

**Macalester Groveland Community Council
Environment Committee
Thursday, September 21, 2017**

Members in attendance: Craig Skone, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Sheila Sweeney, David Soll, Liz Boyer (staff), Britta Sherrill (staff).

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of July minutes: Motion passed.

Mac-Grove Fest Recap:

Liz has received positive feedback about the overall event and about the water-themed scavenger hunt. Liz estimated there could have been about 1,000 attendees; food trucks reported slow sales; vendors at tables were pleased. People reported liking the combination of attending the event and learning something. The scavenger hunt also provided a fun way for volunteers to interact with community members. It seemed effective to spread the scavenger hunt sites out throughout the event so that people walked through the whole event and had to search for the sites a bit. Ideas for future years if we want to continue to have a scavenger hunt include each committee making one station on the scavenger hunt each year on a different relevant theme each year, or each year a different committee could plan a scavenger hunt related to their committee's work.

CRWD Grant: Fall business/org/school/faith outreach planning:

It would be great if the preparation for this outreach resulted in a permanent product that would be available for community members in the future. The goal is a "community forum in a box." The goal of the outreach is to encourage larger-scale water quality improvement projects. The governor has a 25 by 25 campaign to improve water quality and to encourage communities to host meetings about water quality. We will use some of the materials from that project to engage with our institutional community. Liz and Britta suggested that we use a three-step approach to preparing for this outreach:

- 1) Compile water quality materials targeting institutional interests and needs
- 2) Invite institutions to meet with MGCC about stormwater management and water quality
- 3) Integrate pieces of the 25 by 25 plan into presentations and materials for institutions (e.g. the community water quality guide questions)

A basic outline for the meetings would be:

- Lead with information regarding CRWD grants and tech support for institutions
- Educate on water quality issues
- Problem: Emphasized the role climate change plays in water management decisions
- Why to care: Explore implications for stormwater
- What to do: Finish with potential solutions and recommendations

Possible organizations to invite to meet include:

MacPlymouth church environment committee

Pilgrim Lutheran

City Life

Randolph Heights

Groveland School

Ramsey School

Laura Jeffrey School

CRWD is in the midst of its RFP for a variety of stormwater management projects. Could we put together a creative, effective grant application? Maybe involving education/outreach, partnerships with other district councils (Union Park, Highland, 4 other district councils?), outreach to immigrant families to educate on the drinkability of Saint Paul tap water, etc.

MGCC needs volunteers to help compile information and/or carry out outreach.

Tasks:

- Set up meetings with institutional case study sites to glean their recommendations and lessons learned:
 - Great River School (Melanie will help)
 - MacPlymouth church
 - Gloria Dei
- Get Dr. Manning and Dave Pasiuk's presentations
- Gather information from the 25 by 25 sources (David will help)
- Liz will contact Randolph Heights, Groveland and Ramsey
- Britta will connect with Vanessa and Mitch regarding connecting with City Life
- Liz and Britta will invite Sarah Cledwyn's contacts on her faith-related e-mail list, the business e-list, and ask GABA if they would like us to present at one of their meetings.

In our invitations to institutions, we should emphasize that our information would be particularly valuable and relevant if they are engaging in water-management projects in the near future such as parking lot paving, having space for a garden, dealing with water runoff/drainage issues, or if they're interested in catching water off their roof to use for irrigation.