

PPA Environment Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
6:30 - 8 pm
Luxton Park-large classroom

Present: Mary Britton, Kathleen Davis, Lydia McErney, Rick McCormick and Steve Zimmer

Holiday Card for Liza signed

Revision to structure of meeting Mary B

Revision to structure of meetings proposed by Mary B. At each meeting, as items come up that need attention, they are tagged as action items. At the end of the meeting, each item will be reviewed to determine who will be working on it and assigning a turnaround time.

U OF M Climate Action Plan Revisited

The University will be presenting its proposed Climate Action Plan at a workshop at Luxton on February 23rd. The goal is to present its proposed plan and accept comments from the neighborhood. Amanda Kohn from the U of M's Sustainability Office has reached out to the committee to assist in securing neighborhood input. Mary would like to take this opportunity to revisit the committee's CAP and possibly have members of the environment committee attend and co-lead the meeting. The U will be sending out a survey to students regarding their thoughts. Mary wants the survey translated into other languages and also wants to use the information from the survey in reviewing the PPA CAP. Notices of the event will be in the PPElist. <https://sustainable.umn.edu/> Mary is also concerned that renters in the neighborhood receive the information about this meeting. Mary proposes a planning meeting February 11 after she meets with Amanda on February 1. Rick and Lydia will also participate.

Feedback from tabling at Luxton in September

Lydia and Vera went to the September food give away gathering at Luxton but Lydia reported that no one was interested in meeting with them to discuss the activities of the PPA Environment Committee. A food giveaway is not a good event for tabling. Agreed to table discussion about possible garden class until next meeting Kathleen agreed to reach out to Sara N for more information about gardens in Glendale.

25% by 2025 Initiative- Next Steps

Mary proposes that the committee try to target those houses in the community that use the most gas. There are 875 houses and 2-4 unit housing in Prospect Park and 350 of the units are in the highest bracket of gas bills in the state. Also 20% of houses have no wall insulation (based on TISH findings in the last two years.) The committee believes that the best way to persuade

home and apartment owners to reduce their usage is to present information about financial savings. For example, energy audits include information about length of time a owner can take to pay off a loan, how to 0% financing and the positive impact on resale.

Lydia would like to see block parties where the information is distributed and questions answered by committee members. The party would be publicized by flyers to everyone on the block and there should be food that can come out of the food budget. Lydia is interested in hosting one. Also it was suggested that there could be a pop up table at Cherowsy Park in the summer.

Mary notes that rim joist insulation can make a big difference and posits whether the committee could solicit neighbors to help other neighbors in doing this work. She also wants the committee to continue to look for opportunities to relay information about this project to renters in the neighborhood

Walmart Grant

The grant proposal to purchase fruit trees for Glendale is due at the end of the year. Mary wants to submit the proposal if she gets sign off from Malik. Mary noted that the money could also be used to purchase watering bags.

Budget Vote Required

The Committee members reviewed the proposed budget with Mary. The Earth Day item was deleted as well as ice cream social. Questionable whether the garden walk and eco tour will occur so these items were also deleted. The budget minus deletions was voted on and adopted by unanimous vote.

Action Items

Rick, Lydia and Mary will meet with Amanda to plan PPA Environment Committee participation at February CAP meeting.

Mary LeGris and Jim Reinardy will have a table at Fire and Ice celebration (indoors)

Kathleen to contact Sara N about Glendale gardener contact information.

Rick will help with Communication Items.

Mary B to submit the budget to the board for approval.