

**Environmental Sustainability Task Force**  
**Saturday, January 14, 2017**  
**2pm**  
**Whittier Alliance**

**Attendees:** Emanuel Tekle, Willow Kreibich, Kathleen McGee, Michele Molstead, Kaley Brown, Christine Popowski, Greg Schmidt, Mary Gazca, Jo Ann Musumeci, Deb Girdwood, Regina Brenner, Gina Rios

**Staff:** Paul Shanafelt

- **Nice Ride Minnesota - Kathleen McGee & Michele Molstead**

-NRM is a non-profit, w/membership costing \$75/year. This gets you 7 months of biking for 60 minutes at a time. Those who sign up can receive a free helmet; helmets are not available the Nice Ride stations.

-Nice Ride bikes are free to use during Open Streets

-NRM would be willing to partner with Whittier Alliance in planning biking events. Currently partner w/Mia for "Bike Night," which takes place at the Mia courtyard in July.

-Recently met w/Meet Minneapolis group, which is focusing on conducting group tours of the city on bike. NRM willing to do something similar on a n'hood scale in Whittier - perhaps touring rain gardens, etc.

-Q: can you subsidize costs for some riders/communities? A: yes, we have partnerships w/community colleges, National Park Service, Little Earth, and others.

-Q: do you have contracts w/high rise apartments to distribute bikes to their tenants? A: no, but open to exploring this idea.

-St. Paul has only 10% of the ridership of Minneapolis, but NRM is actively working to increase StP ridership numbers.

-NRM is looking to create neighborhood-centric maps. Whittier Alliance has people on staff to help develop this idea.

-NRM will have bike stations at each Paddle Share (kayak) exit/entry points.

-Lake Calhoun and IDS tower are two of the busiest bike stations.

- **Soo Line Community Garden - Mary Gazca & Kathleen McGee**

-the garden is located b/w Garfield and Harriet along the Greenway

-members would like to create a permanent bike path through the garden area to the Greenway

-members are hoping to open up garden access to immediate neighbors

-there is a wait list and people generally hear about the garden by word-of-mouth

-the garden sits on Park Board property

-a suggestion was made to have Soo Line connect w/neighborhood preschools for programming

-a suggestion was made to conduct a tour of Soo Line garden for the Whittier community in

June

- **Group Updates & Announcements**

-Joe Knaeble (of Lowry Hill East N'hood Association) received a \$10,000 grant to start a street/sidewalk salt educational campaign. They would like to partner w/Whittier and ESTF

-Willow is exploring a \$3000 MWMO grant for a n'hood watershed project- funds can be used for education, outreach, or events.

-Results from the volunteer appreciation mixer indicated that ESTF should focus on community solar/alternative energy for 2017. Kaley will try and connect w/the director of Mia, as their building would be suitable to house solar panels on its roof.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paul Shanafelt

Next meeting: February 22, 6pm at Whittier Alliance

