

MGCC Environment Committee meeting minutes
May 18, 2017

Meeting began at 7:03pm

Present: Craig, Sheila, David, Michelle, Melanie, Britta.

April 2017 minutes approved.

Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance Resolution Update

Resolution passed at April 2017 board meeting.

4/28 Water as Our Resource Workshop Review

Presenter was pleased with workshop; Dr. Manning will share materials. She has also offered to donate her stipend back to support future environmental programming at MGCC. Food was good. Smaller turnout than hoped for yet not surprising since it was a Friday night. At next event let's poll people about how they heard about the event.

6/22 Water as Our Resource Workshop Planning

Event 6:30-8:30 at MacPlymouth Church. 60-90 minute presentation with slideshow and then Q&A, committee members will lead optional walking tour of stormwater features at Macalester and MacPlymouth Church from 6:15-6:30 and for 15 minutes after workshop.

Dave Pasiuk will address the following topics: permeable paving, rain barrels, in-yard rain garden, native plants, boulevard rain gardens and lawn care. CRWD staff will be present and could begin the workshop by addressing the goals of stormwater management in the metro area soil contamination

Craig will post publicity on Next Door for the event.

Who will volunteer? Sheila, John, Melanie, Dave

Mac-Grove Fest "Water Theme" Ideas (Sept. 9, 2-6pm)

Brainstormed potential ideas for this event (Finalize plans by mid to late July.):

- Raffle a rain barrel maybe with installation included if someone is willing to install (could the rain barrel be donated or sold at cost by a local hardware store, Ramsey County gardeners, CRWD, buy in August so hopefully we could buy on clearance)
- Create a particular space for water-related info/activities including a name (e.g. Water Way)
- Fish pond with clothes pins and shower curtain
- Slip and slide
- Craig will check about whether we could use one of the Met Council's water tables
- Info about new CRWD storm drain program
- Organize a Friends of the Mississippi River drain stenciling outing
- Invite non-profits and businesses that relate to stormwater and ecology to table/sell plants/goods (Eggplant, Mother Earth Gardens, Leitner's, landscapers who specialize in native or rain gardens, etc.)
Send names of suggested nonprofits/businesses to Britta.
- Publicize fall and spring plant shares at the event.
- Raffle Blue Thumb guides, cutting board, 3 Chinook Books (what qualifications to win?)

Other Business: Water Update from Michelle

Michelle talked with several experts about concerns about groundwater and pollution Macalester Groveland, particularly regarding the corners of Snelling and St. Clair/Grand. Mark Koplitz from the MPCA reported that there are not buried gas tanks at the corner of Snelling and St. Clair. There was a recent leak of chemicals from

underground tanks at the corner of Snelling and Grand. Michelle also talked with Chris Fornby a hydrogeologist. He reported that the contamination level at Snelling and Grand is 100 times the legal level. He reported that based on the site assessment program, Stoltz was requested to pay for clean up of the site and refused. MPCA would have to sue Stoltz to hold him accountable for the clean up costs. Michelle urges the community to focus on enforcement of existing laws as well as appropriate legislation. She mentioned that Minneapolis has passed a law banning the most toxic triple chemical perc used for drycleaning so that now Minneapolis dry cleaners must use a petroleum-based dry cleaning chemical that is less persistent. Maybe St. Paul could follow suit. Michelle will invite Chris Fornby to speak at the July 20 or Sept. 21 committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm.