

## **Seward Neighborhood Group**

### **Environment Committee Minutes**

**Monday October 18, 2010**

#### **Matthews Center Craft Room**

**Attendance:** Carol Greenwood, Rick Greenwood, Mike Trdan, Amanda Lee, Jim Scheidt

#### **General Business**

1. Administrative (call to Order, Agenda Approval, Minutes Approval):  
Agenda for 10/18/10 meeting – approved Minutes for 9/27/10 – approval
2. Discussion about making November Annual SNG meeting a “no waste” event –and need for: utensils, volunteers, receptacles, compostable bag, signs, and announcement at start of meeting.
3. Presentation of draft outline for Environment Committees annual report – suggestion that invitation be sent to Susan Young to appear either at Annual Meeting or October SNG Board meeting. Also, suggested text could be sent to Mike Rollin for inclusion in his comments at meeting. Possible involvement by Welna for compost display. The Environment Committee has CFL's to give away to those who sign up for the Energy Challenge.
4. Remaining Funds - Carol Greenwood said fund amounts unchanged and reported no opportunity to speak with Doug Wise about funds for energy conservation project.

#### **New/Ongoing Business**

5. **Neighborhood Sustainability Networking Fair** - SNG asked to be co-sponsor and request for someone to staff a table. Discussion continued about how many neighborhoods might attend and topics that might be covered since it is for entire south side. Trdan tentatively agreed to attend (Carol and Seward resident, John Harkness, staffed the table).
6. **Status - request for SNG to transfer funds for Community Energy Services Workshop** – Trdan reported he and Doug Wise, SNG Housing Coordinator, attended the presentation by CEE and recapped the outcome for the SNG Board. The Board supported Seward involvement and directed Wise to proceed. Trdan does not know if funds have been transferred yet. Carol Greenwood offered to follow-up with Doug.
7. **Seward Neighborhood Enhanced Recycling/Food Waste Composting Project** -

Mike Trdan recounted his most recent meetings with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County [Names and positions of those you talked to?] on October 5, 2010. Focus of this meeting was planning the details for the waste and recycling sort scheduled for October 12. The topic was limited to step one of the overall project and Trdan reviewed his role in setup and the procedure for the sort on October 9 and participation in the sort from 7:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on October 12. Two separate sorts occurring simultaneously for waste and recycling. There were 100 service addresses collected (about a 14% sample) but no results are yet available yet. Discussion followed on both garbage and recycling participation. Trdan reported that his own observations on the amount of recyclables mixed in with garbage indicated a number of households did no recycling. The result that was most surprising was the amount of organic material – Trdan estimated 30 to 40 % was organics in the garbage. Greenwood commented that one obstacle was locating appropriate sorting bins. The good points were starting and finishing in one day and the amount of newsprint and media coverage the project obtained (thanks to Nancy Lo [what is her position/affiliation?]). Trdan also reported on his September “ride along” with a city garbage truck and recycling truck. The next steps are: obtaining bins, starting and education effort and the roles and resources for the neighborhood group. Greenwood asked what support the SNG might receive and Trdan responded it is still undecided. Discussion followed about what can be done to expedite the project. Amanda Lee arrived and was introduced to members of the committee. Lee is a graduate of University of North Dakota and is currently taking graduate classes at the UMN School of Public Health.

8. **Toxic Reduction/Air Quality** – Greenwood reviewed a job description she compiled for Amanda Lee’s tasks and reported on the submittal of a letter of intent to the Water Management Organization (WMO) to submit a grant request. It was explained that grant requests also must be endorsed by the SNG Board and that a new Board would be selected in November. Further discussion occurred on details of the potential grant request. Amanda Lee reviewed the research she accomplished so far on Seward residences, population and the effects of lawn use chemicals. Greenwood mentioned she contacted ChemLawn (True Green) and recounted her conversation with them and neighbors affected by excessive use of lawn chemicals. Carol Greenwood suggested Amanda Lee investigate Google view to perhaps identify “green” yards in Seward. It was also suggested to contact Cam Gordon’s office, perhaps attend the SNG Board meeting, and the Minnesota Department of Health for information on environmentally preferable alternatives. Trdan reaffirmed the SNG’s Board support of Greenwood’s letter of intent.

[Rick doesn't remember making any comments about documentation] [There was discussion about wood burning fireplaces in Seward should be included in this project, but it was observed this issue was not directly related. Rick Greenwood provided further discussion on the difficulty of obtaining documentation from neighbors about the problem of wood smoke.] [Please note minutes for September and Agenda for October, which state that the committee decided to include wood burning of any kind in education efforts.]

9. **Make Mine Solar Tour** – On October 2 Rick and Carol Greenwood attended the tour of local solar projects. The first stop was 3400 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. 44<sup>th</sup> and included a solar array installed on the garage which generated 3.4 Kilowatts. Another Longfellow house had about a 1 Kilowatt array with good exposure, which contributed to a low monthly energy bill.

Another site was on 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Minnehaha, an electrical business with a roof array; it was near closing but the business owner spent time talking about his site and his problems obtaining government rebates. The last stop was in Hudson Wisconsin, at the Passive House in the Woods. While connected to the power grid, the house produces more electricity than the owner uses. The net result was a totally carbon neutral house. It was brand new construction but required a sizable investment.

Greenwood also reported upgrading the Matthews Center Solar computer hardware and operating system and recommended also upgrading the Heliotronics software system (estimated cost about \$150).

Carol Greenwood reviewed information she received requesting that the neighborhood support Make Mine Solar H2O, a program to promote installation of solar hot water systems. Trdan suggested we obtain something in writing outlining the type of support required if those promoting the program want SNG Board cooperation.

**10. Discussion – Problems with city inspectors?** – Carol Greenwood suggested postponing discussion on inspectors until the January meeting.

**11. Update – HERC Expansion and other items** – Carol Greenwood referred to proposed expansion of the HERC processing capacity and Trdan provided additional background on why HERC wants to expand capacity and waste designation ordinances (which later was declared unconstitutional). Greenwood said there were issues concerning the HERC permits. Greenwood summarized developments on the proposed Hiawatha power lines, which now are required to be buried and need a certificate of need. Greenwood reviewed Cam Gordon's most current newsletter and also summarized developments with Wind Source and the Energy Challenge. Greenwood said she has three Energy Challenge lawn signs left in their garage.

**12. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mike Trdan