**Minutes of SNG Environmental Committee; May 23rd, 2024**

Submitted by Kent Smead

**Attendees:** Terry Barnes, Sarah Kise, Kent Fritz-Smead, Dan Turner, John Kruse, Marilyn Matheny, Xan Lillehei, Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, Katherine Fish, Dan Pederson, Dave Gagne, Patrice Koelesch ,

**General:** Following comments from Terry Barnes, the attendees divided into subgroups based on interest areas. Some interest areas were merged together for the purposes of the group sessions due to under-representation for some of the interest areas. One group met around air quality & transportation and the other around waste and recycling.

**Working Group Reports**

**Waste and Recycling:** Kent, Sara, K., Marilyn, John K.

Noted that Seward has a history of modeling recycling and organics recycling programs for the city of Minneapolis before larger scale roll-outs. Question arise of how to get better participation of existing services, expand services into under-served areas such as the towers along Franklin/I-94 corridor.

Possible projects: 1. work with Park Board to put out more trashcans

2. get recycling and trash bins along Franklin Avenue near food businesses

3. get educators from Mpls. Solid Waste & Recycling to hold info sessions,

including around special recycling items, like mattresses.

4. Promote Ridwell recycling service – biweekly residential pickup of items

for a fee the city does not recycle – plastic bags, chip bags and bubble wrap,

batteries, small electronics, clothing and textiles, light bulbs and MORE.

5. Speaker from Zero Burn (anti-HERC incinerator) Coalition and/or MN

Environmental Justice Table.

6. Possible name change of Working group to Zero Waste from RRR.

7. Organize tours of the HERC and the Eureeka recycling facility in NE

**Climate & Equity:** Dan, Kent; Two members of this Working Group discussed briefly the need to keep this item alive as an agenda area for the EC.

**Air Quality & Transportation** Dan P, Dave Gagne, Elizabeth WF, Terry B., Katherine, Xan

The group discussed I-94 and its effect on air quality in Seward. There is a ten year requirement that the freeway gets rebuilt and there was interest in replacing the freeway with a boulevard design. Elizabeth and Xan informed the group about traffic studies that show 20% travelers are not on a twin cities destination and could route to outer loop freeways. Most other drivers are on trips of less than 10 miles. MNDot has been in the process of developing new designs for I-94. Xan suggested we ask MNDOT to come present these designs to the Environment Committee and to others from the neighborhood who are interested. Terry suggested she contact MNDot and try to arrange.

**Announcements:**

* A Ward 2 climate and equity meeting on Tuesday, July 23, in the evening at Matthews Park building.
* MN EJT and the Zero Burn Coalition are seeking support for a resolution from the City Council to establish a specific closing date for the HERC facility. Once the resolution language is finalized, Kent will seek support for the resolution to take to CM Robin Wonsley (Wd 2) and possibly Jamal Osman (Wd 6).

**Next Meeting**: Thursday, June 27th, 7-8:30pm, Matthews Park.