

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES (DRAFT)
June 15, 6:55 pm,
Matthews Center in the Craft Room.
Contact: Carol Greenwood, 724-8430, carolgreenwood@comcast.net

We need to fold up business at 8:55 sharp, so we will start at 6:55 sharp.

ATTENDING: Carol Greenwood, Rick Greenwood, Richard Westby, Roger Howley, Xena Huff, Greg Klave, Mark Sulander, Jim Scheidt, Sheldon Mains, Gabriel Hoffman

NOTE: Greg Klave volunteered to serve on the SNG Board and act as the Environment Committee representative.

1. The latest in relation to the Climate Change Grant projects including suggested resources for workshops (including one on local foods, which Emily Wergin, at ReDesign, will be working on) and how we can further promote joining the Seward Energy Challenge Team. See notes from planning committee last Tuesday, pp. 3. & 4. *<http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/>* Hey, we've upped the membership. Hurray for our team. Current Status:
SEWARD NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM (4th place)
106 members are saving \$65,087 and 630,569 lbs. of co2 (5,949 lbs. per member)

We need workshop topics and presenters by July 1. I will verify that Emily Wergin is working on Workshop #1, local food and how it reduces CO2. We will offer support for her on this. The other workshops will be: One in September, 2 in October, and one in November. **Roger and Carol will pursue this further.**

2. Potential Environment NRP funds, (when the contract gets signed and we figure out how the money flow will occur). This is about how we will spend public money, so you might want a voice in the decisions.

Environmental Education	\$2100
Environmental Stewardship	\$3500
Housing Energy Efficiency	\$8400
TOTAL	\$14000

We've been asked for \$150 to fund half a scholarship (probably for somebody from Phillips) to attend Growing Power in Milwaukee (this past Saturday and Sunday—I'm sure they still need money). In return we get some details about the techniques used at Growing Power to engage in intensive urban agriculture in small to medium sized green houses. Opinions?

The committee didn't want to do this until we have more information as to how this would benefit the neighborhood.

If we can offer \$500 for a work-study intern (25% of her stipend) we can get the other 75% of her salary paid for by a program working with HECUA. (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs.) We need her efforts focused on details for outreach and follow-up after workshops, as well as assisting with details of workshop delivery. We also could use her time to target appropriate participant households in the audit/loan/home improvement/grant component of the grant.

Recommended and approved unanimously by the committee – to release \$500 from the Housing Energy Efficiency budget item to employ a work-study student to help with Environment Committee activities relevant to the CCI grant.

For the approved grant description, see www.sng.org Environment Page, link to 2009 Climate Change Innovation Grant.

3. Planning for how we can support the Wagon Roll-Out (some time in late July or early August)--one of SNG's Climate Change Innovation/Energy Challenge projects that Seward ReDesign will be directing. No specifics from Emily so far.

4. Grow-Buy-Eat Local Month (beginning August 1; --see http://www.seward.coop/?q=news_events. For further information, contact the Seward Coop.

5. What we will do for National Night Out (August 4) [www.ci.*minneapolis*.mn.us/nno/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/)
Our job is to recruit participants in Energy Challenge, promote King's Fair, and promote workshops.

6. What we will do for King's Fair, Saturday, September 12, 10:00 to 5:00, including signing up more neighbors to join the Energy Challenge. Everybody on this list should sign up, if you haven't, to add one more thing you can do to reduce CO2 that you haven't been doing. Be sure to join the Seward Team. You may also join two other teams + the Minneapolis team. Anybody who signs up for East Seward should also sign up for Seward, since these lists don't overlap. We need volunteers for King's Fair.

7. Also, ideas for spending the \$70 that Roger and Carol took in at the Garage Sale. To participate in the Minnesota Solar Tour (2009 Saturday, October 3, 2009 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. www.MNSolarTour.org) we will need \$45 to pay Matthews Center Staff for time after 2:00 (or maybe a little more). We also will need volunteers. We have a few more items to sell, so as soon as we get a computerized list, we will put it up.

Approved unanimously: To spend \$45 to hire park staff for three hours (from 2:00 to 5:00) if we have enough volunteers to participate in the 2009 MN Solar Tour, October 3.

Update on the HERC expansion proposal. The operator, Covanta, wants to expand from 1000 tons daily to 1200 tons daily, a 20% increase. **The Planning Commission will meet on 6/22, 4:30, Rm 317, City Hall, to reexamine this issue.**

The Environment Committee unanimously approved the following resolution:

MOTION: We recommend that The Seward Neighborhood Board on behalf of the Seward Neighborhood Group, oppose any expansion of allowed MSW incineration tonnage at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center in downtown Minneapolis and communicate this to the Mpls. Planning Commission, as well as the following.

Neither the Minneapolis Planning Commission nor the city council, should allow changes of any kind to the current HERC conditional use, or other permits.

Covanta should be required to renew their expired (2003) air emission permit.

The full MPCA updating and re-permitting process should be followed, including public input, full HERC facility inspection and testing, and the addition of all possible real-time electronic monitoring equipment to test as many stack emissions as possible. All relevant data should be electronically available to the public.

Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and Covanta should be required to adhere to the current Minnesota Waste Management Hierarchy as required by Minnesota law. Alternatives to

incineration, such as aggressive re-use, recycling, and composting should be thoroughly explored and funded. Zero waste is the long-range goal of this state.

8. The pentachlorophenol state research funding bill status. No word as yet whether it will be unallotted.

9. Green space update status including the community garden, Peace Garden (vegetable growing, ½ for the school, ½ for Seward Coop and ½ for Birchwood.) Homegrown Minneapolis (City Council was considering a decision to approve the report and recommendations on this project on 6/15) , and any other relevant issues.

The committee discussed the community garden and would like to see it remain as an environment committee project. They wonder whether the full board or the Executive Committee decided they did not want to be involved with the community garden. This needs clarification. The committee wants to investigate alternative land ownership and ways to provide insurance for garden operation. Dick Westby said Lee Colby, the garden coordinator, had requested Faith Mennonite Church to consider this, but no decision was known. Greg Klave thought that Kevin Brown was on the Seward Coop Cafe, and they might be willing to own and insure the garden, since they operate garden space. Greg will contact him. Xena Huff volunteered to look into insurance. A possible other source would be the Minneapolis Land Trust. There is no insurance available from the Park Board, according to Scott Vreeland, but the Park Board would be willing to own it. Xena does not believe that Garden Works would be of assistance with insurance.

10. Updates on bikeway news – Roundabout, Minnehaha Ave., & Xcel's Hiawatha project. Gabe Hoffman reported information about these issues. Sheldon Mains explained more of the specifics about the Hiawatha Project. He suggested that the neighborhood should be involved in examining alternative locations for Transfer stations and alternative routes and alternative installation technology for the 115 kv transmission lines.

11. Park Board News – The Emerald Ash borer has not yet been found in Minneapolis yet. Most people expect we will lose 900,000,000 trees in Minnesota, 20% of boulevard trees. It takes 5 years to kill tree, but once dead Ashes need to be removed because they are brittle. Treeage insecticide is being tried to see if it will kill the larvae, (Scott's and a few neighbors trees treated). This is a new product. Milwaukee is treating half their ashes for \$40 a tree, (group rate) , a single tree residential tree may cost \$100 to \$200 every two years.

The Park Board can buy the Community Garden but the insurance will have to be provided by gardeners. The Park Board won't subsidize the insurance. Soo Line Garden bought their own insurance and the Park Board owns the space. We need someone to research where they got it, how much it costs yearly, and also to inquire of other entities as to whether they can provide insurance.

12. Council Member news. See:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/docs/June_e-newsletter.pdf

Particularly note info re Downtown Burner, Homegrown Minneapolis, Emerald Ash Borer, watering trees, and meetings re bike issues.

Notes from June Climate Change Innovation Meeting (Sheldon Mains)
Company: Redesign
Project: 2009 Climate Change Grant
Link: <http://seward.grouphub.com/P22841721>

Sheldon Mains said:

Home Energy Workshops:

- * After King's fair
- * First in September
- * Total of five workshops
- * Carol in charge of workshops with Roger
- * Location--Seward Co-op or Faith Mennonite (check capacity)
- * Eat local workshop at coop--Emily

Home Energy Audits

- * Contract with CEE
- * Contract with NRP
- * Add contracts to Basecamp
- * Contract with Bernie
- * Folder of information for people--Bernie and Carol

Biking and Walking Trips

- * Coop class on eating locally
- * Wagon and cart rollout in August
- * Coordinate with Nara's replacement.
- * SCCA tax benefits event (already in April--will add one on public transportation)
- * King's Fair
- * City employee promotion???

Augsburg Student WalkingPromotion

- * Emily coordinate

Towers resident events on energy conservation

- * Coordinate with Towers
- * Fall activity (after Nasra comes back)
- * Carol will find renter's brochure and will check on getting translated.

Overall project PR

- * Coordinate for whole project

- * Check with Bridge
- * Coordinate with planned neighborhood survey and re-launch of Profile.
- * King's Fair
- * National Night Out (August 4)
- * Seward Art Festival
- * Seward Coop summer events (August eat local challenge)--this will be wagon roll-out.
- * Seward Co-op newsletter Other business newsletters and flyers (Birchwood, Zipps, Welna....)
- * Faith based organizations. (Faith and St. Martin)
- * Seward Childcare coop
- * SNG website, coop website
- * Kiosks, neighborhood bulletin boards
- * Seward Neighbor's forum, Mpls Issues forum.
- * SCCA Newsletter
- * Sign people up for Energy Challenge and promote events at SNG committee meetings
- * Enter names in drawing each time you attend a event (not just workshop)--and sign up for Energy challenge gets name--drawing in November.
- * Press Release to Bridge on events.
- * WCCO contact (Emily)

Maybe add rain barrels to events?

Next meeting end of June.