**Environment Meeting**

 October 28, 2015

Present: Amanda Yang, Matt Hass, Jessica Jacobson, Daniel Sarasti, Michael Russelle, Steve Yetter, Betty Wheeler

Guests: Laura Scholl (Metro Blooms), Matt Norton (Minnesota Environmental Partnership)

Introductions

Michael moved in favor of the agenda and minutes, Tim second. Motion passes.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (Non Profit) : Matt Norton (Director)

· Largest coalition of environmental/conservation groups. Young coalition that brought together many organizations working on similar issues. They work on communication, coordination around these issues, which builds a stronger environmental community. Member organizations provide the direction for the coalition. They do polling, have an action alert organization, no lobbyists at this time. This past legislative session was particularly hard on the environment in the state (pollution, water quality). To stay in touch with environmental issues in the state, we can sign up for email updates.

Metro Blooms: Laura Scholl

Director of programs.

· Neighborhood of rain gardens (program since 2009) designed to help with installations, cost sharing program with recipients. Their specialty is raingarden design and community outreach. They have worked with 20 neighborhoods mostly in Minneapolis to install over 450 rain gardens. MWMO is focused on larger projects, but CRWD does like small neighborhood projects. Metro Blooms works with residents, organizations, businesses to consult, prep, and install a rain garden. Recipients then are responsible for planting and maintenance. Blooms benefits from working the MN Conservation Corp so the labor costs become a non-issue. Generally the program yields 10 rain gardens to a neighborhood. For our neighborhood, the grant deadline for the conservation corps would be the first week of December. Another program works to install permeable pavement in areas adjacent to alleys. We need to look into the CRWD stewardship grant application.

Jessica Jacobson: Kasota Ponds Intern

· Jessica and Cailin will be meeting to develop an outreach plan that would target businesses around the ponds and also could be used to inspire stewardship with schools, civic groups. Attorney General Lori Swanson has filed suit against Metro Metals (pond business) for charity deception and there is a lot of dumping related to the ponds from their business. Jessica’s internship will be through the middle of December.

Amanda: Has received 2015 information from Allen Torstensen (city planner and neighborhood resident) and zoning maps that have been very informative. What sites are we interested in? MN Chemical site, metal coatings business that used to operate near

Kasota ponds. We are aiming to have a community meeting to share the functionality of the project and the information for the neighborhood. Amanda would like to launch the program as a website so we can go out to use the program and give her feedback. Amanda also let us know that the City of St. Paul had applied round up along the green line back in august.

Ecumen Development. The plans thus far have included many sustainable components for the buildings. Separate HVAC for each unit, storm water runoff management, and possibly having a roof for the senior coop building that would be solar ready. Michael feels that this is great progress and encourages us to pass along our ideas to Ecumen.

Betty reported that tentatively D12 will be getting an air quality monitoring station in South Saint Anthony Park for six months of the year.

Steve motioned for meeting adjournment.