

Southside Green Zone Council

Meeting Notes

August 3, 2022 - 06:30 PM

South Meeting Room, Phillips Community Center
2323 11th Ave S, Minneapolis

Members present: Samara Adam, Jennifer Davis, Megan Kuhl-Stennes, Joel McReynolds, and Spencer Polk (Quorum - 9)

Members absent: Karen Clark, Eticha Fufa, Rob Hendrickson, Cassandra Holmes, Kowsar Mohamed, Muhubo Mohamed, Viviana Rodriguez, and José Villaseñor

Guests: Elizabeth Turner, Imani Mosher, Amy (with PUC Documenters)

Staff : Kelly Muellman

Minutes from the last two meetings:

1. [May 4, 2022 Southside Green Zone Council](#)
2. [Jul 13, 2022 Southside Green Zone Council](#)

Introductions

Samara opened the meeting. There were not enough members present to make quorum. Members and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan & connection to Southside Green Zone Work Plan

Imani Mosher and Elizabeth Turner from Precipitate Architecture presented on the Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan. This is a new process to replace the City's current 2013 Climate Action Plan; a process that will center equity and people in the plan more than it currently does. The City has ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets to meet, primarily in fossil gas use (heating and industry) and fossil-fuel powered vehicles, but equity cannot be sacrificed for expediency.

The City is in the "listening" phase of the Climate Equity Plan process, that includes several months of tabling at community events, community conversations, a survey tool and meetings with staff across departments. In September, the City will establish a Steering Committee and Working Groups based on the themes that arose during the listening phase. By the end of the year there will be a draft Climate Equity Plan to share back and receive further input and refinement. The final plan will be adopted by City Council in spring 2023.

Discussion:

- ***What wins have you seen in your community recently related to the Southside Green Zones Workplan?***

- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) is in the works (not quite a win yet). On hold until rent control is approved
- Transportation plans / planners are using the Green Zones boundaries as targeted areas to make improvements and coordinate resources
- Free energy audits for residents in the Green Zones
- Bonus solar rebates for residents and businesses installing solar in the Green Zones
- Community air monitoring project is opening up information. It reflects the City listening to what residents care about
- Raised beds at Cepro park (between 10th & 11th Aves S & Midtown Greenway)
- Edible boulevards are increasing food access
- Some County work is taking into account the Green Zones
- Increased awareness of Green Zones
 - Signs that Karen Clark is working on with local artist
 - Local podcasts talking about the Green Zones
- Metro Transit talking about using clean vehicles in the Green Zones
- Abbott Northwestern came to Green Zone meeting to speak with residents about their permit for a new utility plant
- Green Zone members have been brought into the creation of RFPs and review of proposals, at least for Green Zones specific work.
- Green Zone members have been invited to review proposals for the Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity fund – created by the City of Minneapolis, the McKnight Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation – for three years
- Green Zone members created the Green Zone Development Criteria and they were incorporated into the Sustainable Building Policy for municipal buildings in 2021
- ***What have you noticed about climate change and how is this impacting your community?***
 - Traffic congestion/pollution is worse, especially during construction season when cars are all forced onto the same route and traffic backs up
 - The new 35W exit at Lake St is very dangerous. There are two right-turn lanes and traffic does not stop to look for pedestrians
 - In Poland everyone bikes or walks, and food is accessible in small stores by walking
 - Gardeners are noticing changes in the growing season – what you can grow, what survives. People with money keep their landscaping looking good even in the drought / heat but not all communities have money
 - Native wild flowers are struggling to grow. Climate change is affecting food sovereignty.
 - Raspberry season was crazy short this year
 - Emerald Ash Borer is wiping out trees. We can't get new trees to grow fast enough. Trees get hit by cars
 - Trees are isolated in metal and concrete “jails”. They struggle to survive; they are scorched.
 - Heat island effect is noticeable. Phillips is particularly hot. Storms and clouds split and go around the central cities, which impacts the amount of rain we get
 - Lack of air conditioning in housing and many folks are unhoused – all face issues with hotter summers and recent heat waves
 - Not enough cooling shelters or water fountains

- Safety issues in housing because of fossil gas. CenterPoint's construction is really disruptive, and they treat wealthier neighborhoods differently (better)
- Ice doesn't stay frozen in the winter for outdoor sports (skating, hockey, broomball, ice fishing, etc.)
- Warmer winters increase the survival rate of pests, ticks, etc. Seeing ticks in urban areas now.
- ***What action items would you like to see more resources and support behind? Are there items that should be adopted City-wide in this plan? Are there additional ways the City of Minneapolis can support you in the work of climate action?***
 - Bring back the siesta (afternoon rest) during summer months (to accommodate hotter summers)
 - More money for Open Streets, and make Open Streets more permanent for pedestrians and bicyclists
 - Transportation Demand Management Plans – citywide. Plan for fewer cars.
 - Pay for this through:
 - fees (see Land Use, Air and Soil action item #1.9)
 - Look at tax structure – how do we fund transportation infrastructure with less gas tax income?
 - Charge oil companies / those that cause the damage
 - MPD should get their own liability insurance so the City doesn't have to pay out for settlements
 - Non-toxic paving pilot (Land Use, Air and Soil action item #1.10)
 - A lot of measures pay for themselves (pay-back over time or return on investment)
 - Everything (landscaping) should be edible
 - Fewer grass lawns
 - Pressure foundations to partner with Green Zones
 - Money for Green Zones meetings to be broadcast (increase access, awareness)
 - We should prioritize having regular, attractive (provide food?) community meetings, educational/info sessions to update and include Green Zone residents on decision-making around this plan and its implementation.
 - The City of Minneapolis should send more mayoral and city council staff to our meetings, potentially having a separate monthly meeting with our leadership, so Green Zones are not forgotten and concerns aren't dismissed.
- ***What ideas or concerns do you have about the ideal energy future for you and future generations?***
 - Budget for electrification in Green Zones. We need more electricians! (green jobs) There are so many updates needed in early 1900s housing before you can install solar, electrify, get EVs, etc.
 - Go block-by-block and group-purchase / upgrade grid etc.
 - Community ownership/buy in of renewable energy development should be implemented in a way that prioritizes a just transition to a sustainable future (i.e. community owned solar farms with targeted advertisement/assistance to public/affordable housing residents)

Announcements

1. Update on Green Zone Evaluation Consultant: We received two proposals for Green Zone Evaluation consultant. The review panel (Northside and Southside Green Zone members, Kelly Muellman and Angela Williams, will review applications, schedule interviews and make a selection by end of August)
2. Addition of September and December Southside Green Zone meetings:
Wed, Sept 7 and Wed, Dec 7
3. [Apply now for 2022 Green Zones community project funding](#) – proposals due August 11 at 2pm.
4. Lake Street Open Streets is Saturday, August 13. Several Green Zone members will be there tabling / attending for other organizations. Spencer will have some of EPNI's Green Zones signs, if anyone wants to host one at their table.
5. **The Just Transition Fund announced a [Request for Proposals](#)** for their 2022 Policy grant cycle (Cycle 2)! Grants in this cycle will fund organizing and advocacy efforts to advance state or federal transition policy supporting coal communities and workers.

Please see the [RFP](#) for more information about their priorities and how to apply. Initial inquiries are due by **Monday, August 8**.

6. [Decolonizing Wealth- Food and Land Justice Fund](#) to redistribute \$1 million to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) -led efforts for food and land justice and sovereignty in the United States.

Proposal Due Date: There is no deadline. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served, rolling basis until funds are disbursed.

Grant Award Amount: Grant awards will range between \$5,000 and up to \$50,000.

Grant Contact Information: For questions about the Food and Land Justice RFP (e.g eligibility), send your message to info@decolonizingwealth.com.

7. **Join the [Climate Impact Corps](#).** The program is looking for members to join three initiatives:
 1. [Community Forestry Initiative](#) members preserve and increase the urban tree canopy.
 2. [Home Energy Initiative](#) members support Minnesotans eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program with education and installation of energy efficient materials.
 3. [Sustainability Project Coordinators](#) advance clean energy and climate resilience by supporting local projects and educating youth groups, schools and community members

Do you know someone who would be a great match for this important work? The positions are 40 hours a week with opportunities beginning in August, October, and January. All members serve through July 2023. Community Forestry also has limited 25 hour per week openings. **Apply by August 10!**

8. **Environmental Justice billboard design contest for youth**

Calling Minneapolis artists ages 15-18! Use your art to raise awareness about environmental racism in Minneapolis. Two First Prize winners will have their art featured on a Minneapolis billboard. The top 10 winners will receive a scholarship for classes at Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Submissions due August 8, 2022.

[Learn more and submit your artwork.](#)

Questions? Email environmentaljusticeartcontest@gmail.com

9. **[Join Minneapolis Edible Boulevards upcoming cooking classes](#)**

August 13: Cooking Class with Kelly Shay hosted by **Urban Ag. Initiative at 2526 W. Broadway Ave., 55411**

September 10: Cooking Class with Natalia Mendez hosted by **Tamales y Bicicletas at 2820 15th Ave. S., 55407**

October 8: Cooking Class with Kelly Shay hosted by **Four Sisters Farm at 2839 17th Ave. S. (between Bloomington and 19th Aves.)**

November 12: Cooking Class with Derek Nicholas on Zoom (**pre-register on Zoom in October**)

December 3: Cooking Class with Derek Nicholas on Zoom (**pre-register on Zoom in November**)

10. **Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan virtual engagement events**

August 25 @ 12pm – City of Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan Open Forum (online)

Visit [Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan webpage](#) for registration information.

Adjournment

Next Southside Green Zone Council meeting: Sep 7, 2022

A portion of this meeting may be closed to the public pursuant to MN Statutes Section 13D.03 or 13D.05.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-3014 or e-mail kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.