

**PPA Environment Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**6:30 - 8 pm**

Mary noted that May is Asian/Pacific Heritage Month [Asian American Lens on Environmental Justice](#)

**Introductions/Approve Agenda/Like current postings**

After introductions and review of Agenda, Mary asked that committee members remember to “like” Environment Committee events and announcements on Next Door and Facebook.

**Quick Announcements: Mary**

Mary announced that the intern from Venture Academy Intern has completed her internship. Mary asked that committee members help Mary decide on projects for the next intern.

The report for the 25% by 2025 Initiative is 13 energy audits in Prospect Park so far this year.

The Earth Day Clean Up was a great success with over 100 participants. The gift cards were very popular and the committee is very grateful to Lydia for her incredible effort and planning.

The current budget is in flux at this time due to outstanding grants proposals. The current total budget balance is \$1700 with \$100 spent this month on gift cards. **(Note: \$1500 was raised in 2020. We did not spend any money in 2020.)** Lydia will ask Lynn at PPA about a question raised: whether PPA received any money from State Farm since the corporation has made contributions in the past for the Spring Clean Up.

**Rain Garden Update Lydia/Mary**

Lydia reported that the grant applications are complete and have been submitted. Hopefully the committee will hear from MWMO by the end of May. Even if the grants are not awarded, the committee can still complete at least 3 of the 5 planned gardens based on its budget. The plan is to have the neighborhood organizations work with the committee to plan and

complete the gardens with the residents helping with the planting. It was agreed that the plantings and a celebration will occur on the same day. Also before the celebration there should be an acknowledgement that the gardens are planted on Dakota land. At the Glendale garden creation, Britt suggested that an elder from the community speak after the blessing and then other residents have the chance to speak about the project if they wish.

Mary raised the question whether the committee should use some of the grant money for Prospect Park street flags on streets that did not get flags. No decision was made. Mary thought the committee should wait and see if any grant money is awarded before deciding on whether to create more flags. The committee decided to get three bids. Lupe said she knows a native owned company that may be able to print the flags. She will check with the company.

### **Tree Planting with U of M Forestry Britt**

The Minneapolis Park Board and the Forestry Department has requested proposals for a new grant for planting trees around government property, including affordable housing. Britt is meeting with Jennifer from Hennepin County to decide whether to submit a proposal for Glendale. If awarded, the Forestry Department will plant the trees and the grant requires community involvement in the placement and care of the trees. Britt will be checking with Malik from Glendale to see if this is a project the Glendale community is interested in pursuing.

### **Garden/Home Energy Walk – Saturday, June 26 Lydia and Mary**

Lydia reported that the garden/home energy walk is coming together. The Environment Committee will partner with the PPA Garden Club for the annual walk. This year the walk will include homes with renewable energy and insulation projects as well as showing beautiful gardens. Britt wants folks to visit **the new park on 4th** during the garden walk to enjoy music and view rain gardens if they are completed. Brochures advertising the walk will acknowledge Nice Ride as a sponsor and also mention that MNCEE is offering \$30 off home energy assessment for persons attending the garden walk. Maps will be handed out at Pratt **starting at 10 am**. Lydia said she would like someone from the committee present to explain the alternative energy aspect of the walk. Kathleen Davis and Jim Reinardy volunteered to be the explainers.

## **25% by 2025 Initiative**

If the committee gets the MWMO grant for rain garden, then Mary would like to use part of the committee budget for lawn signs. She will start to look at designs. She wants to build momentum for the 25% by 2025 Initiative.

It was agreed that National Night Out (NNO) on August 3<sup>rd</sup> would be a great opportunity to promote the initiative. Britt has funding for NNO and suggests setting up an Environment Committee table on the north side of University.

## **Other**

Mary would like PPA to send out another postcard to all neighbors in the neighborhood again this year. Britt stated that Mary will need to bring a motion at the next PPA meeting to include the mailing as part of the budget. It is hoped this mailing will occur before NNO.

## **Future Meetings in Person**

Mary raised the possibility that the environment committee could begin to meet in person soon. Mary would like to find a location that works for everyone. It was also suggested that a zoom component of the meeting continue to exist for the time being.