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Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Environment Committee
Minutes of a Zoom meeting, December 22, 2021

Present: Bill Anderson, Karlyn Eckman, Lisa Habeck, Aaron Hinz, Manu Junemann, Stephen Mastey (co-chair), Michael Russelle (co-chair), Betty Wheeler

Visitors: Elizabeth Logas-Lindstrom, Ben Shardlow (CEZ)

Michael gave the Land Acknowledgement

Bill Anderson, a newly elected Board member, was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

100 Trees Initiative

Ben Shardlow presented the background on this 2021 initiative, which is well described on the CEZ website. Despite complications in getting the project off the ground and the extraordinary heat stress in summer, about 70 trees were transplanted in October to sites in South Saint Anthony Park. A Good Neighbor Fund grant was received and about \$1200 were donated by individuals. Ben expressed appreciation for the collaboration from our committee and several other organizations and businesses, and he stated CEZ's desire to strengthen ties with the SAPCC.

A grant for 2022 has been submitted to the CRWD and another proposal is planned. An intern from the University of Minnesota is developing a list of trees that are well adapted to gravel beds, are good street trees, are native or are hardy and provide good pollinator habitat, etc. Karlyn emphasized that species selection should be guided by local people for the tree characteristics they desire. We discussed some of the deficiencies in the first phase of the project and ways to overcome them. The gravel beds likely will be moved to the former Sunrise Banks property at 2171 University Avenue West, which CEZ has purchased.

Stephen moved and Lisa seconded submission of a letter from the SAPCC agreeing to enrich and strengthen our relationship with CEZ and to state our support for continuing the 100 Trees Initiative. Motion passed.

SAPCC Annual Meeting

We briefly recapped Russ Stark's presentation and some of the points members made in questions we submitted.

2021 Accomplishments

Michael briefly reviewed the written accomplishment statements. After slight edits, Bill moved and Stephen seconded a motion to approve document. Unanimous support.

PK Property Services

This commercial cleaning services business is located in the building next to the West Kasota Pond. They or their snow management contractors dumped deicing chemicals on the shore of

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the pond last year. Karlyn and Aaron removed what they could. The Council's letter to PK Property Services about the issue last year has remained unanswered.

Karlyn offered to monitor the site this winter. We decided to contact DNR, Ramsey County Conservation District, MWMO, and the City of Minneapolis to learn what the status of the pond is and what can be done to limit degradation of the water quality. Karlyn, Aaron, and Stephen will follow through on this. We may want to write a formal letter requesting one or more of these agencies to address the issue. In addition, Aaron agreed to contact MnDOT about revegetation of the area they cleared at the south end of the East Kasota Pond.

2022 Goals

Michael will send a list of potential goals based on the Community Plan. Members are asked to select one or more of these or additional topics they are willing to work on in the coming year. The list will be on next month's agenda.

New members

The committee unanimously and enthusiastically approved membership for Lizzy Logas-Lindstrom and Kerry Morgan.

Next Meeting

Because the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation has scheduled their annual meeting on our regular meeting date, we agreed to meet on **January 19** at 7 pm by Zoom.