

## Environment and sustainability commission (ESC): Sustainable SLP

### Minutes

Sept. 5, 2018

Community Room, St. Louis Park City Hall

**Members present:** Katie Christiansen, Nicole Ciulla, Stefan Collinet, Ryan Griffin, Larry Kraft, Jim Leuthner, Claire Lukens, Shaina Ashare, Julie Rappaport

**Excused absence:** Chair Rathsack, Sue Bloyer

**Staff present:** Shannon Pinc, ESC coordinator; Lauren Michaels, intern

**Guests:** Jess Weisman, Kim Erickson, Zoe Frank

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Vice Chair Lukens.
2. The minutes of the August 2018 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.
3. Business
  - a. Shannon's updates
    - i. Solar map for St. Louis Park – Shannon presented the Minneapolis map and noted a map will be created for St. Louis Park, and will be a resource for city property owners to see their shading and solar. This will be posted on the ESC website within the next two weeks. Larry Kraft mentioned a grant proposal being worked on to build on this solar map.
    - ii. Hennepin County benchmarking program – St. Louis Park is one of three cities piloting this program, and Shannon has been getting the consultants working on this program to correct the data. She is hoping to get several St. Louis Park public buildings to be included in the project as well. Data will be available to the public when completed.
    - iii. Shannon is speaking to the St. Louis Park business community meeting tomorrow morning about the Climate Action Plan and the ESC. If any businesses are interested, they will be able to reach out to Shannon.
  - b. Work group updates
    - i. Communications
      1. Contacts are Claire and Niki as the communications floaters. If there is anyone else interested in helping with communications,

email Shannon, Claire or Niki. Julie is also available, if needed. Stefan pointed out groups might want to be more ad hoc, so folks can join a work group whenever there is a need.

2. We should try to have a communications presence at the Roots & Shoots (business outreach) meetings. Niki would love to attend but cannot because she will be teaching. Claire may be able to attend meetings as well.

ii. Business outreach

1. Roots & Shoots update – Katie and Zoe updated the group. They are working on the business pledge. The pledge states awareness of and support of the Climate Action Plan. Larry stated they are working on how to get more businesses involved and supporting. They will need some assistance from the communications group to make it understandable, and it will then be promoted in various forms, including the website and social media.
2. The first meeting of the year is this week, and new youth members will be recruited. Also, a meeting with the school superintendent was held to discuss climate action goals.

iii. Residential outreach

1. Feedback on residential flyers and National Night Out – Claire asked if anyone had done any other testing with the flyer. Stefan said he worked with a recycling champion on this. He noted in the future it would be better to have all flyers that ESC develops. He had very interesting conversations with several people regarding some of the flyers. Stefan suggested a table be used going forward for flyers at events that ESC participates in. Shannon noted two logos for ESC that are being considered and asked if folks would want a chance to review them. She stated this could be discussed and finalized at the next meeting or at the retreat. Ryan asked if the Recycling Champions were at National Night Out. Stefan said there was a person from Hennepin County recycling, who also discussed composting.

Ryan said this is a great opportunity, and the ESC should think about a singular message that could cover climate action as well, and have a flyer available for that. A toolkit of different flyers could be developed also with flyers. Julie noted block captains could be contacted and training developed to look for champions and bring this into neighborhoods. Shannon stated some discussion may need to happen with the city recycling staff prior to plans.

Larry asked why solid waste would not be part of the charter for the climate action plan. Shannon said this would depend and those questions will need to be asked.

Niki stated she is in contact with Emily Barker, and she is making a list of additional questions for her about the Recycling Champions program.

Claire said the action will be to look at having a table for ESC, branding for flyers, strategically placing ESC members at larger neighborhoods, portable tool kits to share information and look for funding outside of volunteer outreach.

2. Recycling Champions model and discuss next steps for ESC – Niki said all should have received her notes from the meeting. She met with Emily Barker, lead on Recycling Champions program. They talked about benefits of the program and how to maximize the program and harnessing the power of interested residents. Also, continual contact and one to two trainings per year as well as a network of volunteers is something they discussed. Niki said a comprehensive guide to recycling was developed, with feedback from residents. Niki would like to generate a list of interested folks and volunteers who might take on leadership roles. She is not aware of how the program is funded, and will ask if the programs should merge.

Larry asked what are Emily's biggest challenges or obstacles. Niki wondered who decides to be a Recycling Champion, and noted many come from multifamily housing and 90% are women. She said Emily would like to have the training be a community education class, and last for two hours.

Ryan stated there might be a need for a staff outreach group. Shannon stated she works with staff. And the Climate Action Plan will be worked on by staff and the consultant. She added as topics come up, departments will collaborate and work on ways to plug into the Climate Action Plan. She said it is really a culture change.

Shannon stated the Climate Action Plan is happening, and planning and budgets and staff considerations are also being worked on. Staff is also starting to adopt sustainable equipment. Lauren was able to tour city buildings last week. Ryan said each department has their own community outreach process and asked if the ESC can be

involved in this. Also, he asked if there is a way the Climate Action Plan fits into other goals the city is working on.

Jim asked if commissions can work with each other or with other commission leaders also. One of the most important aspects to success will be community outreach on the Climate Action Plan.

Niki said Emily is ready to reach out to the community. The next step might be to bring Emily to an ESC meeting and build on topics that are already being presented to Recycling Champions.

Niki will draft an email with questions and forward to Shannon. Ryan will also put together a list on residential and business as it relates to outreach, and send to Shannon as well.

c. Events for ESC to attend/table at/community engagement

- i. Remodeling Fair – Feb. 10 – planning is starting in September. If there is interest by the ESC, volunteers should be there as a resource to talk to folks about sustainability in their homes and to hand out flyers. If anyone is interested, please let Shannon know. Jim and Shaina volunteered to be there. The group will come up with a flyer of remodeling opportunities that involve sustainability and money-saving issues.

*Jim made a motion for the ESC to move forward with participating in the remodeling fair and having a table there, and Stefan seconded. The motion passed.*

- ii. MREA Solar Power Hour event – Shannon stated people can stop by, have a solar assessment done and get a proposal to move forward. She said this would be booked and promoted on the ESC Facebook page and is an opportunity to do it in early October, after she finds a facility. Shannon said one or two ESC members would need to staff the table, and possibly Shaina could be involved since she has rooftop solar panels. Shannon will send the dates in an email to the ESC for review.

*Stefan made a motion for the ESC to move forward with doing the MREA Solar Power Hour event and have a table there, and Julie seconded. The motion passed.*

d. Fall retreat

- i. Retreat and doodle poll results – Claire said Dec. 2 is the best date for most ESC members, but the group discussed other dates, including January

dates. The group will finalize a new timeframe on Dec. 2 and email for responses.

- e. American Lung Association/electric car and lawn equipment event – Stefan spoke to the American Lung Association and Midwest Evolve. There are five to ten display vehicles, and they work with Xcel Energy on electric vehicles on an event that involves businesses and residential related to the climate action plans. Participants will be able to test out electric vehicles. Could be a venue where there is a farmer’s market or other sustainable food event going on. Grants are available, and it is not expensive to do.

Upcoming events are in Bloomington and Edina, and Stefan will attend to check this out. He suggests doing an event for St. Louis Park in spring 2019, adding this would be helpful in promoting the goals of the Climate Action Plan. Stefan said also there are electric chargers now at city buildings and Park Nicollet in St. Louis Park, and one coming soon to Westwood Hills.

*Julie made a motion that Stefan move forward with the American Lung Association on this program for St. Louis Park, and Jim seconded. The motion passed.*

Stefan will report back to the ESC at next month’s meeting. He stated Park Nicollet is currently testing two electric vehicles this fall.

Niki said one of her professors read the St. Louis Park comprehensive Pplan and said the strongest theme was sustainability. Also, her IRB for her graduate program was accepted today, and she will be asking for feedback from ESC members in the next weeks.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**