

Macalester-Groveland Community Council Environment Committee

January 19, 2017

Members in attendance: Melanie Nafziger-Peterson, Johanna Anderson, Craig Skone, David Soll, Wendell Bell, Liz Boyer (staff), Britta Sherrill (staff)

Guests: Scott Raskiewicz, Dave Pasik

Meeting called to order at 7:03, October minutes approved.

Scott Raskiewicz, Founder of Solar Golf and Tennis Association

Scott attended the meeting to discuss his ideas for increasing the installation of solar panels in Saint Paul. His first goal would be to have solar panels installed on the roof of Edgucumbe Rec Center. Scott suggested that the committee should do a petition in support of installing solar panels (petition could be online or a poster in the rec center) and could ask "Would you like to see solar panels on Edgumbe?" Residents could also send letters to public officials demanding solar panels. Scott suggested that the funding for solar panel installation across the city could come from revenue sharing of public airwaves. Scott's tennis association could also host fundraiser events. Liz shared that the Scheffer Rec Center is scheduled for improvements so this might be a good time to recommend solar panel installation. Liz will let Scott know about this potential opportunity.

City of Saint Paul's Sustainable Packaging Ordinance

Liz will share an email regarding the latest news on the ordinance. The City is hosting meetings with businesses that would be potentially impacted by a sustainable packaging ordinance.

Organized Trash Collection update

The City has been meeting biweekly with 14 haulers (sending 2 representatives each). They expect to receive a proposal from the hauler group very soon, but are also preparing to form an options committee in case progress stalls.

Capitol Region Watershed District Grant Planning

- The committee agreed to serve as the steering committee for the grant project.
- Earth month would be a good target for the Christie Manning workshop (Liz will check with Christie about potential dates).
- The last workshop can be hosted at Mac Grove Fest.
 - Borrow displays from Met Council, MPCA, etc.
 - Volunteer to adopt a storm drain
 - Kids activity
 - Showcase changes that have been implemented during timeframe of our project
- Need to think about how to promote Christie's workshop so people get excited.
- Potential host sites for Christie's workshop: Gloria Dei, Mac-Plymouth, Pilgrim
 - Johanna can check on Pilgrim's interest with friends who attend Pilgrim

- Britta/Liz will contact Gloria Dei and Mac-Plymouth
- Dave's workshop can be held in June
 - Being able to present slides is really important so need a screen
 - Mac-Plymouth and Macalester have good stormwater features to show
 - Liz/Britta will contact potential locations (aim for workshop date of June 22nd)
- Incentives
 - Need to find local retailers for incentives
 - Businesses will be added to a Google spreadsheet and committee members will sign up to contact them
- Want to promote in next newsletter so need details by February 10th

Upcoming events

- Home Improvement Fair: promote stormwater workshops; need volunteers for table from 8 – 1
- Annual meeting: promote workshops

City Recycling program

- MGCC will share updates in e-news and newsletter