



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016 AT 6:00PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call

3. New Business
 - 3.A. Approve November 2, 2016 Minutes
Documents:
[110216.PDF](#)

4. Old Business
 - 4.A. Priority List Of Agenda Items
Documents:
[PRIORITY TOPICS.PDF](#)

5. Subcommittee Update

6. Other

7. Adjourn

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Minutes
West St. Paul Environmental committee
November 2, 2016
West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance: John Thompson, Jonathan Wagner, Chris Gevara, Lauren Smith, Kristy Otte

Non-voting members present: Dave Napier, Dave Schletty

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. MINUTES

The minutes from the October 5, 2016 meeting were approved by the committee.

b. SITE PLAN APPROVAL, 260 Marie Ave E, Westview Park Apartments

Schletty talked about the site plan for 260 Marie Ave E. Developers plan to build a new, market-rate 56 unit, four-story apartment building at this address. The developers propose to plant a total of 33 trees maintain 15 quality [existing] trees for a total of 48 trees. (The will also install rain gardens.) The proposed number of trees goes beyond the Ordinance requirement.

The committee discussed the proposal. Gevara visited the site. She commented that there is a good variety of trees being kept at the site; they are bigger trees, (evergreen and ash.) They are “making the best of a wacky space.” Gevara asked if the ash trees along Kathleen Drive are being treated. Schletty responded a number of them are being treated. The City of West St. Paul is treating some of the ash trees on the boulevard as well.

A committee member asked what “market-rate” meant. Market rate means “non-subsidized.”

Gevara is impressed with the plan. She asked if there were any recommendations from the committee.

A motion was made to approve the site plan. The motion carried and a recommendation was later added to promote plantings with no neonicotinoids and pollinator-friendly plants.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. PRIORITY LIST OF AGENDA TOPICS

The committee talked about two priority topics, Recycling/Banning Plastic Bags & Styrofoam and Litter/City Wide Clean Up. Committee members said it would be helpful to research and see how other cities had banned the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam. West St. Paul stores could offer compostable bags instead of regular plastic bags. They would also encourage the use of sturdy [reusable] recyclable bags and compostable food cartons, trays, and food utensils.

West St. Paul has the lowest rate of recycling in Dakota County. Committee members commented on the impediments to recycling. Apartment dwellers may have difficulties recycling.

The city newsletter can publish a blurb regarding recycling. Otte mentioned that Dakota County publishes many recycling documents. [West St. Paul] can “piggy back” on Dakota County. The Recycling Zone has a lot of information. It was suggested that committee members take a tour of the Recycling Zone facility.

Cleaning up litter along Robert Street was discussed by committee members. Committee members would like trash cans to be emptied on a regular basis on Robert Street. The greatest issue of litter seems to be at the big box stores and at the north side of Robert Street. Bus stops are a problem as well. (The MTC services the bus stops) Dakota County has not agreed to pick up trash along Robert Street. The Kiwanis Club used to pay BFI to pick up the garbage; their agreement is no longer in place.

Committee members talked about the possibility of “adopting Robert Street.” (Currently, four city parks are adopted for clean up by volunteers: Marthaler, Haskell, Oakdale and Dodd Parks.) The Volunteer Coordinator recruits groups to do this type of cleanup.

b. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

No updates reported.

4. OTHER

a. Committee Member Applicant Status- Gevara asked Schletty for an update of the applications for committee membership. Schletty will follow up with the City Clerk and report back to the committee.

b. Renaissance Plan

Gevara will attend the last Robert Street Renaissance meeting soon.

c. Thompson Oaks Golf Course

Napier reported to the committee that the pond at the golf course accumulates a lot of tees and that autumn is the best time for a clean-up of the debris.

Volunteers will need rubber boots. Napier will contact committee members to see if they are willing to do a “winterizing” event at the golf course. Schletty offered to have to a grill at the course to do a cook out. The clean- up could include a buckthorn removal as well.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:53 pm.

Priority Topics:

1. Walkable City - Trails and sidewalks, Robert Street and the lack of neighborhood grocery store, ("Food Desert") were grouped under Walkable City.
2. Pollinators
3.
 - A. Community Gardens/Gardening
 - B. City Code Modifications (Residential Lakes and water control issues were grouped under city code modifications.)
 - C. Recycling (including organics)
 - D. Storm Water Management
4.
 - A. Styrofoam/Plastic bag Bans
 - B. Thompson Oaks Golf Course/Preserving Green Space

Other Topics:

- Outdoor Play and Education
- Mud Lake Clean-up and commercial applicators
- Invitations to Bike and walking clubs