

SAPCC Environmental Committee Meeting Monday, November 22, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Michael Russelle (chair), Kerry Morgan, Betty Wheeler, Val Cervenka, Rennie Gaither

*no quorum so no votes taken

Land acknowledgment – Michael Russelle

Secretary pro tem - Kerry Morgan volunteered

Introductions – no need, small group

Ongoing items

100 Trees Initiative - Michael gave update - CEZ grant proposal to CRWD

- Michael had contacted Ben Shardlow, with CEZ, about the idea of submitting a grant to the Capitol Region Watershed District.
- Learned that they had discussed it already with CRWD; agreed for us to collaborate with them. Copy of the grant was sent to our committee
- CEZ will organize people to water the trees on their property
- SAPCC role will be educational; we can host educational activities at the high rise with translators and at Hampton Square apartments. So nearby neighbors can learn how trees are important.

Chimney Swift towers – Michael gave update

- We got full funding from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, \$2400!
- Rennie helped make one at the Lily Pad, and that one cost \$800, used donated lumber; Patricia Ohmans at Frogtown Green had lumber around so Daniel Westholden was hired to make the design and with Rennie's help they cut the lumber.
- Ours might be put on roof of business or school in SAP. Committee needs to decide on optimal site. Maybe we can even build two! Talk to Menards or Home Depot or Fratallones to see about lumber donation. Worth a try. Need to consider habitat and educational activities.
- Karlyn Eckman, Rennie, and hopefully John Boyt will see to this project being finished.

Solar on Saint Paul Schools – Michael gave update

- Board approved the letter (text sent to committee); sent to St. Paul Board of Education
- Individuals can fill out the [form](#) to show support.
- What is it about? Letter expresses support to add a solar array on the roofs of all St. Paul Public School that can physically support it.

Waste reduction – Michael gave update

- Michael and Lizzy (Elizabeth Logas-Lindstrom is director of recycling at the U of M) are going to write an article about ways that we can recycle better.
- Michael was invited to send in a news item to the Park Bugle as part of SAPCC news (draft was forwarded to committee, with apologies to Lizzy)

New South St. Anthony Park – Michael gave update

- nothing new to bring up; name is still under discussion.

New Business

SAPCC Annual Meeting – Thursday, Dec 9 – (via Zoom, links will be available on the SAP list serve and through the email that SAPCC sends)

- This event will include a presentation and Q&A with Russ Stark, Chief Resilience Officer, Saint Paul Mayor's Office; discussion of some of the energy audits that are required of buildings of certain sizes; encourage upgrades; hope infrastructure \$ will be used

ACTION:

>> **Review** the Saint Paul Climate Action & Resilience Plan (send with the agenda on 11/16)

>> **Draft questions for Russ Stark** (forward to Michael by 11/29 or directly to Kathryn Murray, who will make sure there are not duplicates and send them to Russ)

Annual report due next month - photos and text - Michael

- Committee members need to review the set of goals and propose wording for what we accomplished. The 2020 report was attached to the agenda email.
- **Share a few photos that relate to our work.** Such as: rain garden work or 100 Trees, or cleaning up with Adopt a Drain, Kasota Ponds, etc. One of us can use them when we review our annual accomplishments at the Annual Meeting of SAPCC. **Please send the photos to Michael by December 2.**
- Rennie asked: How much money does the city give the SAPCC? About \$54,000—does not even cover cost of ED; we have to raise money for Community Organizer; raise money for interns, rental space, office space, etc. There are 17 Councils. The amount is inversely related to median income of the district. We regularly ask for \$ from the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and include administration support in grant applications.
- Rennie asked: Does it matter where the drains are located? Does it need to be in SAP? Not necessarily—depends on what the photos show!

Metro Transit Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan –

"We are working for Metro Transit on the development of the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan (<https://www.metrotransit.org/electric-buses>). The first Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan will be submitted to the legislature by February 15, 2022. This plan will identify the short- (2022-2025), medium- (2026-2030) and long- (beyond 2030) term opportunities, risks, and implementation strategies to transition more of Metro Transit's fleet to zero-emission technology. The plan is guided by technical viability, equity and environmental justice, and financial impact. We are seeking the community's help in prioritizing zero-emission bus implementation."

"In November and early December, we are reaching out to neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul to provide a brief presentation and discussion on the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan at monthly organization meetings. We also have a survey available until November 30, 2021 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N85Y9CQ>."

ACTION >> Fill out their survey (see links above). if you have an interest and opinion. Individuals should fill out form, using your own values.

- They want to know which routes should get electric buses early. How should these routes be prioritized? Number of people using the route? Which neighborhoods? Might be technical, logistical issues (how hard it is to implement, length of route)? Need to reduce pollution in most disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- We can work with the Transportation Committee to craft a letter to the SAPCC Board Executive Committee. We can synthesize information. Board may or may not approve.
- There may be an opportunity to hear a speaker at the SAPCC Transportation Committee meeting on 11/30. If you're interested in participating, contact Pat Thompson (co-chair) <pat@marksimonson.com>
- Discussion ensued about recent studies about air pollution and fine particulate matter (PM); findings confirmed that they are both much worse around disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Goals for 2022:

We need to determine our goals for the coming calendar year and submit them after finalizing and approving them at our December meeting.

- Michael prefers that we use the community's 10-year plan as the basis. If you do not have a copy of the Community Plan, you can [find it here](#).

ACTION >> Please begin reviewing the sections you're interested in, and share goals you think we can set for 2022.

- Michael would like to work on air quality. Find grant agency, get equipment to pair with regular air quality monitor. Provide more localized detailing of the impact of wood smoke. Some countries provides incentives/de-incentives.
- Tour of West Rock, paper recycling. Mike Gunderson has offered to give a tour.
- Rennie brought up clean-up of Kasota Ponds; buckthorn and litter removal; hope that a grant could be written for the East Pond
- Charter – do we have one?
 - Val asked if we have a document that describes what the scope is of the SAPCC and committees;
 - Michael explained that SAPCC can advise anything that affects businesses, residents, churches, etc. We have by-laws about different committees. We have done salt management, habitat, Kasota Ponds, tree planting project; we decide what we want to work on, decide on motivation to get resources and \$.
- Val raised concern about state of rain garden by old Lakes and Plains building (by Salon George; Raymond and Ellis/Bradford), hardly any non-roses; so hot and dry this summer; she could not tend to it due to work schedule; now it looks awful; dogwoods are dying; might have fungal disease; thistles, grape vine, etc. CRWD does not provide money for ongoing maintenance when a new rain garden is installed; one garden needs more infiltration; they all need constant maintenance; lots of litter; now is a good time to cut/pull as we can now see stems; Stephen would be able to help identify what should be cut
 - Val, Michael, and Kerry agreed to work the weekend of Nov. 27-28 on cleaning up litter and possibly removing the unwanted growth

Other business

Next meeting: Usual 4th Wednesday, December 22.
That is the plan for now.

Adjourn