

PPA Environment Committee Meeting Minute
Monday, August 9th, 2021
6:30 - 8 pm

Attending: Mary K. Britton, Kathleen Davis, Britt Howell, Robert Sykora, Jim Reinardy

Introductions/Approve Agenda/Like current postings All

National Night Out All

4th Street Britt

Britt reported that the 4th Street NNO was a success with free food, poetry, music, games for the children and a great turnout. She stated that it was an intentional community engagement and an example of how to bring together community members, many of whom are renters. Mary B and Jim and Mary LeGris were present at the PPA Environment Committee information table.

Bee Fest Bob

Bob Sykora was responsible for putting together the Bee Fest and he reported that many kids from Luxton attended as well as the master gardener from the University. There were games for kids from 2:30 to 3:30 with the adults arriving around 6. Mary suggested that next year, she would like to see the Bee Fest occur during the Garden Walk.

25x25 Ambassador Program Mary

Mary expressed some frustration that so few energy audits have occurred. She is considering going door to door to educate neighbors about the program. She would like information to be available at the churches in the neighborhood and at every neighborhood event.

Rain Garden Update Mary

Mary reported that the Good Neighbor Fund awarded the PPA Environment Committee their grant request of \$2000. The environment committee also received a donation of \$100 for general funds. The Conservation Corp will do the prep work for the rain gardens on August 16th, 17th and 18th. On August 19th, a ceremony at the Glendale site at 10 am will include a land acknowledgment by Lupe and Britt and a short statement from each participating organization. Then volunteers will plant the rain garden plants at Glendale and Pillars.

Lydia's informational presentation about the importance of rain gardens and the impact of water runoff on the Mississippi watershed will be translated into Somali for Glendale residents. Mary will table at Luxton (August 10) during their backpack give-a-way and Lydia will give a presentation at Pillars (August 16).

Mary is trying to get Prospect Park flags for Glendale and Pillars before the fall bike tour. Britt is planning a fall bike tour and she will hire three people to assist on the tours. She also noted that on Saturday, September 11, West Broadway will have an open street celebration and Minnehaha Blvd will have one on Sunday, September 24th.

Fall Cleanup Mary

The event is scheduled to take place Saturday, October 9, 9 am –noon. There was discussion whether to schedule it during the pandemic. (As of September 10, 2021, the fall cleanup has been cancelled due to COVID).

Tree Planting with U of M Forestry – Fall Britt

Britt continues to work on getting trees planted in the yards of Glendale houses. Hennepin County Park District, which has extra trees, will supply the trees for the planting. Britt wants to have a planting event around the end of September. She will bring electric bikes to engage the youth and hopes to get the community excited about the new trees and their needed care. She hopes to complete all the plantings in one day. She thinks she will need about 10-12 teenagers to assist. Mary suggested that Britt hire youths from the Luxton program to help with the planting. Britt agreed to explore this possibility.

Vote on Statement of Support Bob

Bob Sykora requested that the Environment Committee sign on to a Statement of Support to make improvements to the intersection of Franklin, Arthur and Malcolm.

The PPA Environment Committee supports improvements at the intersection of Franklin, Arthur and Malcolm, including installation of rain garden/tree trench boulevards to divert runoff from the Mississippi, in increase pollinator habitat, to improve ADA access, to calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety.

A motion was made by Mary Britton to support this statement and seconded by Kathleen Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – Tuesday September 14th