increase in gas emissions.

Environment Committee Budget All

The present budget balance is \$1500. Mary will get another \$1000 from Wells Fargo and she will put it in the committee's account. Mary will create a budget to submit to Lynn for PPA board review and for approval by 1/18/21 (in order to have funds available at the end of January). Mary proposes three major categories: flyer distribution/event assistance, printing and supplies and yard signs and t-shirts for Spring Clean-Up.

A motion was made by Mary to approve the budget for spending \$500 for yard signs/T-shirts, \$500 for flyer distribution/event assistance and \$500 for printing and supplies. The motion was seconded by Lydia and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

In addition, Lydia and Britt discussed how much to request from the Good Neighbor fund to pay for the bike tour promoted by Britt. The bike tour will include the rain gardens as part of the tour.

Announcements for next PPA Newsletter

Rain Garden

Energy Initiative

Tree Planting

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 9th