

Environmental Sustainability Task Force
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
6pm
Whittier Alliance

Attendees: Leslie MacKenzie (Transition Longfellow), Dave LaViolette, Greg Schmidt, Willow Kreibich, Christine Popowski, Brian Foster, Paul Shanafelt

Transition Towns (guest speaker Leslie MacKenzie - Transition Longfellow)

-Transition Town groups that currently exist in Twin Cities: northern suburbs, St. Anthony Park n'hood, Longfellow, Corcoran, Powderhorn, and NE Mpls.

-1500 Transition movements across globe, including 500 in U.S.

-Transition is a grassroots, citizen-led movement that looks climate change and its economic impact and overall sustainability.

-Transition is action oriented. Opportunity to meet neighbors and do something.

-Transition Towns outline the following goals:

Become less dependent on fossil fuels

Get more people engaged in food growing

Promote local, sustainably grown food

Keeping food dollars local

Being prepared for climate change

Using resources wisely and sustainably

Building healthy, resilient people - promoting physical, psychological, and social health.

-Transition Longfellow hosted an Energy Fair in 2015 with over 100 attendees. 14 speakers with an array of topics. Other events they hosted include free yoga in the park, n'hood walks, water-focused geocaching, zero waste groups, sustainable finance groups, and "garden mob" raised garden bed installations.

-Transition is also about building social connections within your community and sharing knowledge/skills; combining social and educational opportunities is key.

-Transition Longfellow started over 4 people having coffee. Shared leadership. No paid staff.

Group Updates

-Paul mentioned that the Whittier Alliance is looking at subscribing to community solar. The ESTF is welcome to explore options and make suggestions regarding the provider.

-A new CSA is opening up courtesy of the Hmong Farmers Association. Distribution hub to either be at MCAD or Whittier Alliance.

-Youth Farm will be asking the community what to do with its current community garden space in Whittier (2807 Pillsbury). They are not currently providing programming for youth at that location.

-Brian was wondering if Whittier could look into getting cigarette butt containers.

-Willow has set up a meeting with Metro Blooms regarding the Blooming Alleys program and whether or not it's doable in Whittier.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paul Shanafelt