

Environmental Sustainability Task Force
Wednesday, October 26, 2016
6pm
Whittier Alliance

Attendees: Emanuel Tekle, Willow Kreibich, Dave LaViolette, Kaley Brown, Regina Brenner, Greg Schmidt, Mary Gazca, D'Ana Pennington, Joe Knaeble, Brian Foster

Staff: Paul Shanafelt

- **Introduction**
- **Salt Project (Joe Knaeble, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association)**
 - Joe is assembling a steering committee geared towards researching and subsequently implementing a best practices document for salting/de-icing in special service districts in Minneapolis. Special service districts, such as Nicollet Ave in Whittier, have third party contractors (contracted by the City) who do shoveling, salting, etc. Supervisors are required to receive training from the MPCA, but little else in terms of enforcing best salting practices.
 - Joe is asking for a couple members of ESTF to help research and shape the best practices document.
 - Asked for \$13k in grant funding, and will know in late Dec/early Jan whether or not project is funded. If partially awarded funding, the project would still proceed. Whittier would be in the area of this pilot project, along with others in SW Mpls.
 - The City is interested in educating the public in regards to salting/de-icing, but not implementing policy mandates. Joe and Jen Kader (of Whittier) met with CM Kevin Reich about the issue earlier this year. He is interested to hear the final research outcomes.
 - 1 teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water. Only a little bit of salt is needed to de-ice. The most effective, green method is simply shoveling/scraping.
- **Indoor Air Quality (D'Ana Pennington, City of Mpls Health Dept.)**
 - D'Ana is working on an engagement/educational project to improve indoor air quality in multi-unit buildings. The primary focus is on second-hand smoke.
 - Smoke can penetrate through pipes, walls, cracks, etc. E-cigs, although there has been little research to show, do contain chemicals that are possibly harmful.
 - D'Ana's group is responding to concerns and doing outreach to property managers to encourage smoke-free buildings ("green homes"). Property managers have discretion whether or not individual units are smoke-free. Public indoor spaces are required by law to be smoke-free.
 - There will be a rental property owner workshop on Nov 18 to educate. Postcards will also be mailed to rental property owners.
 - The ESTF group also mentioned that the City should provide tools to tenants for lobbying property owners for smoke-free buildings.

- D'Ana is seeking opportunities to connect with renters through future Whittier events/activities.
- **Motion:** *The ESTF motions to support the Whittier Alliance and City of Mpls' Health Dept.'s collective efforts in engaging and educating the Whittier neighborhood regarding indoor air quality.* **Motion passes 8-0-0.**
- **Planning for 2017**
 - The group suggested maintaining its monthly meetings, but expanding its outreach by hosting quarterly socials or other events to engage and inform community members who might not otherwise attend a meeting. The group wants to engage different people on different levels.
 - Movie showings and environmental-themed trivia were ideas mentioned.
 - Joe stated that LHENA's green team would be willing to collaborate with ESTF for events, activities, socials.
 - ESTF will host their first social in conjunction with the Dec 2 volunteer appreciation party. An ESTF sub-group was formed and will partake in the planning.
- **Group Updates & Announcements**
 - Emanuel would like the group to tackle the issue of biking inequity in Whittier. How can we address it? How can we empower those on the outside of the biking community while informing those inside?
 - Whittier Wheels continues to make progress and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 30, 6pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paul Shanafelt