

PPA Environment Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 14th, 2021
6:30 - 8 pm

*Sept. 15th – Oct 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month - <https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2013/09/celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-why-sept-15/>
<https://theglobalamericans.org/2017/08/five-latin-americans-leading-fight-protect-environment/>*

Present: Mary Britton, Kathleen Davis, Bob Sykora, Lydia McEnerney,

Introductions/ Approve Agenda\Reminder to like current postings

- Next Door – There is No Planet B Group
- Facebook

Upcoming events Mary

Mary noted following upcoming events:

- 4D Informational Session – Date TBD This program gives landlords who rent to low income persons a tax break.
- University Ave cleanup with RUF (U of M Student Group) on Oct 14th, 7 pm.

Adopt-A-Drain - Kathleen

The PPA newsletter includes a reminder to clean the storm drains this fall and also adopt a drain in the neighborhood. info@adopt-a-drain.org.

Fall Cleanup 2022 Discussion Lydia/All

What do we want for next year's Fall cleanup?

Lydia indicated that the clean-up has centered on Tower Hill and there is not much involvement of landlords or tenants, mostly home owners. She would like to get more involvement of renters. She would like to make it a more inclusive neighborhood event and suggests working with Ismail's group in Glendale for metal clean-up. She would like someone else to step up and be the point person for the clean-up. Mary queries whether brush should continue to be included in the pick-up, given the fact that the city picks up brush. Lydia notes that the important and most difficult part of continuing this event is finding volunteers.

PPA Budget News

Mary noted the budget problems of Prospect Park Association (PPA), given loss of significant funding. Mary will propose that PPA start active fundraising.

The options for Association future will be discussed at the next board meeting. Bob Sykora expressed concern that without a strong PPA, the neighborhood will lose significant power when interfacing with government officials. He also agrees that word

must go out to the neighborhood notifying everyone that there is a PPA funding crisis and that PPA welcomes any donation.

Rain Garden Update

Mary received a second invoice from Metro Blooms that was \$60 less than the first bill. Also the committee used \$110 for translation of the Rain Garden presentation into Somali for Glendale folks. There was a problem with the rain garden at the church. Apparently it was washed out by recent rains. Unfortunately there is no money to redo the garden at this time.

The production of street flags for parts of Prospect Park other than around the Tower is still in process.

Lydia suggests that the Fall Tour be moved to the spring. Lydia will check with Adam of MWMO regarding this change since the committee's MWMO grants state that the committee will sponsor a tour.

Tree Planting with U of M Forestry – Fall Britt

Britt was not present so no presentation on this agenda item.

Planting not painting along I94 Sound Walls Bob

Bob led the discussion of possibility of planting pollinator-friendly, drought and salt resistant vegetation along the I94 sound walls. Bob argues that the greenery will soften the wall appearance, cut down on graffiti and lessen the noise. He and the committee could work with the MNDOT botanist to identify plants that could provide this sort of green infrastructure. He also thinks that neighborhood gardeners could then adopt plantings. Later in Oct, the PPA Transportation Committee will meet with MNDOT to discuss wall painting scheme in light of graffiti problem. At this meeting, Bob will advocate for the use of plants since they are cheaper, more environmentally friendly, and effective at discouraging graffiti. Bob requested that the Environment Committee adopt a resolution supporting this endeavor. The following resolution was presented to the committee and voted on. The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution: The Environment Committee encourages and supports more planting of pollinator-friendly, drought and salt resistant vegetation along the 104 sound walls. The resolution passed

Possible sub-committee – Neighborhood Resiliency

Mary wants send out welcome letters to all new residents, including all tenants. She believes this will help to develop connections in our neighborhood and among other neighborhood. She will present idea at the next PPA board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.