

MGCC Environment Committee meeting minutes

July 20, 2017

Meeting officially began at 7:19pm

May 2017 minutes approved.

June Water as Our Resource Workshop Review

The information was well-received and the audience 2-3x larger than the spring Friday night workshop. Britta has surveyed participants and so far has discovered that 2-3 people attended both workshops so far (besides MGCC staff and volunteers). We have 5 consultations available with a CRWD Master Water steward for this summer/fall. We would be interested in also hosting an institutional discussion on stormwater management as our last workshop for this grant or compile a packet of information particularly focused on institutions' management of stormwater. MGCC will pursue a stormwater discussion with the faith community at an upcoming meeting. City Life may want to partner on this; we will discuss again at the Sept. Environment Committee meeting.

Water as Our Resource MacGrove Fest Planning (Sept. 9, 2-6pm)

We liked the community living room approach of our long-term community plan conversations a few years ago. We could intersperse water-friendly tables among other tables and have a scavenger hunt for people to get a "passport" stamped at the water tables as they mingle with other tables. What sort of sign, symbol, flag, etc. would we have at the water tables? What would motivate people to actually visit all the tables?

Each environment committee member will come up with a water-themed activity/experience for community members to learn or take action. Likely to have 7 stations. Send your idea to Britta. We could ask Sheila's husband John or Dave Pasiuk to help as well, especially with helping to set up a rain barrel for someone.

Organizations at event: CRWD, Transition Towns, All Energy Solar

Possible Activities besides brainstorm by committee members: Water Bar (maybe in food area?) sponsored by Julian Locke; mini golf with water theme; ping pong with questions on balls; use rain barrel as an education station; water quality testing; pollutant pictures at organics site

Set up for the event is likely to be from 12:30-2 on Sept. 9.

Continue planning for water activities at Johanna's house (1315 Sargent) on Aug. 17 at 7pm.

OTC update

The City Council vote was laid over to allow further discussion at next week's City Council meeting.

Other Business: Recap of Groundwater and dry cleaners meeting with MPCA

Chris Fornbee and Gary Kruger from MPCA presented. MPCA discovered very high perc levels outside apartment building on east end of block by former Stoltz site. Concerns about further groundwater contamination. Stoltz has refused to engage in voluntary clean up. MPCA may pursue having site recognized as Superfund site.

MPCA is working to establish new monitoring wells for groundwater moving eastward from the former Stoltz dry cleaner site at Grand and Snelling. MPCA will also carry out soil vapor monitoring before Nov. 1 and then again later in the year.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.