

Heart of the City

April 9, 2007, Café Carpe

Present: Joan Callan, Mary Linton, Kathy Kauffman, Jill Kessenich, Kitty Welch, Bill Camplin, Cynthia Holt, Pat Landowski, Jenni Eschner, Paul Hable, Steve Klein, John & Stella Kleinshmidt, Lue Ehinger, Mary Gates, Andy Jorgenson, Ivan Davis, Leslie LaMuro, Ann Bemis, Andy Yocom, Ella Moyes, Matt Loup, Jane Nicholson, David Stahl, Daniel Nikolay, Gina N., Len Bannon, Nancy Shea

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Kitty Welch

Truth to Power: Lue & Anders “The Daffodil Garden”

Program: Suzanne Wade, Rock River Coalition & UWEX Rock River Basin educator. Funded through DNR watershed and forestry. RR basin starts in FDL county. RRC started in 1994 in Fort, Watertown, Beloit. Hosted two forums and did survey of 1600 people to determine most important points. Karst is fractured dolomite near surface—can contaminate drinking water. Also developing computer Groundwater Flow Model—can track flow of groundwater before it happens. Land use issues: put together rural development guidelines and policies. Also held technical workshops—to design conservation subdivisions. Action projects—shoreline restoration, raingardens, monitoring. 20 shoreline restoration projects. Muck farm west of Rock Lake was converted to wetlands and other natural areas—1500 acres. Send your Legislator Down the River on June 11. Water Star community—a statewide program to award a community that goes above and beyond in terms of water preservation. Controlling excess phosphorus—why this is important. Annual awards program in May.

Q & A: Middle number on fertilizers should be 0, for no phosphorus

Can have soil tested at UW-Extension--\$14. Need about a cup. Go under root system, take from a few places.

Results in MN—started in 2001 seen significant reduction in urban watershed.

Emergency overflow in Milwaukee: How helpful are raingardens in reducing that? What can we do? Keep water on your property—avoid as much runoff as possible

Slide program on low-impact subdivisions-office is at County EX office.

Announcements:

12 noon Saturday, April 14th Natural Step it Up walk—National Day of Climate Action. Walk from Riverwalk behind Carpe to Jones Park. Bring a picnic. Stepitup2007.org

Earth Day event at Library on 21st

Clean Sweep In Jefferson April 14 @ fair grounds

Open Committee positions: Preservation Commission (2), Tourism(1), Library (1), Zoning Board(2). Encouraged to apply

New Grass Roots website: shadetree org. by John Landowski

Odyssey of Nature-July @ MKSD Park

Prairie Plants identification—May 12 @MKSD Park

See pub. Policy and govt. relations

Need new speaker coordinator to take Jill O's place. She had agreed to do it for 6 meetings, and time is up.

SaveDarfur.org—check it out

Treasurers Report:

\$561 from Atkinson Diet

\$778.23 since January 1

Costs: \$816.69

\$821.88 current balance.

Committee reports:

Outreach/Education

Confirm press coverage of Step-it-Up event w/Mike Schmidt @ paper

Projects

Brochure going to County Parks tomorrow. Will be distributing 100 copies around town-Carpe, Library, hospital, etc. Encourage people to sign up for sustainable gardening

Public Policy/Govt

Looking for new chair and co-chair

Website

No report

Atkinson Diet: Give donation toward hybrid police car. Brainstorm: Work w/ local businesses to incentivise to carpool and ride bikes or walk. Coupons from local stores or businesses. Brown cab—promote ride share and possible hybrids. Put ideas on website. Bring a legislator in to speak, maybe Spencer Black.

Next Meeting

Monday, May 14; 7:00 pm – Police Dept. Design E2

Steering Committee: April 23th at Lue's

New business

Membership mailing: going out around Earth Day for renewing and new members and money for projects.

Anders moved to adjourn, Jill seconds

Adjournment 8:30