**SNG Environmental Committee Minutes**

August 22, 2024

7:00-8:30 PM

Matthews Park

**Attendees:** Kent, Pat, Elizabeth, Xan

We had a small meeting, which we thought was due to some combination of vacations, people wanting to watch the DNC coverage, and insufficient email reminders.

We discussed the **MnDOT event** we did last month, which we thought was very successful given its large turnout. Xan will follow up withMnDOT to confirm whether we have the correct understanding of one key point: Are MnDOT’s “environmental review” and “health review,” at the upcoming stage at which they’re cutting down alternatives, really structured in such a way that (given the broad regional focus and the assumption of limited induced demand of transportation mode) all alternatives, ranging from getting rid of the freeway to expanding the freeway, are considered to have the same environmental and health consequences?

Our discussion led us to brainstorm **potential book club** ideas for this fall, including the books *Killed by a Traffic Engineer*, *There Are No Accidents*, or *City Limits*. We didn’t make concrete plans, but would like a sense of whether there’s interest in a book club.

We began to plan a **public transit outing to Minnehaha Falls** for a family-friendly picnic, probably on **Sunday, September 22—we need feedback on timing that will work for as many people as possible**. We plan to meet at the open square at Milwaukee Avenue and 22nd St at, say, 11:30 AM and take the light rail together. This will give people who haven’t taken the light rail much (or haven’t done it recently due to safety concerns or bad experiences when ridership was low during the pandemic period) a chance to do it together, and everyone a chance to hang out and get to know each other. The idea is to publicize it broadly within Seward — e.g., SNG newsletter, block captains.

We heard a helpful update on the **campaign to shut down HERC** from Kent. Since 40% of the trash taken to the HERC incinerator is organics, we discussed ways we can make organics composting more accessible, such as by pushing large employers to incorporate it at work, making it more accessible in apartment buildings, especially in the towers along Franklin Avenue. Residents of some Minneapolis high rises have organized organics pickup in their buildings; and the city has worked with residents in a few areas for public organics drop-off sites in city parks and church parking lots.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, September 26, 7pm, Matthews Park Recreation Center