



**Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association  
Environmental Committee  
Tuesday, May 08, 2018  
6:30-8pm  
2909 Hennepin Ave S**

**Meeting Agenda:**

**Welcome to first-time attendees!**

**News & Updates:**

Annual Meeting recap. What worked and what didn't?

- What worked?
  - Overall, people felt this year's event was an Improvement from last year. We did a good job of being less overwhelming with information, and providing more opportunities for people to mix and mingle.
  - The number and diversity of the committees made for a fun environment
  - We were Impressed by the number of people - more than last year
  - The "sticker activity" got people out of their chairs and interacting, which was good
- What could we do differently?
  - Less equipment needed - we brought too many craft supplies
  - Have opportunity for visitors to our table to sit and stay for a while - workshop, as opposed to job fair format
  - Disappointed by waste disposal at the end. Recycling, Composting and Trash facilities were available, but not used
    - Add signs above the bins
  - People want to go and check out other committee tables during the workshopping, we should let them
  - Plan ahead for identifying each committee with a color

**Community Cleanup this weekend - Saturday, May 12, 9:30 AM, Mueller Park**

- Historically, there is a bi-annual community clean-up. We did it the same day as the Parks Department in the past, and this year, they rescheduled on account of the April snow, so we did as well.
- Everyone hang the signs up around the neighborhood
- Katie will be out of town, so there needs to be another person in charge. Coordinate with Paul about food, have a table, sign-in sheet. **Grant, Mariah, and Bernadette will be there.**
- Katie Found Biodegradable yard signs for future environmental committee announcements
- Katie will connect with Grant, Mariah, and Bernadette.
  - Mariah: table, gloves, and bags from Katies porch

- Grant: bring sign-up sheets and LHENA one pagers
- Paul to bring food
- Katie to ask Joe about scales to weigh the trash..
  - Joe will bring a scale
- Team - report back about the most interesting thing they found
- Don't touch needles - call the non-emergency police number

### **Brainstorm Future Environmental Committee Projects**

What's our next big project? All ideas are welcome, whether you're a veteran or a newbie.

[Happened at the end of the meeting]

#### **Ideas**

- Water access for Greenway Gardens: rain barrels with pump?
- Block leaders for regular community cleanups/trash bashes?
- Make bags available around neighborhood for trash pickup

Ran out of time to discuss ideas thoroughly. Discussed the need for separate, informal meetings in public spaces where we have a better chance of engaging and learning from neighbors. Suggested the idea of a mid-month meeting in Mueller park to do more brainstorming

### **Project Updates:**

#### **Organics Recycling - Katlyn**

*Katlyn seeking feedback on Organics Recycling program*

- 3 part approach today: 1) Drop-offs, 2) compost buddies, and 3) apartment buildings (> 4 units)

#### *Drop Off Locations*

Seeking more drop-off locations - this by far is the most widespread of the three approaches'

- Jefferson Q: Did the Principal respond about a drop off at Jefferson? A: The new parking situation will allow for the drop-off. Cindy (Jefferson Secretary) will be the contact for Jefferson Organics Drop off site, not the principal.
- Cold call - grocery stores - Kowaskwis and Cub Foods (Liz can make calls)
- Frank is part of a Hennepin Ave Business Association. Dropoff contacts there?
- Contact for Springhouse ministry? Potential dropoff site

#### *Organics in Apartment Buildings (> 4 Units)*

- Katlyn met with Morgan from Lyn-Lake [Business Assoc?]
- Morgan connected Katlyn to Lunds Grocery store.
  - Lunds - they have an organics program, but they heard that SET turns away compost to the landfill when they are over capacity too, so program is on hold.
- Morgan connected Katlyn to Kurt
  - who owns buildings throughout Minneapolis, mostly in the North Loop.
  - Kurt has put composting facilities in all of his buildings, but would not recommend it to other building owners. Reasons why:
    - 1) Skeptical because there is a rumor that the commercial composting facility gets over run with organics and diverts excess to a landfill (worse than if it just went to the HERC).
      - Katlyn to contact - Jenny Black at MPCA, Minnesota compost council, for more details on what happens to organics collected in Minneapolis
    - 2) Having compost in the building is a pain. The trash chute gets dirty to the point where it can't be used. The trash room is hard to maintain/keep clean. The fruit flies are so bad that they have to put pesticides in the compost or they will go up the trash chutes into the apartments.

3) The grant program forms took so much time to fill out.. Hennepin County has money for starting organics programs, but the work required to get them is not worth it.

-Could LHENA fill out the form and the property manager to sign the forms? Kurt said that could work.

General:

- Kurt owns SOLTVA in the North Loop, and he has to have compost because it is an expectation of his customers/tenants. He has gotten some complaints about the flies, though.
- Kurt would much rather be approached by LHENA instead of LHENA building grassroots support for Organics with the tenants - expects other building owners feel the same way.
- Kurt suggested starting with **Horning Apts** if we are looking to expand to other buildings. Outdoor compost not as much as an issue as trash room.

#### *General Notes*

If organics Recycling truck is contaminated, then it gets sent to a landfill.

People who drop off compost at the Wedge, want to buy that compost at the Wedge

- Consider including a compost educational bit in the LHENA newsletter
- Promote on the Minneapolis Green Team Facebook to seek out volunteers?
  - Volunteers - Bern can held out in month, or Mariah to meet at coffee shop.
  - Liz - her background in communications. She will help
  - Grant to send out MPLS green team facebook link
- we are the only neighborhood association sponsoring a site on the city's organics dropoff page
- First priority moving forward - get organics into apartments with outdoor dumpsters.
  - Strategy - get Hennepin County grants. (Katlyn has the grant materials from Carolyn).
  - Find one pilot building. Ask: do you think you have tenants that would want to participate?
  - There could be a lock on the bin to avoid contamination, as with the Wedge bins.
  - We will help get buy-in in the building

#### *Action items*

- Find out what happens to compost at the facility, what happens if facility turns it away. Facility name: SET (?)
  - Katlyn to contact **Jenny Black** at MPCA, Minnesota compost council, for more details on what happens to organics collected in Minneapolis
  - Greta Cowl - she does investigate reports!
- Mariah to contact her old building (Horning Apt) for organics recycling contact
- Find out more about the city's long term organics plans, so we aren't wasting our efforts/duplicating effort. Tell Kelly Kish we are basically running a pilot program.
  - What does the city's organics education and outreach look like?

#### **Jefferson School Carnival (June 1) Booth - Bernadette**

- Enviro committee are doing a table.
- There is a cake walk, there is a big sign-up sheet from the Wedge newsletter. Grant to send link on to the whole Committee
- **Mariah, Colette, and Katlyn** can help.
- Education around the importance of doing organics
  - Use the rentable kits from Hennepin County

#### **Jefferson Recycling Grant Update - Bernadette**

- Emailed Pia to see if she had been contacted, and if there was a timeline grant implementation. Our funds will be requested at some point, trying to plan that expense.
- The MPLS School district was cut another \$33 million, in an article in the Southwest Journal. Does that impact the project?

### **Greenway Gardens Summer Plan - Bernadette**

- She chatted with contact at Elan. There is a new owner for Elan, Goldman Sachs
  - Pitch it as an opportunity for corporate responsibility? There is new staff.
- Bern's contact is going to clarify that Elan will still continue with the garden. She might lose her contact because of change in management
- Bern Met with Organic Bob and his soil scientist. They are going to mow the vegetation because that will give preference to the native plants. They are then going to mulch, and then do an organic tea to help build fungal and bacterial health in soil.
- She is waiting to see the plan on paper from Bob. The county said they could give 4 cubic yards of mulch. How will it be dropped? Committee - it is better to block the entrance to Elan than to block the greenway.
- Water access for the garden is an issue. Could there be a rain barrel? There are some culverts under that bridge.
  - Rain barrel with a hand/solar pump?

### **Movie in the Park**

- No news - talk at next meeting
  - July 30th is the movie

### **Solar Co-op - call for tabling volunteers? - Katie**

- Katie is always looking for buddy to table with on the weekend
- There are 20 people who have signed up! They have put out an RFP to installers. The goal is still to get 30 coop members
- Table at the Whittier Farmers' market? Send Katie Emma's contact info for the farmers market
- Roof requirement for solar: Want a roof that has 20 years of life in it

### **Monthly Trash Bashes? - opportunity for a leader! (Mariah?)**

- A free little library for trash bags - take a bag and a glove to through the stuff away - Mariah would love to lead it!
- Use old cub bags etc. to stock trash bag libraries.
- Include locations of public trash cans on bag pickup box
- Could be a tube instead of a "library" (cheaper, easier, not as cute)
- Guerilla Environmentalism! Just make the trash bag tubes and roll them out! (Just kidding, we should ask the city before we attach anything to their property)

### **Anything we missed?**

Has there ever been a survey of neighborhood environmental priority?

- Neighborhood priority plan from 2015. About to do another one.
- We did a survey in the past - it was Mueller Park focused

Should we take the the environmental purchasing policy initiative to the board ?

- Better to draft a policy first, then present it for approval.

- Draft a policy - Mariah and Bern

Garden Buddies program?

### **Closing**

#### **Resources for Distribution:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mplsgreenteams/>

**Pass out the link from Alicia about the Jefferson Carnival**

#### **Whittier Farmers' Market for Solar Co-op**

It's that time of year again, the Whittier Farmers Market planning has begin and we are in search of vendors. If you, or someone you know, is interested in selling products at the Farmers Market this summer, fill out the **vendor interest form here**. We are in search of vendors to sell produce, eggs, cheese, bread, nut butters & jams, flowers and plants, and anything else you can think of. If it's your first time selling products, we offer coaching for new businesses. We're excited for another full summer.

Vendor Interest Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1z8lrFekG-IYZJAXqwgPdLiZfRooCcA\\_Zhn010IHja8/viawform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1z8lrFekG-IYZJAXqwgPdLiZfRooCcA_Zhn010IHja8/viawform?edit_requested=true)