

Environmental Sustainability Task Force
Wednesday, November 30, 2016
6pm
Whittier Alliance

Attendees: Emanuel Tekle, Willow Kreibich, Lisa Middag, Kaley Brown, Christine Popowski, Greg Schmidt, Mary Gazca, Jo Ann Musumeci

Staff: Paul Shanafelt

- **Introduction**
- **Greenway Improvements - Lisa Middag, Hennepin County Midtown Community**

Works

- Increasing signage along Greenway
 - Identifying access points to Greenway
- New green spaces along Greenway
- Main issues: areas where Greenway wasn't well connected to rest of city; "Gap" between Greenway and street grid
 - Not enough signs
 - People getting lost on Greenway
- Advocating for better wayfinding tools on Greenway
- Concerns over safety of bikers getting on/off Greenway
- How can we make the communities around Greenway feel more connected to the Greenway
 - Making it more accessible to different demographics
 - Partnering with community/neighborhood organizations to make Greenway space more welcoming/representative to minority communities along Greenway

- Working on Art Place grant application making Greenway more culturally representative through murals etc. (main applicant would most likely be Midtown Greenway Coalition)
 - Murals approved already for Phillips neighborhood
- Whittier Alliance: Potential grant partnership
 - Resources could be directed to bridge on Nicollet
 - Signage on Eat Street
 - Reaching out to renters to involve certain communities more and spread knowledge of Greenway
 - Define what resources/involvement the Alliance would want to ask for in grant partnership
 - Future projects?
 - Developing Kmart “plaza” would connect Greenway and excluded communities more?
 - “The corridor” is owned by rail authorities and is protected historically
 - Opening up the trench of the Greenway to street level would help connect it to the communities nearby
 - Making traditionally marginalized groups feel safer when on the Greenway by making it more open
 - Using history of art, diversity, and proximity to the Greenway to our advantage in the future
 - What short-term/non-permanent inclusive art projects in Whittier can we implement?

- Art made by the community for the community
- A piece of art that promotes representation and inclusiveness in the neighborhood
- Greenway entrance on Nicollet should be more connected to surroundings/more welcoming to promote usage
- Art could be used to physically connect greenway to rest of the neighborhood while simultaneously encouraging cultural diversity in Whittier
- Pre-application due in January for grant
- **Presentation Planning - Emanuel, Willow, Kaley**
 - Volunteer Appreciation/Business Association mixer at Wedge table friday 12/2
 - Showcasing what ESTF has done in the past year
 - Hoping to draw in people who are interested in environmental sustainability to bolstering ESTF for the future
 - Recruiting people who haven't volunteered in Whittier before
 - Community input on future projects (provide way to measure what projects community members would be interested in)
 - Community solar
 - Rain gardens
 - Biking/walking equity
 - Get feedback on how to better engage community
 - Making task force more accessible to more people
 - More variety of meeting times?
 - Business presence at task force meetings

- Establishing quarterly meetings with all the environmental groups in the neighborhood

Next meeting: Saturday, January 14 (Time TBA)

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ivy Girdwood