

PPA Environment Committee Meeting Agenda - Updated

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

6:30 - 8 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attending: Mary Britton, Lydia McAnerny, Kathleen Davis, Jane Stockman, Jennie Michlitsch

Meeting Topics

Mary started the meeting by acknowledging that February is Black History Month with a recognition of African American environmentalists

25% by 2025 Initiative

Registration for Saturday's MNCEE Zoom Information Meeting

Mary thanked meeting attendees for signing up for the Saturday February 13th Presentation at 10 am that Mary and MNCEE are giving about energy audits.

Update on distribution of flyers \working with Luxton

Mary reported that she worked with four young men from Glendale to distribute flyers regarding Saturday's presentation. Each worker received a \$25 gift card for his work. She thought it went well considering the weather.

Focus on financial benefits of energy efficiency

Mary would like to include information in presentations on how energy efficiency fits into neighborhood resiliency including safety and economic considerations. Also she posed the question whether it could be possible to hire neighborhood teenagers to help insulate the homes of their senior neighbors, thereby drawing from the community to help neighbors.

Since 30% of the households in Prospect Park are high energy users (averaged over 131 dth in 2019), Mary pointed out that the committee needs to emphasize the financial benefit of insulating homes and using other energy efficiencies. Owners will recoup their costs through lower energy costs. Also the comfort factor should be stressed especially in light of the cold weather this winter and summer heat.

Rain Garden Update

Mary and Lydia reported that they hope to hear from MWMO very soon. If the committee proposal request does not make the first cut, there are some additional chances to seek funds. Lydia will be working on submitting a

grant proposal to the Good Neighbor Fund in March and the Legacy Fund in May. Mary said that Wells Fargo will be contributing additional funds to the environment committee this year.

Earth Day 2021

Lydia reported that the vision for Earth Day 2021 is to create an event that encourages all residents of Prospect Part to participate in caring for the earth and the watershed around the Mississippi River. The event will take the place of the annual Earth Day clean-up event usually scheduled in April. This year, given COVID restrictions, the Environment Committee plans a river clean-up occurring over a two week period. Erica Chua from the Minneapolis Park Board will coordinate getting supplies like plastic bags and gloves. The overall time period for the Clean-Up will be April 10-24. On Saturday, April 10th, supplies will be distributed from 1 to noon at three locations (along East River Parkway, Luxton Park and the new park on . Steve Zimmer, Lydia McAnerney, Richard Adams and Kathleen Davis will help monitor three registration sites on April 10th and hand out supplies. Sports bottles will be given out to all who participate and participants will report back to coordinators with the amount of material collected. Prizes will be given out.

Lydia noted that tasks still to be done are 1) Develop sign in/registration form if not available from the Park Board; 2) Determine routes for sign up; 3) Develop sign up form to go out in March PPA newsletter, on PPA website, and other social media.

To publicize Earth Day, the committee will post on the PPA Facebook page, Next Door and use Instagram “We are Prospect Park”. The details will be solidified at the March meeting. Lydia will present at the Prospect Park garden club, and information about the project will be sent to Southeast Seniors and Prospect Park Land Use Committee. Mary noted she would like to involve U of M students. Lydia indicated several students usually help out each year.

Malcolm Yards

Mary notes that a food court is planned for the old Harris Machinery Site. Mary would like to network with Malcolm Yards to see whether the food court could partner with Luxton and offer employment to youth from Glendale and other youth in the neighborhood.

Other Announcements:

Kathleen noted that there was a meeting last week seeking community feedback about the design of the Emerald Street park. Although this land is located across the border in St. Paul, it will provide some additional green space for the community.

Link to information on park - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/new-park-westgate>

Announcements for the next PPA Newsletter

- Rain Garden Update
- Energy initiative
- Earth Day Clean-Up

Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 9th