

West St. Paul Environmental Committee
February 5, 2020
West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance: Carol Hall, Tara Wright, Jonathan Wagner, Kristi Otte, Rebecca McCarty, Polly Saatzer

Non-voting members present: Dave Schletty, Bob Gausman, Lisa Eng-Sarne

Excused Jade Pennig

Guest: Lisa Johnson, ISD 197

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Minutes -A correction was made to the January 8, 2019 minutes. Rebecca McCarty was in attendance at the last meeting. The minutes of the January meeting were approved by the committee.

b. Arbor Day Planning

The committee talked about possibly hosting three different events:

- **Wednesday, April 22, 5-7pm, Earth Day, ISD 197.** The Live Green Group invited the committee to participate in their Earth Day celebration. It will take place at Heritage School.
- **Friday, April 24, Arbor Day at Garlough Environmental School-**Otte has volunteered for this event. She was invited by the Magnet coordinator at Garlough.
- **Thursday, May 14, West St. Paul City Hall Open House.** Schletty reported that this is now a stand-alone event and not part of the [Celebrate} West St. Paul Days organization. Last year the City broke protocol and made the Arbor Day part of the Harmon Park Festival. The City and committee will not be part of that celebration again this year.

Schletty said that West St. Paul Days committee is partnering with the Rock the Barn event at Dodge Nature Center. The City will hold a separate open house on Thursday, May 14. The committee could put an information table at this event as well. The committee could plant a tree over at Marthaler Park to fulfill the Arbor Day obligation. The event will be a little different this year; Cherokee will cater the event.

Otte talked about Migratory Bird Day; the committee has been working with the Audubon Society to become to a "Bird City USA." The City has to pass a resolution proclaiming "Migratory Bird Day," and to designate a park as a "Bird City recognized place."

Lisa Johnson, the Sustainability Manager from ISD 197 Green Group came before the committee to talk about the Earth Day Celebration being held on April 22, 5-7 pm. It is the fiftieth Earth Day celebration and the event will be district-wide. Johnson leads the Live Green program team, which tracks energy efficiency, water [use] and has added solar to their building [at Heritage.]. All the school teams will demonstrate their work at the celebration. Dodge Nature Center and other Dakota program staff will attend as well. The Litterati App will be launched at this event.

The committee talked about what event would be designated as Arbor Day. From the GreenSteps data perspective, it is more advantageous to have the event each year in the designated migratory/wildlife bird park. The committee decided to have on the May 14 City Hall Open House as their “main event.”

There has been a date set for the “meet and greet” with the Audubon Society: April 4, 1 pm at the Amore Café conference room. Schletty said that he would bring membership cost to the Council Worksession. He did not think the one-time fee would be a problem. Another discussion item would be designating Marthaler Park as the Bird City Park. The only problem might be the reconstruction of the park in the next few years. Schletty suggested combining Marthaler and Garlough together. Garlough has already been designated as a school forest.

4. UPDATES

- a. **1010 Dodd Re-development-** Schletty reported for Pennig; Pennig attended the Council Worksession in which Council approved the subcommittee’s plan for a mandala garden at 1010 Dodd. The committee now has to figure out how to raise the funds [\$23,000] for the garden. The committee suggested advertising the plan at the spring events and seeking out the neighboring business owners for sponsorship. Schletty reported that the City Manager would like residents to raise the funds for the plan instead of City Staff. McCarty said signs at the mandala would show the sponsorship of the garden.

The next steps for the committee would be:

- Community Engagement
- Budget Finalization
- Donations Solicitation (Time, Materials or Cash Donations)

The West St. Paul Green Thumbs may be willing to volunteer time for planting. Wagner suggested having bricks or plaques dedicated for sponsorship. Schletty said the City would reach out to the nearby residents for community for input. Eng-Sarne asked if this effort applied to Lawns to Legumes. Schletty said that he would follow up with this idea and other grant opportunities.

- b. **GreenStep Cities Program**

Otte said that subcommittee needed to regroup and get going again. Some data needs to be entered in order to qualify for Step 3 and Step 4 by May. If the data were documented, the City could get feedback from the GreenSteps program. Schletty said there is a lot of work. The Community Development Department is down on staff member. The City Planner has a lot to do

and cannot presently do the ordinance rewriting. Schletty will ask Cassandra Schueller, the Recycling Coordinator, for help with the data entry.

- c. **City Council-** Eng-Sarne reported that Kmart is still in early development. Regarding the north end of the city and gateway development, there is pushback from Council with the Dakota County plan; there is no green space and no community space. Eng-Sarne announced that this meeting was Carol Hall's last meeting. She thanked Carol Hall for her service on the committee.
- d. **Staff-** Schletty reported that Dakota County would resubmit their landscaping plan in March. Laura Zanmillier has been appointed as Carol Hall's replacement. The City will know by mid-March if they receive the MRAC grant for the [Art] park. The City was awarded grant funding for tree replacement as part of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatment program. Schletty put together a report on the EAB program and the five-year outlook. He will share with the committee.
- e. **Park & Recreation Committee-** Gausman said that the Art Park is moving forward. There is huge potential arts in the city and suburbs. There was not a lot of art put up during the building boom in [St. Paul and the suburbs.] The City can now start to enhance art in the Parks.
- f. **Planning Commission-** NA

5. OTHER-NA

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield