

Northern Green Zone Task Force Meeting Notes

May 8, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

EMERGE Career and Technology Center, 1834 Emerson Ave N

Members in attendance: Linnae Nelson-Seys, Liz Reiser, Michael Chaney, Roxxanne O'Brien, Joanne Goddard, Jim Voll, Markeeta Keyes, Princess Titus, Anthony Taylor, Juli Leersen, Catherine Fleming, and John Jamison.

Members unable to attend: Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Yolonda Adams-Lee, Anita Urvina Davis, Kitty Stratton, Lars Morris, and Vanessa Willis.

Guests in attendance: Georgianna Yantos, Kate Lamers (MPRB), Marita Bujold, Melissa Townsend, Kaleigh Swift, DeVon Nolen, and Shaundelle Darris.

Staff/Facilitators: James Trice, Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Jim Doten, Claire Baglien, Council Member Jeremy Schroeder.

5:00-5:30 Arrive, settle in, get food

5:30-5:40 Introductions & Welcome (Roxxanne O'Brien)

Roxxanne O'Brien, who facilitated this meeting of the Task Force, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves, sharing something that they are excited about for the day.

5:40-6:10 Updates + Mini Presentations (Kelly Muellman)

Guest presenters each had ten minutes to present and answer questions about their respective topics.

Regenerative Ag/Biochar resolution – Council Member Schroeder (Ward 11)

Minneapolis City Council Member Jeremy Schroeder introduced his regenerative agriculture resolution, and asked that the Northern Green Zone Task Force consider writing a letter of support for it. The resolution would encourage regenerative agriculture practices and the use of biochar in Minneapolis. The resolution would also act as a direction to City of Minneapolis staff to consider what goes into the soil. Regenerative agriculture consists of practices used around food, landscape, and other land use that restore soil health, lead to better water filtration, and result in healthier food for local communities. The practice is rooted in ecology and nature, working with the earth instead of fighting against it. This is an action against climate change that not only prevents additional carbon from being released into the atmosphere, but also sequesters carbon and pulls it into the soil. Also, as opposed to many other actions, practicing regenerative agriculture is an approachable and affordable action to address climate change.

Jim Doten provided an overview of biochar, which is charred waste biomass created in a process that prevents almost half of the carbon of the biomass from entering the atmosphere. The process used to create biochar also greatly reduces the particulate matter and volatile organic compounds released into the atmosphere compared to other industrial practices. When used in landscaping and agriculture, it greatly increases the carbon in the soil, which in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis has resulted in a 30% increase in crop yields. The City is currently in discussion with a North Minneapolis company to take over production of biochar, in order to contribute to the local economy and make the biochar available to community members. Another priority of the resolution would be to use the ash trees that are being taken down by the City due to Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species, to create biochar, resulting in less wasted biomass.

If the group chooses to support this resolution, a letter of support would be requested in the next 2-3 weeks.

Headwaters Community Food + Water bill – Marita Bujold

Guest Marita Bujold provided an update and overview of the [Headwaters Community Food and Water bill](#), which has been introduced in the MN House of Representatives. It is sponsored by Representatives Lee and Her. The goal of this bill would be to create a regenerative food web economy, and a food system that allows Minnesota residents to live sustainably. It would create a greater capacity for growing more food locally, encourage communication between where food is grown and where it is preserved, and address issues created by industrial food chain pollution like plastic waste.

Funding and public support would be needed for the bill to be adopted. Marita asked the task force to consider supporting this bill, as it is in line with Green Zone goals and priorities, by assisting to develop a network of support from organizations and community groups.

This bill will not have a hearing at the Legislature until next session. A budget has not yet been outlined. The bill's number is [HF 2738](#).

Upper Harbor Terminal – Kate Lamers, Minneapolis Park & Rec Board

Kate Lamers, a landscape architect at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the project manager for the Parks land of the Upper Harbor Terminal, explained that the MPRB developed a new process for appointing members to their Community Advisory Committees (CACs). MPRB is using this new process for the upcoming 17 appointments to the Upper Harbor Terminal CAC. In this new process, each of the nine MPRB commissioners will select one member of the CAC, and the remaining 8 positions will be selected by a group of community stakeholders. Kate asked that the Northern Green Zone Task Force send at least one member to be part of this selection committee for the Upper Harbor Terminal CAC. Commissioners will have their recommendations submitted by May 13th, and the selection committee would meet between May 14th and May 24th. The MPRB CAC will be different from the City of Minneapolis' Upper Harbor Terminal advisory body, in that the MPRB CAC will ultimately make recommendations to do with the land that will be designated as public park space. The first few months of this process, the group appointed by the City and the MPRB group will meet together.

While applications for the 8 positions on the CAC that are not appointed by commissioners are no longer being accepted, many commissioners have not yet made their selections, and thus Kate recommended to contact her if task force members know of anyone who would be interested in applying, so that she can connect them with a commissioner.

Kelly instructed any members of the Northern Green Zone Task Force who are interested in taking part in the appointment process to send an email to kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov.

6:10-6:30 Presentation: How to turn Northern Green Zone development criteria recommendations into action (Jim Voll, CPED + Northern Green Zone Task Force)

Task force member and City of Minneapolis CPED staff member Jim Voll provided an overview of how the City makes decisions regarding development and how the previously discussed Northern Green Zone development criteria would best be applied to that process, specifically from the perspective of the division that will be implementing the criteria. The more clear and specific this development criteria, the easier it will be for City staff to implement.

Concern was voiced from members of the task force about ensuring that these development criteria still end up reflecting the issues with development processes that have led to problems in the community.

Jim clarified that what the group has come up with so far is good, but that there may be room for misinterpretation by City staff. These criteria would be most effective if the language used was easily applicable to the development process.

6:30-7:15 Review Task Force Priorities + Break into Working Groups (Roxanne + Kelly)

While Task Force members did not have the opportunity to break into groups and have initial discussions due to time constraints, members shared which groups they would like to participate in moving forwards. Members who were not in attendance will have the opportunity to assign themselves to a group via email.

Subcommittees, based on the discussion from the January Task Force meeting:

- Implementation of Northern Green Zone development criteria
- Community Healing + Stop Community Violence - Juli, Roxanne, Anthony, and Princess
- Housing - Linnae, Catherine, Kaleigh, and Princess
- Green Careers - Roxanne, John, Marita, and Michael
- Soil + Local Food - Claire, Princess, Michael, and Marita
- Land, Water + Air clean-up - Joanne and Liz

Announcements

- City of Minneapolis Health Department and Hennepin County Public Works would like to invite you to a ***Building A Lead Safe & Healthy Neighborhood event on May 17, 2019 from 2:00-6PM in Jordan Park.***

- The [Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund](#) will accept applications for its first round of grants from April 18 until the deadline of **4 p.m. on May 30, 2019**.
- Contested Futures: Gentrification and Development in the Twin Cities. Friday May 3, 2019. 4:00-6:00pm. Film screening and community forum. Davis Court, Markim Hall, Macalester College.
- University community partnership mixer. Want to have strong community support and membership – New Rules.
- Minneapolis foundation – Climate and Equity fund. This group could apply, with a fiscal sponsor.
- Asthma events happening soon. Next northern metals advisory committee meeting: May 20th. Visit new website for additional information: ppp-ejcc.com

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Location: Northeast Library, 2200 Central Ave NE