**St Anthony Park Community Council**

**Environment Committee**

July 25, 2018

Dual Citizen Brewing Co.

**In attendance:** Karlyn Eckman, Betty Wheeler, Stepjhen Mastey, Michael Russelle

**Truck traffic on Raymond Ave.**

Karlyn reported that it has become intolerable to live on Raymond between Hampden Park Co-op and the bridge, due to the frequent heavy truck traffic. She is awoken every night and estimates there is a truck passing in either direction every minute or so. The increase in traffic first occurred when sand was being hauled for hydraulic fracturing, then it was oil shipments, and now it is hopper trucks and side dump trucks carrying aggregate.

Committee unanimously supported a motion to ask Transportation Committee to become involved in quantifying the traffic and seeking solutions to the problem. (Michael contacted Pat Thompson, who said they will follow up.)

**Water infiltration problems in reconstructed boulevards**

Stephen and Karlyn raised concerns about soil and sand erosion from the boulevards and poor rainwater infiltration. This appears to be occurring frequently along the reconstructed part of Raymond Avenue. Betty confirmed their observations. This appears to be occurring because subsurface materials are too heavily compacted and contain too much clay, and because the topsoil is too shallow, not comprised of a proper mix, and not well graded. Often the soil surface is convex, which increases runoff, rather than enhancing infiltration. The City Inspector has been notified of these problems, but it does not appear he has remedied the procedure. It appears the same contractor is doing this work along Como Ave as on Raymond.

The Committee recommended we obtain more detailed information about the problem and present a case to the City to request the boulevards be brought up to acceptable standards.

**Luther Seminary land sale**

The Seminary has put more than 15 acres on the commercial market. We discussed potential environmental issues with redevelopment of the property. The Environment Committee would like to see a high proportion of the area maintained as public green space with mature trees.

One aspect is that much of the property is on slopes that exceed 12%, and therefore require consideration under the City’s Tree Preservation Plan. Stephen will talk with the City Forester about this; he may want to map the trees he deems critically important to save.

Breck Woods is another concern, but an independent group is seeking solutions to prevent inappropriate development of this parcel. A related question has to do with preserving the landscape formed by the course of the Glacial Mississippi River. Excellent background and detail are in the *Bridal Veil Creek Subwatershed Desk Study: A Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Assessment*, available online.

Michael will walk the perimeter of the woods and nearby streets to look for rusty patched bumble bees.

**Large rain garden at Raymond and Bradford**

Jamie Stolpestad has complained to Stephen about weediness of the rain garden. Stephen gave Jamie a proposal last fall about rain garden maintenance, but did not get a reply until June, when Jamie complained to the City and CRWD. The SAPCC is responsible for maintenance, and Kathryn had tried to arrange maintenance with AmeriCorps this summer, but they are not available until fall. Entering the rain garden now will cause too much damage to the established plants. We will attempt to weed the edges and then tackle the rest of the area this fall.

**Permeable pavers along the Green Line**

Stephen noted that weed growth in the permeable pavers is not being controlled by Met Transit or the City. He will contact CRWD to follow up.

**Tree planting in South SAP**

Stephen reported that 25 to 30 trees are slated to be transplanted in South SAP by Saint Paul Forestry.

**Next meeting:** August 22, location to be determined.