

Environment Committee Minutes
November 30, 2016

In attendance: Steve Yetter, Tim Wulling, Betty Wheeler

Introductions/Agenda	7:11pm. The group affirmed the minutes from last month.
Staff Updates	Cailin shared that we are waiting on information from the city on effectiveness of the Kasota Ponds cameras and whether someone is monitoring them.
Metro Metals Update	Cailin will follow up with Samantha on this. What is the Community Council's role in monitoring the violations they have had? What is our role in helping to address the issues? How can we get them involved in the Kasota Ponds clean up? Betty mentioned that the J Ring glass building is for sale.
Changes to Recycling Program	What is happening with compost? We don't know why that got lost from the conversation. We need to connect with Kris or Samantha about that. Monday is the new neighborhood pick up day. SAPCC no longer will have bins.
TTASAP Solar Group	They have an MOU with Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) to site 1-2 solar gardens in the neighborhood. The Solar Action Group formed an LLC but discussions with Planned Parenthood to site a garden on their roof fell through. Investors can make back money in 15 years or fewer. Neighborhood members will be able to subscribe in 2017. Some subsidies will go away at the end of the year so there's a rush to get in line. Somewhat less advantageous after the first of the year to join in. Xcel has been slow in processing applications. This solar group is trying to get in under the wire. If this agreement goes forward, then there will be a lot of community education to work on. Maybe SAPCC can help with sign ups. This will be pay as you go subscription. Renters will be eligible. There is already a site with CEF on Shiloh Temple that people can sign up with.
SAPCC GIS	Needs to be on the agenda next month
Website Edits	X Add a link to TTASAP X Put link to minutes X Pictures on Kasota Ponds Link to air quality monitoring system X Link to organics recycling/yard waste/composting drop off X Get schedule out and on page X Watershed districts links

	X Citywide clean up dates Annual list of things we do Get rid of tags column Specific projects we have done (take verbiage out of fundraising letter) Schedule: No Dec. or July meeting. 5th Wednesday in Nov.
Adjourn	Adjourn

Information from Stephen Mastey:

Here are some items for discussion & potential 2017 goals

1. **Tree preservation / City of St. Paul:**

Provide Update on this 2016 Goal – I meet with Matthew Graybar of City of St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections / Zoning Division on Monday January 23, 2017.

Summary of Current Tree Preservation Requirements:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Safety%20%26%20Inspections/DSI.Zoning.TreePlan.pdf>

Next Step & Action Item: District 12 Environment Committee & Community Council Request we ask Russ Stark to ask Planning and Economic Development to Expand the Current Tree preservation ordinance to include our District/Neighborhood.

2. **City of St. Paul Park Dedication**

· Current assessment is undervalued thus, not promoting public greenspace per development. Because it is undervalued the City is not gaining appropriate fees to create and maintain these spaces within our neighborhood. Discussion about comparisons to suburban city's requirements where land value is less and there is generally much more open space.

3. **Fruit Tree Planting in Neighborhood**

· It is been brought to my attention in the last few months that we have at least three identified locations thus far where fruit trees have been requested to be planted within the neighborhood on community council or City land. Hampden Park, Community Gardens Space along the railroad tracks/north side of space and south st. Anthony Recreational Park.

Potential Grant Opportunities:

1. St. Anthony Park foundation

2. The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) is an award-winning international nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water.

FTPF programs strategically donate orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, international hunger relief sites, and animal sanctuaries

<http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

4. Green Alley at Raymond Lane to solve stormwater issues and create north east south st. Anthony recreational park connection with pollinator habitat.

· Rework alley and redirect/collect all the water that is being created by alley that is currently negatively backing up into a number of the homes and garages along alley & pooling within the alley and redirect discharge into park with treatment and groundwater / aquifer recharge while creating pollinator habitat.

End Goal: Solve the stormwater issues with a pollinator friendly stormwater discharge area in NE Corner of the Park with dedicated pedestrian connection to the neighborhood in this area and immediately across raymond avenue at raymond lane.

Potential Grant Funders:

MWMO, Capitol Region Watershed District & Ramsey Conservation District as well as St. Anthony Park Foundation