

## Southside Green Zone Council

### Regular Meeting

June 20, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.  
Little Earth Gym, 2501 Cedar Ave

**Board/Commission Members:** Scott Hargarten, Ashley O’Neill Prado, Cassandra Holmes, Joseph Golish, Timothy Blighton, Karen Clark, Kowsar Mohamed, Muhubo Mohamed, Viviana Rodriguez, Ariane Alvarado Rojas, Noel Navarro, Amanda Saathoff, Jason Chavez, Megan Kuhl-Stennes

**Guests:** Matthew Jones, Shirley Heyer, Steve Sandberg, Rory Wakemup, Cassandra Meyer, Devika Ghai

**Staff:** Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski

**Facilitators:** Alejandra Tobar-Alatriz, Shalini Gupta

### Setting the Tone / Overview

Facilitators Shalini Gupta and Alejandra Tobar-Alatriz welcomed council members and guests. Before the meeting began, attendees explored an exhibit created by facilitators about members’ backgrounds and the geographic area of the Green Zones.

Alejandra and Shalini led the group in a reflection prior to the starting of the meeting, and acknowledged that the group was meeting on stolen land.

Christian Rummelhoff, Assistant City Clerk at the City of Minneapolis, provided an introduction and overview of the oath, and then witnessed the oath-taking.

Facilitators reviewed the agenda, and set the tone for the meeting by discussing how these meetings will be facilitated moving forward. The room was set up in two concentric circles, in order to identify who is a member of the Council and who is a guest. Attendees were provided with a list of voting and non-voting members.

A sheet was provided for meeting attendees to write questions and concerns that they would like to see addressed during or after meetings.

### Introductions

Alejandra led a round of introductions, asking attendees to share their full name, pronouns, and any group affiliations, relationships or representations that are relevant to the council.

### Building Community

Alejandra led a group activity where members voted to either agree or disagree with the following statements:

- “I feel complex excitement about being a member of a city council”
  - a. Agree: ~14
  - b. Disagree: ~6
- “We should meet in different locations based on where SS Green Zone Council members live and the emergent needs of the group.”
  - a. Agree: ~11
  - b. Disagree: ~9

- c. Discussion: Being immersed in community spaces helps facilitation. A comment was made about going where people need the group, not where is most conducive for the group itself.
- “I believe all decisions have to be made in consensus”
  - a. Agree: ~5
  - b. Undecided: ~5
  - c. Disagree: ~10
  - d. Discussion: While it would be ideal if the groups were to have consensus every time, that realistically would not happen often. Kelly mentioned that last year’s Southside Green Zone Task Force used a consensus method where if someone isn’t particularly enthusiastic about an item, but saw that it had the support of the majority, they would agree to move with the majority.
- “I feel nervous when facilitating gets creative and interactive.”
  - a. Agree: ~5
  - b. Disagree: ~15

### Policy Odyssey: Green Zones Timeline

Facilitators created an interactive timeline in the meeting space. This timeline included the history of the Southside Green Zone, and notes from meeting attendees, who were asked to list their earliest memory of getting involved in environmental and community health as well as what they saw as landmark moments in this movement. The purpose of the activity was to ground attendees in all of the work that has been done to date, and provide context for the work the group will be doing.

Timeframe	Green Zones History	Attendees’ answers (quoted)
Before 1950		Native peoples sharing view on importance of living in harmony with Mother Earth + Animals + Water.
		Smith Foundry Site Purchase
		CMC Heartland Arsenic Pesticide Plant in Phillips 1938-1963
		Bituminous Roadways established 1946
1950-2000		Earliest memory – Age 9, starting a bicycle club that rode the county roads and wrote and acted in plays about bicycle safety and empowerment
		Earliest memory of involvement in community health: grade school Cub Scouts picking up litter in 1958
		Highway 94 built 1968

		<p>A landmark time in environmental history I admire is the late '60s/early '70s. Silent spring, the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.</p>
		<p>Federal Clean Air Act 1970</p>
		<p>Resource conservation and Recovery Act. Fed law governing hazardous + solid waste disposal. 1976</p>
		<p>In the Navy, my squad became my community. It was the first time that I had to answer for my behavior, diet and well-being. We became reliant and responsible to each other. I was 18. None of the people in that squad looked like me, but it didn't matter. By necessity, we were community.</p>
		<p>80's          May-Day Parade          MAIC          Pow/wow</p>
		<p>Community University          Single payer prepaid health plan, 1970s-80s          Paris accords          Treaty rights movement</p>
		<p>'91 POC Environmental Leadership Summit</p>
		<p>Trips to the ER as a young child for my mom's asthma attacks.</p>
		<p>First Green Day          Moorhead State College          1970-71</p>
		<p>EJ Executive order 12898 1994</p>
		<p>~1994          Age 10 – Paint a thon          Age 9-15 – Scouts projects</p>
		<p>Arsenic contamination in soil discovered 1994</p>

		Planting at the MN Zoo in my teen years, eating healthier.
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (tree planting)
		Re-use center established 1995
		Trash cleanup/pick up event with girl scouts
		Opening the Green Institute
		Learning to take out the recycling with my dad.
		Protesting the removal of a tree on our playground
		Mni Owe Sni/Cold Water Spring + the Four Oaks vs. Hwy 55 reroute
2000-2010		Community garden at my elementary school
		When I help my parents to plant vegetables etc. (corn, beans, etc)
		Earth day celebrations beginning to occur in predominantly POCL neighborhoods.
		Stopping the garbage incinerator
		Greenway in train corridor 2006
		Neighbors stopped the proposed garbage burner in Phillips
		"Neighbors against the burner" Cumulative Levels + Effects Legislation
		Clean-ups with the Mississippi Watershed District (Cedar-Riverside), 2007-2011 Water resources introduction
		High school environmental club

		Between the age of nine to eleven when my family was affected by soil contamination
		College internship at Pesticide Action Network
		Cumulative Impacts MN Legislation for Area, 2008
		When James Hansen from Nasa said completion of the Keystone XL pipeline would be “game over” I was in Middle School – it was an awakening moment
2010-2015	City Climate Action Plan Environmental Justice working group recommends Green Zones	Neighbors organized to stop overhead high power lines
	City Council adopts Climate Action Plan	When I was a (?) my auntie would take us to go striking, mourning for our people.
	EJ push for Green Zones in City 2-year priority.	East Phillips Park, Cultural + Community Center, 2011
	MN Legislature approves funding for Urban Air Quality Research	EPA arsenic partial clean-up (600 properties in area), 2011
	Clean Energy Partnership + the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (2015)	EPA takes action on arsenic in soil
		Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change
2015-Present	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Green Zones in South: Nexus, CEED, Hope, LSP, Isuroon	Communities in one community, coming together...working as a team for the health of our peoples
	California Green Zones: Los Angeles Clean Up/Green Up	30K fundraiser for Standing Rock
	1 <sup>st</sup> City Council Resolution on Environmental Racism + Green Zones	MMIW March + subsequent policy/funding for a MMIW Task Force

MPCA Environmental Justice Framework + State Advisory Group	Organics Recycling in Minneapolis
Citywide Green Zones Workgroup	A personal landmark moment was sitting at a meeting about the roof depot and seeing a variety of faces and backgrounds, united about protecting our community from environmental injustice.
Minneapolis Comp Plan 2040 -> Environmental Justice policy/definition	Gender neutral option on IDs.
Southside Green Zone Task Force, 2017-18	
Northern Green Zones Task Force	
South Side Green Zone Council appointed	

### Priority Areas

The Southside Green Zone Task Force developed five priority areas for the Southside Green Zone. Those priority areas will inform the work done by the Southside Green Zone Council. Shalini facilitated an activity where members and guests identified which priority areas and related policy pathways they are most interested in or interested in focusing on in this work, results of which are summarized in the following chart. In future meetings, members will be assigned to one of these priority areas as part of a subgroup.

Guests are marked with an asterisk, and numbers reflect whether that priority area is the council member’s second or third choice.

<b>Health and Energy in Housing</b>	Joe Matt* Rory* Viviana (3)
<b>Equity and Anti-Displacement</b>	Devika* Jason Ashley Cassandra* Megan Kuhl-Stennes (2) Matt* Rory

	Kowsar Muhubo Mohamed
<b>Governance and Self-Determination</b>	Kowsar (2) Muhubo (2)
<b>Air, Water and Soil Quality</b>	Cassie Jason Joe (2) Megan Kuhl-Stennes Amanda Tim B Karen Clark Viviana Cassandra*
<b>Healthy Food Access</b>	Tim B Cassie (2) Rory* Ashley (2) Viviana (2) Karen Clark (2) Amanda (2) Steve* Devika*

**Community Members Present: Space for Comment / Hopes for the Process**

Guests who had signed up to speak were provided the time to share with the Southside Green Zone Council:

- Steve Sandberg provided an update on the Hiawatha Campus Expansion project on the former Roof Depot site.
- Matt Jones, a graduate student and researcher at the University of Minnesota, offered to the group any research assistance that they might need over the course of the year, such as compiling data and answering specific questions.
- Cassandra Meyer shared her appreciation for the food, space for kids, and for members and guests leaving their comfort zones for the sake of the meeting.
- Karen Clark (Southside Green Zone Council Member) brought copies of the 2008 community air law (which was passed by the state) and 2015 legislation that would allow cities to rezone and remove industrial properties (did not pass).

Ways of Being & Consensus/voting (starting discussion):

A future conversation topic of the group will be how to establish consensus, as well as developing standards for communicating and respecting all attendees. Another item of discussion will be how many meetings Council Members can miss before being removed from the group.

For this meeting, the group used the thumb consensus model. “Up” signifies support, “side” means the individual does not have an opinion but will not block the item from passing, and “down” blocks the item from passing.

### Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund

The McKnight and Minneapolis foundations are seeking up to two representatives from both the Northern Green Zone Task Force and the Southside Green Zone Council to review proposals received for the new Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund, intended to support local action on climate change throughout Minneapolis with preference for proposals in the Green Zone. SSGZ Council members Kowsar Mohamed and Ashley O’Neill Prado volunteered to help review these applications within the following week.

Concerns and questions were voiced from Council members, centering around the fact that none of the Council members, all of whom are active members in the community, were made aware of the funding opportunity in the first place. The Council requested that the foundations be better prepared for a request like this in the future.

Kelly will send Council Members the Request for Proposals for the fund. Additional questions for the foundations included methods used for outreach, how the work proposed will impact the Southside Green Zone, and who the announcement for the fund was sent to. The group requested that the foundations reply to these and additional questions in writing.

The group voted for Kowsar and Ashley to review the fund proposals, reporting back to the Council about their experience and what they learn. The group also requested that representatives from the foundations come to answer the group’s questions prior to the next round of proposals.

### **Closing/Adjourn**

### **Next Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 2019**

**Location:** Open Arms of MN, 2500 Bloomington Ave

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Sustainability Division at 612-673-3014 or e-mail [kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov). People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.