

PPA Environment Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 13th, 2021
6:30 - 8 pm

Attendees: Mary, Britt, Lupe, Kathleen, Jim, Lydia

Introductions/Approve Agenda/Like current postings All

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

Garden Walk/Alternative Energy Source Walk debrief

Britt says there was a good crowd at the 4th Street site with seniors from Pillars actively participating. Folks from all over visited and Britt got to push electric bikes for mobility. It has been suggested that next year more gardens are included, including gardens south of Franklin.

Rain Garden Update

Lydia notes that she has not heard from the Good Neighbor Fund yet. Lydia will ask about the grant request which is for \$2000. She will be contacting Ebenezer Pillars for help with installation. The preparation days are August 16, 17 and 18 with August 19th as the planting day for the gardens. At the Glendale site, there will be a brief ceremony including a land acknowledgment at 10 am. Each of the locations will provide the volunteers to install the gardens. The garden club will provide 2 volunteers. Lydia has developed a short and informative presentation explaining what rain gardens are and why they are needed. There will be educational opportunities at Glendale and Mary hopes to have a Somali interpreter present to explain the importance of the garden.

NNO – Tuesday, August 3rd

Britt reports that the NNO celebration on 4th street will be a community event with 100% involvement of the apartments and residences in the area. Many of the local business will also be involved, including Fresh Thyme, Pillars, and U Garden. There will be games for the children, day care and a nurse present. She has met with every property manager in the area to encourage participation. Pillars is helping to fund the event and the only business Britt has not heard back from is the Teamsters. The celebration will focus on the environment and Mary asked for volunteers to sit at a table at

the 4th Street celebration to talk about the rain gardens and energy audits and what the environment committee is doing. There will be free swag and low cost food at the event.

Tree Planting with U of M Forestry

Britt is still working on getting trees planted in the yards of housing in Glendale. She has an event of July 20th (11:30 – 1:00) to mark the trees that will be planted. She would like help with setting up the tables. There will be electric bikes available to ride at the event.

2022 MWMO Grant for Franklin

Bob Sykora from the PPA Transportation Committee has reached out the Environment Committee to support applying for a MWMO grant for \$20,000 for planning the building of boulevard/rain garden gutters on Franklin Avenue to mitigate rain run off to prevent water going into the Mississippi River. The construction would also make the sidewalks ADA compliant and help with traffic calming.

Neighborhood Clean-up Lydia

The clean-up will occur on October 9th. Lydia reports that all the pieces are in place and that the committee needs to start recruiting volunteers now.

Announcements for next PPA Newsletter

Rain Gardens

Energy initiative

Other?

Next Meeting- Tuesday August 10 (has been moved to Monday August 9)