

Northern Green Zone Task Force

Meeting Notes

1/9/2019

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO)

Meeting facilitated by James Trice and Sam Grant (Public Policy Project).

Attendees

Northern Green Zone Task Force members: Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Yolonda Adams-Lee, Joanne Goddard, Kitty Stratton, Linnae Nelson-Seys, Lars Morris, Roxanne O'Brien, Michael Chaney, Catherine Fleming, John Jamison, Vanessa Willis, Juli Leerssen, Jim Voll, Anthony Taylor, and Markeeta Keyes.

Facilitators/Staff: James Trice, Sam Grant, Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski

Guests: Mary Maguire, Fayola Jacobs, Michelle Shaw, and Nancy Pryzmus.

Agenda

- 5:00-5:30 Arrive, settle in, eat
- 5:30-5:45 Introductions
- 5:45-6:00 Review group norms and decision-making/possible leadership structure
- 6:00-7:00 Review 12 goals, Identify projects, Start prioritization
 - *Identify existing or potential projects (gallery walk)*
 - *Review potential projects (group discussion)*
 - *Prioritize/self-select working group(s)*
- 7:00-7:20 Initial discussion of funding – how to spend \$40,000
- 7:20-7:30 Overview of next few months
 - *Locations: repeat or rotation?*
 - *Loose schedule of agendas:*
 - *February – Training on how the city works and review priorities*
 - *March – Meet with working groups– flesh out project and identify budget needs*
 - *April – November 2019: Development and implementation of projects*

Introductions

Facilitator Sam Grant called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

Sam Grant asked attendees to introduce themselves and share what they are looking forward to seeing from the Northern Green Zone this year.

Review group norms and decision-making/possible leadership structure

Kelly Muellman read through group norms discussed at the last meeting. Work still needs to be done to decide how community participation will look when it comes to voting and other participation. Kelly provided an overview of the “thumb method”, which will be used in decision making in the future. This thumb method is an alternative to a majority rule. The Southside Green Zone Task Force used the thumb method to receive input from the community and task force members, before the task force members made their vote on the topic.

Sam Grant acknowledged that it is important to be appreciative of both positive and negative feedback received, and to not marginalize criticism. The group should be prepared in advance for the decisions that will be made during a meeting and will have had time to prepare their vote. Members discussed whether, to bring forth an item for a vote/decision, they will follow Robert’s rules and require an individual to get the support of a second person before the item can be brought forward. Support is voiced for following this method, and will be considered at the next meeting.

Group norms can be changed and added to at any point.

Review 12 goals, Identify projects, Start prioritization

- *Identify existing or potential projects (gallery walk)*
 - Kelly Muellman led a group activity where members provided their input and knowledge about programs/projects/initiatives existing in the community related to the listed 12 goals. This will provide ideas for collaborations between community organizations and this Task Force.
 - Members were given two dots to show their two top priorities, and to specify which items they would sit on a working group for.
 - Members expressed desire to see Native community leadership and representation and input on these topics and issues at this early stage in the decision-making process. Kelly and James and Sam will work on making this representation happen between now and the next meeting.
 - Members suggested that goals 8 and 9 be combined into one working group based on the interrelatedness of those topics.

Gallery walk notes:

Goal	Comments	Member dots	Guest dots
1. Clean up soil and water contamination and redevelop brownfields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on brownfields with MN Brownfields • Allow proactive, not development driven cleanup of brownfields. • BNA • Let’s put the fun in superfund • Adopt-a-drain City program • Local developers-City projects • Big Yes! Disproportionately in N Minneapolis • Move heavy industry off the river (GAF, American Iron) 	3	1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pepsi PAHS in Bottineau 		
2. Improve air quality, livability and pollinator habitat through vegetation, clean energy, and energy efficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEE • Neighborhood Hub • Headwaters Bill and Cumulative Impact Bill, authored by Fue Lee • City’s pollinator program, which includes free seeds and plants. • US Solar (Solar garden subscriptions, no fee) • MPCA • Support the greening of the Mississippi River through N/NE (Above the Falls Plan)- a major skyway for birds/bees and other animals • 33rd Ave Greenway Pollinator Habitat, McKinley neighborhood • 3-part Graco (spelling?). 1) Possible solar array – for business use. 2) Possible community solar garden. 3) Solar commons trust array for comment and budget. • BNA • GAF – Possible community solar garden trust fund where the money goes back to the community as real money for programs. 	3	1
3. Improve air and environmental quality in business and transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEED trainings: air permit process, energy, etc. • Is LEED certification only affordable for new construction or can old buildings be retrofitted? • Increase off-road bike lanes • Require HIA (Health Impact Assessment) and CUP (Conditional Use Permit) for all industry – new and expansion • Provide education/promotion of Metro Transit’s C line, the state’s 1st all-electric bus fleet coming to Penn Ave. June 2019. • Minneapolis 2040 implementation – (re)zoning and engagement requirements. • Encourage businesses to switch to hybrid diesel trucks. • More electric buses in transportation corridor. • GAF: more than RTO. Not safe. • Community Benefits Agreements with developers. • More buses/routes to get cars off the road. • Incentives from employers to get folks to bike, walk or take public transit. • Building codes for air filters in buildings near freeways. 	2	1
4. Increase “green” jobs and career opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Summit Academy • Solar Farms on empty plots • HHHJC • Gorkha Palace • Project Sweetie Pie • Greenhouse on Dowling – Co-op • Conservation Corps (but cuts off at age 26) • Renewable Energy Partners (Jamez Staples) • New Green Deal • Bloomberg • Entrepreneurship – ownership – Co-op models 	3	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar bear: providing training for solar jobs to those who are incarcerated so they have great jobs when they're out. • Upper Harbor Terminal • DNA – Developing Neighborhood Alliances that discover and design regional solutions. (<i>additional comment directed at this one: "for who?"</i>) • Aquatic invasive species boat inspector positions with MPRB • Wind Energy Minnesota • Local jobs for local people • McKnight foundation • Pillsbury • Thor • EJCC • 		
<p>5. Increase availability of affordable housing and environmentally high-quality housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMN Create Toolkit (Fayola) • Tiny homes cluster project • Cooperative housing/North Nexus Northstar • Zero carbon homes/ Habitat for Humanity • Look into City of Saint Paul's journey with accessory dwelling units ("Granny Flats") • Neighborhood associations • Housing development policies • CEE • Sustainable Housing • "Zero Energy" via Kitty • Preserve and rehab "older", well-built housing. • Partner with Minneapolis Housing Advisory Committee • Development process for publicly owned land -> housing, ag, co-ops, open space • Create Master Plan – development sites for affordable housing and community development • Overturn the "2040" plan – which is likely to increase housing costs • MICAH chapter in North Minneapolis • Redeemer Center for Life/Redeemer Lutheran Church. 20 years of innovative affordable housing in Harrison neighborhood (e.g. purchasing housing stock and subsidizing/offering low rent). Contact: Pastor Kelly Chatmann. 	4	1
<p>6. Increase access to healthy affordable food by supporting local systems of growing, production and distribution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headwaters Bill and Cumulative Impact Bill, authored by Fue Lee • Allow urban farming on empty lots by residents (no requirement for 2 or more for community lots) • Project Sweetie Pie and Michael Chaney • More communal kitchens • Food hub at Upper Harbor Terminal • Push the Green New Deal • Community gardens everyone has access to in every City park 	2	1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free food: turning front boulevard lawns into a space for vegetable gardens (sell any surplus the homeowner/renter doesn't need) • Lowry Business Corridor farm to market program, McKinley Community. • Change Walipini City law • Gorkha Palace (local business) • Appetite for Change • Look into/follow the City's mandate of healthy foods at corner stores that is not working and resulting in produce waste. Reform? • Bloomberg 		
<p>7. Advance environmental awareness and education in community and schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And Churches • Train students to test soil, air, etc. for lead and pollution. Also green energy industry. • Project Sweetie Pie • Since 1950, the RH has appeared in humans that never appeared before. Related to gene mutations. • Applied environmental impact center proposed as part of Upper Harbor Terminal to include a citizen science campaign on environmental quality and environmental justice. • DNA – Assess and address morphogenetic impacts • Gene mutation from pollution • Environmental Justice Northside bus tour led by Roxanne. Partner with schools and workshops. • Spero Academy • Solar commons trust to pay for internships for high school to write environmental justice articles for North News. • Growing North Minneapolis • #7 and #4 Minneapolis environmental education 	2	
<p>8. Foster community healing from historical trauma and root shock, using community-based approaches to healing and health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's hearing agenda – Roxanne • Rondo Community Center – St. Paul • Add a land acknowledgement statement to the beginning of every meeting. This is an ask from the Indigenous community. • Next Step HCMC • Empowered youth • Liberty Church • Mindful Matters • Hersiliency • ReCast • Jxta Arts • Project LIFE (City of Minneapolis Health) • Appetite for Change • Celebrate progress: Northern Metals, Green Zone, etc. • Dr. Joy • West Broadway Coalition 	2	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Living Room/Fairview Health, free clinic next to Milda's Café. Massage, Zumba, med checks, flu shots, child-focused, alternative wellness. • Native American Center • Needed in fortune 500 companies – Stop labeling company norms @ trauma informed; causing more harm. Hire those impacted to teach. 		
9. Stop patterns of community violence and the cradle to prison pipeline with which it is associated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire people of color to do the real work -> engage ground level/real talk experts to do work! • Project LIFE • Police pursuit policy and reparations • Restore the vote and restore drivers licenses. 	3 (2 of which are for a combined working group for #8 and #9)	
10. Develop an Environmental Justice scorecard and use to drive policy change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood development scorecard • UMN Create maybe? • Green Gentrification Advocacy Kit - UMN Create • Partner with Alliances to implement Equitable Development Scorecard • Park Board • Great idea but unsure of existing programs • BNA 	1	1
11. Organize community to develop ecological consciousness and foster a healthy future for the earth and the people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create community ecosystem of food, water collection, emergency mobilization • Transition Twin Cities • One Heart One Mind • Community Members for Environmental Justice • Use current research re: healthy environment (e.g. presence of trees) and physical and mental health. 	1	1
12. Work with stakeholders and Native Nations to create an Environmental Justice partnership that fosters a common platform, using MN Environmental Screen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Hearing Agenda, reparations • One Heart One Mind, Thorne LaPointe • Collaborate with MPCA Environmental Justice committee, EJCC and the Southside Green Zone • Hire and Ask community what they need and want. • Ask Native Americans directly; solicit their ideas • Homelessness and housing - Naida Medicine Crow; Lea F. – Environment; Tonja – prison work; Maggie; Anne Haines 	2	

- *Review potential projects (group discussion)*
 - Members read through comments listed on the goals.
- *Prioritize/self-select working group(s)*

- A question was posed to the group about whether non-task force members will be able to participate in subcommittees. Kelly explained that City of Minneapolis boards and committees require that committees be *chaired* by a member of the task force/board, but other members of that committee may be members of the public.

Initial discussion of funding – how to spend \$40,000

Kelly explained that the money is coming from the City general fund, meaning that the group will have to meet the statement of public purpose. If something doesn't fit within that scope of what the City will fund, other funds will need to be found for that cost. Kelly also clarified that the \$40,000 is for this year. The group is also able to apply for other funds, if a fiscal sponsor is determined.

Initial ideas for spending these funds:

- Environmental justice concert
- GAF will match funds for a solar array: 40-kilowatt system. 20,000/year for 20 years.
- Celebration on the UHT.
- Collaborate with neighborhood organizations for a cooperative greenhouse project on Dowling and Humboldt.

James and Sam advised that others email Kelly with their ideas, so as to not go past the meeting's scheduled end time.

Overview of next few months

- *Locations: repeat or rotation?*
- *Loose schedule of agendas:*
 - *February – Training on how the city works and review priorities*
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 - *April – November 2019: Development and implementation of projects*
- Michelle Shaw made an announcement about the Upper Harbor Terminal, encouraging Task Force members to call their City Council members and the Mayor to express that they would like to see changes made to the current plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal site before it is accepted.
- Other announcements will be included in a follow-up email.

Adjourn