

Minneapolis Northern Green Zone Task Force

September 4, 2019

5:15 to 7:30 p.m.

NEON (Northside Economic Opportunity Network)
1007 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis

Board/Commission Members in attendance: Anthony Taylor, Catherine Fleming, Joanne Goddard, Juli Leerssen, Lars Morris, Linnae Nelson-Seys, Liz Reiser, Markeeta Keyes, Markella Smith, Nancy Przymus, Vanessa Willis (Quorum 10)

Guests in attendance: Kaleigh Swift, Theresa Leonard, Shaundelle Darris, Mills Morris, Georgianna Yantos

Staff and facilitators in attendance: Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Tenzin Dolkar, Kim Havey

5:15 p.m. Gather + Dinner

Pre-Meeting topic: Minneapolis 100% Renewable Electricity Blueprint

Tenzin Dolkar presented to the Task Force about the engagement process for the development of the City's 100% Renewable Electricity Citywide Blueprint. This blueprint will guide the City's pursuit of the goal established last year to reach 100% renewable electricity for City operations by 2023 and communitywide by 2030, with 10% of that electricity produced or purchased locally.

The City wants to include the community in this energy transformation. The Northern Green Zone Task Force and other advisory boards across the City are being asked to provide input as to how these goals should be met, and to help guide the creation of the blueprint for achieving the City's 100% Renewable Electricity goals. The City will be hosting working group meetings in October to dive into the blueprint planning process, creating guiding principles for the creation of the blueprint. At these meetings, community members can make sure that they are heard and represented in the blueprint. Questions that City staff are hoping to answer through this process include: How do we reach these goals? Are we speaking the same language? Has the City listened to the community's priorities? Once these priorities for a collaborative process have been set, the community can hold the City accountable by identifying whether the drafted blueprint reflects those priorities.

Attendees asked why the local goal for producing or purchasing renewable electricity was 10%. Kim Havey explained that this number is based on an analysis of roof-tops within the geographic boundaries of the City where solar would have a reasonable payback. Rooftops shaded by trees or other structures would not produce enough electricity to get a reasonable payback. The 10% local production or purchases does not include renewable electricity purchased from any surrounding areas. The Task Force asked that a map of solar data specific to North Minneapolis be shared for the specific geographic areas of the Northern Green Zone, since there might be more opportunity for viable solar panel installations due to the lack of tree canopy relative to the rest of Minneapolis. The Task Force also asked that other programs be considered or researched by the City, including micro-hydro as an energy source, and the DC Solar Ventures program. Members

also expressed interest in seeing more public investment in solar. Sam asked that Kim and Dolkar return to another meeting of the Task Force to talk more about this work and provide updates as it continues.

Welcome + Introductions

Sam Grant welcomed attendees, and members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements

- Lead and Asthma update from Shaundelle Darris – So far, \$34,000 of the funds received from Northern Metals have been spent. About \$6,000 of that money has been spent in the form of gift cards. The team has reached out to 210 families, with a goal of reaching out to 300. Next Saturday the group will be hosting a table at the West Broadway Open Streets event. Shaundelle and James Trice asked members to consider signing up to table at this event for one of the two hour shifts available. James offered to buy lunch for any Task Force members who sign up for a shift. If members are interested, let Kelly know. The group was also asked to share other opportunities to represent the Task Force at community events.
- Catherine – another organization has been meeting with Governor’s office on lead safety. There may be more money available for lead work.
- Theresa Leonard – The Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County Board has multiple vacancies, and is seeking applications from community members. Anyone living in Hennepin County can sit on the board, and there is no rule against sitting on a board while receiving assistance from the County.
- Food Action Plan update from Michelle Shaw – Minneapolis Food Action Plan meetings are still underway, and the third meeting is September 11, 2019 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Wirth Chalet Fireplace Room, 1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis. Topic 3, Agricultural Food Production, will be discussed. Michelle asked that Task Force members share this information with their communities.
- Markella Smith – Northside neighborhoods will be hosting a Northside Green Week. She encouraged members to contact their neighborhood organizations if they are interested in participating. A neighborhood cleanup will be organized for some time between October 3rd and 12th.
- James Trice – The [third Upper Harbor Terminal Community Engagement Learning Table](#) will be September 18th at 1256 Penn Avenue North, Minneapolis. The topic of discussion will be “Ownership Options & Entertainment Venue”. These meetings occur 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month.
- Additional announcements are listed at the bottom of these notes.

Subcommittees present project budget proposals

Before hearing project proposals and budget requests from each of the subcommittees, Sam Grant suggested that the group develop a list of criteria to use for selecting which proposals will be funded. The group came up with the following list of criteria.

Criteria for evaluating budget requests:

1. *Proposals are supported/sponsored by at least one Northern Green Zone Task Force member*

2. *Sustainability/longevity (the ability to continue and/or repeat the work with less than the initial amount of funding) will be prioritized*
3. *Proposals are directly related to one of the 12 Northern Green Zone Task Force goals.*
4. *Higher weight will be given to proposals that meet more than one of the Northern Green Zone Task Force goals.*
5. *The proposal must have the verifiable capacity to complete the work.*
6. *The proposal must try to avoid unintentional consequences and be mindful of potential negative impacts.*
7. *Proposals can be acted upon in a timely matter – these funds need to be spent by December 31st.*
8. *Proposals must ensure tracking and reporting on the impact of the work on the community. Proposals must positively impact people living within the Northern Green Zone.*

Comments:

- Kelly Muellman clarified that these proposals are just for the short-term actions that can be taken before December 31st. For project that go beyond that timeline, the group can think beyond these initial City funds. Other resources can also support any projects that aren't voted to be acted on this year.
- Dividing the funds equally, each subcommittee would receive \$6,667 for their project(s). Depending on the viability of the projects proposed, funding levels may be negotiable.

One person from each represented subcommittee presented their group's proposal, indicating how much funding they require and reviewing the proposals within the framework of the newly established evaluation criteria.

Green Workforce

While this initial request for funds would be to perform outreach and a feasibility study for this work, ultimately this group would like to combine compost and biochar (both from the Northside) and sell it as soil to local businesses and organizations. The associated outreach for this project will involve gauging the interest of the community in this project, researching the local market and identifying potential strategic partners, and performing a feasibility study.

This proposal meets all of the established criteria. The Northern Green Zone Task Force goals that would be furthered by this work are numbers 1, 3, 4 and 11. Michael Chaney (a member of the Green Workforce subcommittee) has expertise and a significant number of connections related to this work. The group is in the process of determining who will be doing the feasibility study.

Nancy Przymus requested that this proposal address the issue of landlords who don't encourage the separation of waste in their buildings since they use private haulers. This could potentially be included in the feasibility study.

A potential unintended consequence of this work would be providing extra incentive to landlords, and adding to the pressure of displacement.

The total funds requested by the Green Workforce subcommittee are \$6,667. The group plans to pursue other funding sources such as GoFundMe to continue this work past the December 31st deadline.

Food and Soil

Michelle Shaw presented a proposal for supporting plant-based businesses within the Green Zone. Originally the group requested \$20,000, but would be content with the \$6,667 allotted to each subcommittee.

Although originally proposed as a grant to support a plant-based business in the Northern Green Zone, the funds will be used for a feasibility study, looking into the infrastructure needed to support plant-based businesses, and the existing interest in the community in starting that business.

While this proposal was not originally brought forward by a Task Force member, Vanessa Willis chose to support the idea. This proposal would meet Northern Green Zone goals 4, 6, 7, and 11.

Since these funds would go towards this feasibility study, the project does meet the “timeliness” criteria.

The group discussed the potential unintended consequences of opening a plant based restaurant in the community, such as plant based restaurants may lead to gentrification, considering the typical clientele of those establishments. A solid engagement plan for the Green Zones communities could help combat this risk, as well as partnering with organizations within the community to engage and educate the public about plant based diets. Suggested potential partners are New Rules and Cooking Matters, organizations that teach plant based (and general) cooking classes. Michelle mentioned that the intent of the proposal would be to work with and benefit people who live within the Green Zone, and to make these foods accessible to all.

The total funds requested by the Food and Soil subcommittee are \$6,667.

Affordable housing

While this group has a variety of strategies identified that they would like to pursue, Linnae Nelson-Seys reviewed only the items that would require funding.

The requested funds for this subcommittee would fund tenant support resource clinic office hours on the northside, a feasibility study on rent control and/or property tax caps, and a large affordable housing event in partnership with other local organizations.

Members expressed interest in the subcommittee working to address issues including unlawful detainer, tenant protection, and a landlord advocacy group.

Juli Leerssen clarified that rent control is a State level issue, and property tax cap is a City Municipality issue.

Nancy Przymus mentioned that a potential unintended consequence of a property tax cap would be reducing funding for local schools.

Potential partners in this work include Parks and Power (who are already convening meetings about rent control) and Fresh Energy (who are working on increasing accessibility to energy efficient home improvements). The goal of a large affordable housing event would be to get all of the voices that are working on affordable housing issues in the same room and tap into the existing knowledge base.

This proposal meets Northern Green Zone goals 5, 9, and 11.

The total funds requested by the Affordable Housing subcommittee are \$4,400.

Land Air and Water

The primary goal of this group is to reach out to and inform the local community. They requested funds to start a podcast, host a Northern Green Zone community event, and improve the emergency preparedness of the community (by sharing information or resource kits). The podcast and the community event would also both support local, underrepresented artists.

This proposal meets Northern Green Zone goals 7 and 11.

Potential unintended consequences of the podcast would be receiving retaliation for speaking truth to power, although there are ways to protect the identities of podcast guests.

The total funds requested by the Land, Air and Water subcommittee are \$5,200.

Community Healing and Violence Prevention

Markella Smith presented the subcommittee's proposal, requesting funds for two projects: a Trauma Response Team and Elder/Youth Centered Healing Circles.

The Trauma Response Team would consist of trauma specialists and community members reaching out to individuals, families and neighbors impacted by violent incidents within the Green Zone. Types of incidents include domestic violence, shootings, violent robberies, car crashes, etc. The requested funding would cover up to 20 responses to these incidents.

Once those initial 20 incidents have been responded to and this work has been established, it may be easier to establish funding for the work moving forward, and to potentially establish a permanent trauma response unit. The work done by the trauma response team could include providing gift baskets, cab/Lyft vouchers, and dinner certificates, performing walking patrols, sharing mental health resources and more.

Markella clarified that this team would not be acting as first responders, but rather second and third responders who reach out with a much more personalized approach. This work could cut the sense of isolation in these instances, and potentially reduce the possibility of aftermath violence.

A potential unintended consequence of this work would be for trauma response team members to be considered a witness to the incident, or targeted as a result of their involvement.

The Generational Healing Circles will address intergenerational trauma. There will be two events hosted, with elders, youth, and everyone in between invited. The conversation will be centered around generational hurts, and will provide the opportunity for members of each of these generations to speak face to face. The group's goal is to have 50 participants at these meetings.

These projects support Northern Green Zone goals 8, 9 and 11.

The total funds requested by the Community Healing and Violence Prevention subcommittee are \$8,000 (\$4,000 for each project).

If a proposal is not received from the Development subcommittee, the group will vote to determine how those leftover funds will be split between the other subcommittees.

The group also suggested that any funds not used by subcommittees could be used to celebrate and acknowledge the community and the work that is being (and has previously been) done.

Sam thanked the Task Force members for their work.

7:50 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting: October 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Farview Park Recreation Center, 621 N 29th Ave, Minneapolis

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Sustainability Division at 612-673-3014 or e-mail 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.

Additional Announcements

Job Posting: City of Minneapolis is hiring a part-time (up to 29 hours/week) temporary Sustainability Program Aide who will focus on climate change, energy, and other sustainability topics – including Green Zones(!). Applications due Monday, September 9. To apply go to:

<https://agency.governmentjobs.com/minneapolismn/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=2550009>.

Minneapolis Food Action Plan The third meeting is September 11, 2019 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Wirth Chalet Fireplace Room, 1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis. Food Action Plan: Topic 3 is Agricultural Food Production.

Minneapolis Climate Action + Racial Equity fund – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Minneapolis Climate Action & Racial Equity Fund offers grants for place-based, community-driven initiatives and projects that result in a demonstrable reduction in local greenhouse gas emissions, align with the goals of the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, and further the goals of the Minneapolis Strategic Racial Equity Plan. This fund is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis, The Minneapolis Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation.

Deadline: September 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

www.minneapolisfoundation.org/climate-action/

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Jerabek Heelan at erin@erinhconsulting.com.

CNU Neighborhood design workshops

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) Legacy Projects, neighborhood design workshops. Legacy Projects leverage over \$125,000 in professional design assistance per project and are executed in neighborhoods which have experienced decades of disinvestment, have majority minority populations, or have been overlooked by mainstream planning and investment strategies.

RFP closes September 13 (5pm CDT), 2019

Apply here;

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cnu/mailings/113/attachments/original/CNU28.LegacyInvitationApply.073119.Final.pdf>

Hennepin County Grants to protect and plant trees – Due Mon, Oct 28

Hennepin County is offering healthy tree canopy grants to schools, nonprofit organizations, and affordable housing properties to make positive changes in the tree canopy and engage residents in taking action to protect trees.

Grants are available to plant trees, conduct tree-related education, remove ash trees, complete tree inventories, and hold Arbor Day celebrations.

Applications are due by 3 p.m. on Monday, October 28. See the healthy tree canopy grants

flyer to learn more: [https://www.hennepin.us/-](https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/environment/documents/healthy-tree-canopy-grants-flyer.pdf)

[/media/hennepinus/residents/environment/documents/healthy-tree-canopy-grants-flyer.pdf](https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/environment/documents/healthy-tree-canopy-grants-flyer.pdf)

For more information and to get help with grant projects, email trees@hennepin.us

CERTs energy grants – Due Fri, Oct 11

The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) are now accepting grant applications for renewable energy projects requiring technical assistance services (i.e., labor costs only, such as for a consultant, design professional, installer, or student labor).

The projects need to encourage the implementation of community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Minnesota CERT regions.

Proposals must be submitted electronically to rfp@cleanenergyresourceteams.org no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, October 11. Learn more and apply at:

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/seedgrants>