Environment Meeting Minutes

Sept. 23, 2015

In attendance: Tim Wulling, Steve Yetter (chair), Michael Russelle, Betty Wheeler, Amanda Yang, Matt Hass

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| Introductions/Minutes | The group made a few changes in attendance to meeting minutes from last month. Neither Suyapa nor Claire were in attendance, but Wanjiru was (came in late). The minutes and agenda passed unanimously after that. |
| Kasota Ponds Intern | Cailin updated the group on the new intern: Jessica Jacobson from UMN, a senior in Environmental Science. The group brainstormed people for Jessica to reach out to including: Karlyn Eckman, Margaret Monson, Terry and Otto Gockman, Udai Sing, etc. They suggested she gain access to the Bridal Vail Creek Research study (Cailin sent it to her). They also wanted Jessica to have information on the charges against Metro Metals for context. The group brainstormed possibilities to improve the ponds long-term including better organized trash collection, cameras in the area, remediation (esp. for phosphorous).  |
| GIS Update | Amanda provided a GIS update. There are 200 industrial parcels in the neighborhood that Amanda is researching the history of. She needs to find out the actual use of each area and whether they were industrial or warehouse or something else entirely. |
| Watershed Grant | The group got a handout on the watershed grant opportunities through Capitol Region Watershed and discussed possibilities through MWMO vs. Capitol Region. There is no strict timeline on the grants, follow up will continue. |
| Luther Seminary Development--Impacts | The group discussed possible environmental impacts of the Luther Seminary development project with a concern to the permeability of the land and the storm water runoff. **Michael moved to encourage Ecumen (the land developers) to design the project to avoid water runoff from the site by using any number of strategies which may include green roofs, cisterns, or evaporators. Matt seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.** The committee noted that this project brings many positive aspects to the neighborhood, including density and the potential for smart growth. **Betty moved to encourage the developers to retain as much tree canopy as possible. Tim seconded the motion. Daniel offered a friendly amendment accepted by Betty to encourage no net loss of trees on the property. The motion passed unanimously.** Members of the committee suggested that Ecumen talk to the Forestry Department at the City of St. Paul for recommendations.Many members of the committee expressed hope that the development will include garden plots. TT-ASAP has worked with Luther Seminary on some of these issues before. Next committee meeting, the group would like to discuss minimizing turf and maximizing sustainable land use.The committee would also like to invite an Ecumen representative to come meet with the group at the next meeting. |
| Staff Updates | The Community Garden pipeline discussion is moving forward with the Executive Committee, Suyapa, and attorney Ferdinand Peters. The recommendations of this committee have been crucial to the discussions.  |
| Adjourn | Matt moved to adjourn |