Saint Anthony Park Community Council

Environment Committee

Abbreviated Minutes

January 23, 2019

Urban Growler Brewing Company Taproom

Present: Michael Russelle, Lisa Habeck, Betty Wheeler, Steven Mastey, Tim Wulling, John Maurer

Verbal agenda was established.

1. Minutes of November meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

2. Updates: Karlyn connected via email with Janna Caywood on Como Park neighborhood leaf cleanup. Janna is currently out of town and is willing to meet with us in March or April.

3. The committee reviewed the short-term and ongoing strategies in the draft Community Plan and prioritized our strategies for 2019. Priorities and point persons were discussed as follows:

- CC1.2: Set goals for and promote energy-efficient, healthy, and comfortable buildings by working with public and private partners to provide air-sealing, insulation, and other improvements, while also mitigating and preventing indoor mold due to improper insulation and inadequate moisture control and encouraging bulk buy opportunities for high-efficiency AC, HVAC systems, and heat-recovery ventilators. *Karlyn will discuss with Mary Raasch at the Center for Energy and Environment (which merged with Neighborhood Energy Consortium) to request a visit/meeting with the EC.*

- CC1.5 Explore ways to increase composting of organics by residents and businesses on private and public property and with neighboring institutions, including expanding the availability of compostable “single use” items. *Michael Russelle will work on this.*

- CC2.1 Set goals for energy production, with improved equity and local jobs. For example, by 2030, secure 50% of the community’s electrical energy from renewable sources, such as Community Solar Gardens that allow subscribers who have modest credit rating scores, and install charging stations for electric vehicles in every public and most private parking lots and ramps. *Michael will work on this.*

- CC2.2: Promote and support installation of renewable-energy production systems (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass methane) throughout the District, with battery storage systems for electric power where feasible. Use Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and other financing options. *Tim Wulling will follow up.*

- PR3.1: Work to maintain and strengthen the physical assets and programming at Langford Park and assist with maintaining and improving the park now used by Joy of the People. *Stephen Mastey and* *Lisa Habeck to follow up.*

- PR5.1: Obtain funds to support maintenance of rain gardens in boulevards and parks. *Steven Mastey and Betty Wheeler will follow up.*

- WSA1.3: Determine where water flows and identify areas with potential for localized flooding. *Michael Russelle will follow-up.*

- WSA4.1: Maintain an information database and interactive map of identified sites of soil pollution, and identify suspected areas for further investigation. *Michael Russelle, Karlyn Eckman, and Betty Wheeler to follow up.*

- WSA4.2: Conduct a neighborhood mapping project to identify areas of concern regarding soil contamination (e.g., boulevards and park land that may be used for food production). *This is a priority issue given Minnesota Chemical issue. Follow-up by Michael Russelle, Karlyn Eckman and Betty Wheeler.*

- WSA4.4: Seek opportunities to monitor outdoor air quality. *Lisa Habeck will work on this.*

- WSA5.4: Work to reduce noise from compression braking by truck drivers and night-time racing through and near the neighborhood. *Karlyn will follow up with Saint Paul Police*

- WSA5.8: Advocate for strengthening and enforcing sign restrictions intended to reduce billboards and sign clutter. *Karlyn will follow up by contacting billboard companies and inquire about rates to post environmental messages.*

4. Resolution Indicating Support for Sustainable To-Go Container Ordinance. After discussion, it was decided that Michael Russelle will ask Kathryn Murray for copy of the ordinance and will forward to EC members by email for review.

5. Kasota Ponds: Steven Mastey and Kathryn Murray are following up on MWMO grant for buckthorn removal this winter. Minnesota Native Landscapes will do mechanical removal of buckthorn starting on January 31 and convert to mulch on the East Pond; then overseeding with native mix or possibly rye. We envision successive annual efforts on buckthorn and shoreline stabilization, beginning with the East Pond where ownership is clear and supportive. Combine with spring Kasota Pond clean-up by encouraging volunteers to prune small Buckthorn. Steven Mastey to coordinate. There is an information session on January 31 on financial reporting for the MWMO grant; Kathryn will attend.

Kasota Pond clean-up dates: April 6, 2019; rain date April 27.

It was decided to replace the 2004 turtle basking logs with new logs and anchors in February or March 2019; date to be determined.

6. New business: Lisa Habeck reported problems with wood smoke from indoor wood stoves, causing significant air quality issues for neighbors even inside their houses.

7. Breck Woods: Luther Seminary and developers are looking at 450 living units, approximately 600 vehicles, and possibly one thousand additional residents. EC role should be to be present at public meetings; review equity aspects; look at tree preservation; permeable pavers; and accessibility. Land Use and Transportation committees are taking the lead.

Next meeting: Wednesday February 27, 7:00pm, Nico’s back room