SNG Environmental Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting notes summary 4/25/24

Participants’ statements of interests/concerns

KEY Blue = air quality Red = transportation Brown = Climate mitigation, equity, decarbonization

Green = nature, greening, trees, boulevards, gardens Purple = waste, reducing & recycling

Gray = accessibility; unsafe sidewalks

Elizabeth – Air pollution, especially in the NW part of the neighborhood and close to the Smith Foundry in East Phillips. Working with advocacy group in planning for a toned down I-94 corridor.

Xan – wants to see a just transition in relation to climate mitigation in the built environment and public space. Wants to I-94 corridor altered. Need more public transit as 1-1 exchange of gasoline to electric cars is not feasible.

Dan – Worked in wind and solar development; lobbied against coal. Wants to magnify Isaiah MN lobbying, door knocking and policy advocacy activities. Support E. Phillips Neighborhood Institute.

Theresa – Works for Move MN on transportation ; wants to re-integrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ . Re-“open” Franklin Station rail station post -covid

Grant – new to neighborhood in last two years. Spouse works in area of the environment. Would like to see more greening of the neighborhood and more accessibility

Sara K. – was involved in promoting the People’s Climate and Equity Plan via MN350/UNIDOS. Wants to assist others to electrify; green up street boulevards.

Rosemary – interested in the transition to electrify homes; likes pollinator gardens; green boulevards; neighbor to neighbor

Patricia – adopt the Climate and Equity Plan; getting people help on how to decarbonize; decarbonizing is a state law goal.

Don – air pollution in the neighborhood is an issue – I-94, idling trucks and vehicles; Smith Foundry

Catherine – newly returned to Seward neighborhood. Librarian. Concerned about relationship of **mental health and climate issues**; Education and awareness; purchasing stuff (thing culture?); learning about neighborhood activities.

John – 1. Concerned about accessibility with bumps/disruptions in sidewalks; not useable with wheelchairs 2. Works with the Minnesota Tree Advisory Commission; proposes organizing a tree event and getting boulevard trees watered. 3. Has written the state legislature about statewide water issues.

Mike – lived in Seward since 1978. Worked in City Planning and then developed and ran the city recycling plan; sees need for better/expansion of organization of recycling and education on the issues. Keeps up his professional contacts.

Marilyn – wrote the Peoples History of Seward; organized and educated early on for recycling; tries to live as an environmentally conscious person. Focus on the community level. Reduce, re-use and conserve.

Air quality an issue – Smith Foundry; supports the EPNI/Roof Depot plans; work with neighbors on sustainable yards and watering tree boulevards; work local.

Dave – will summarize the 90-odd page Climate & Equity Plan ( Mpls. Climate Legacy Plan?); concerned about air quality and wants education around backyard fires and fire pits. **Climate resiliency** – **plans for climate disasters: shelters, clean water** etc.

Kevin – Community makes a difference, can make things happen (he works with a community radio station). Invite politicians to speak to groups on environmental issues and about their accomplishments and concerns. Neighborhood events around **neighborhood resiliency** – tree planting, tree walks with an arborist from the Park Board

Sara – **healing power of nature**, and the proximity of the river; organize a picnic at Bde Maka Ska Lake (formerly Calhoun) and take the bus to get there (support public transportation and transit infrastructure). Take transit to Dwntwn to research the neighborhood. Have speakers on pesticides, firepit smoke pollution, single-source recycling

Kent – involved for the past year with the Zero Burn Coalition (HERC close-down), Zero Waste Coalition, and Climate Equity planning, lobbying and organizing. Previously worked with students at Minneapolis College to organize a zero waste initiative to reduce and recycle at campus events.

Dave? - (Carol)-Greenwood Award – (deceased); She worked on Seward school projects - solar at Seward School; student garden and other environmental projects in the neighborhood.

Dave volunteered to start developing a charter document for the committee but it was left to wait and let the meeting’s stimulus percolate with everyone.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 23rd, 7-8:30pm at Matthews Park.**