

## Minutes of SNG Environmental Committee; October 24<sup>d</sup>, 2024

Submitted by Terry Barnes

**Attendees:** Terry Barnes, Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, Eric Berger, John Kruse, Katherine Fish, Kent Fritz-Smead, Pat Dahlen, Rosemary Frazel, Xan Lillehei

1. **"Seward Goes Transit: Picnic at the Falls"** Transit picnic organizers reported that approximately 15 persons came, many who attended brought young children and the group was diverse by age, race and represented residents from throughout Seward. The day was a fun event and there is interest in doing this event again. Attendees felt safe although the Franklin Station had some unsheltered persons who were grouped together. They presented no harm to those of us going on the light rail. Suggestions included:
  - a. Better explanation of why SEC is encouraging transit to the Seward community. Terry has gotten interest from the Longfellow Messenger to do an article about this action prior to next years transit event. Note: make an effort to marry the redesign I94 with Why Transit; also connect bike/transit; 2022 (COVID) did terrible things to our light rail
  - b. Posting positive testimonials on social media from some of us about the experience of riding transit and mentioning the experience at the Franklin Station. Pat offered to do this. Key messages: Was safe; yes, drug users are there and they did not interact with travelers; some occasions of yelling most likely due to mental illness; some panhandling; goal, I rode and enjoyed it. Fear is important to address.

## 2. Meeting Plan, Budget and Committee Leadership Elections

**2025 MEETING PLAN:** Terry gave reflections about the meeting plan that was developed in the Sept meeting and the concerns voiced through emails over the month. These were Terry's primary points and actions the group discussed:

- The 2025 meeting plan has a strong committee focus to the i94 Redesign but is not exclusive to this one interest. Five of the nine planned community meetings & actions are oriented to other interests including:
  - **April** community meeting about Solar Energy, and Earth Day Clean Up action
  - **Sept** "Fall Festival" that will highlight a wide variety of environment resources for the community, as well as a mid-month air quality action with a transit tour of the HERC facility.
  - **Oct** action of 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Transit Picnic
- Concerns voiced in emails

- SEC “to be a resource for **all** Seward @ lowering CO2
- Questioning the CO2 environmental impact of the boulevard alternative. There was clarification of this that not only is harmful to health, and contributes to air and noise pollution but to reduce CO2 a boulevard type redesign would **impact people’s decision to drive!! One-fourth of GHG in Twin Cities is from driving.**
- Wants to get the support of the SNG Board first. There was clarification that a better action is to ask the SNG Board to support the letter calling for the MDOT process to evaluate environmental considerations first before eliminating design alternatives. A copy of this letter was sent to all committee members and email discussion of this action and the letter was encouraged. Members wanted to review the letter before discussing it. Tabled until Nov meeting.
- Wants our group to do outreach to “less white”, “less wealthy”. Elizabeth will suggest a plan for Outreach in the coming month and discussion/contributions to this plan to occur through email.
- Unanimous support to keep 2025 Meeting Plan as developed at the Sept meeting

2025 BUDGET: the committee identified the following

**1. Projector and Screen \$3,000**

It is extremely hard to run meetings and hold large community meetings without the ability to show photos, and presentations and reduce the use of information on paper. This is needed not only by SEC, but also the SNG Annual Meeting as well as other community groups wanting to meet at Matthews Park. Terry suggested that we ask Scott, the park director, about sharing the cost of this purchase with SNG contributing. The projector would be available for any community group meeting at Matthews. Cost can range from \$3000 up. A donation or finding of used equipment will also be undertaken.

**2. Community Events and Actions – Large Neighborhood Meetings**

**Jan – Our Streets**

<b>Speaker Honorarium</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>
<b>Childcare (PaperMoon Childcare; 3 workers/2hrs)</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Food/Refreshments</b>	<b>\$200</b>

**April – Solar Energy Presentation**

<b>Speaker Honorarium</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>
<b>Childcare (PaperMoon Childcare; 3 workers/2hrs)</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<b>Food/Refreshments</b>	<b>\$200</b>

**May – Convention of Neighborhoods**

Food/Refreshments	\$200
Sept – Fall Festival (Environmental Resource Fair)	
Food/Refreshments	\$200
3. Marketing and Communications	\$500
4. Youth Development	<u>\$100</u>
<b>Total Budget Proposal</b>	<b>\$ 4,420</b>

**\*five other smaller events can be done at no cost**

### Committee Leadership:

The November meeting agenda will include the election of our committee leadership to begin in Jan 2025. This will be for **Chair, Secretary, and the Steering Group**. All members are encouraged to serve and nominate themselves. The positions may have more than one person sharing the responsibilities. The roles and obligations of each position are as follows:

**Chair(s): Facilitate Meetings**, Set meeting agendas and the processes used in meetings for making decisions. Chairs are encouraged to make efforts to ensure all participants are given time to be heard and to be involved in decisions made by the committee. The chairs also assist members who are organizing events or actions with logistics and publicity.

**Secretary (s):** Take minutes using the established meeting minutes format and include: Attendees, decisions made, actions members volunteer to do, decisions tabled for a later date with the reason the decision was tabled and Announcements made by members. The Secretary posts the minutes to SNG Environment Committee/Meeting Agenda & Minutes. If there is more than one secretary, the coverage schedule is determined by the secretaries.

**Steering Group:** The Steering Group's role is to do strategic thinking to make this an extremely effective committee. This group meets three times per year to do goal setting, long-range planning, , and to troubleshoot difficult issues the Environment Committee may be facing.

**All Members:** Facilitate involvement (invite others to join) of persons in the Seward Neighborhood that you think would be interested in environmental issues; Outreach to renters, BIPOC neighbors including recent immigrants and youth. All members are asked to have in writing any Announcements made at a meeting and to give to the Secretary to be included in the meeting minutes.

(Currently, we have nominations for Co-Chair: Terry and Kent, Secretary: Eric and Eliz, Steering Group: John, Kent, Xan, Terry. All members are welcome to add their names for any of the roles)