

Environment and River Gorge Committee
Longfellow Community Council
(Draft) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February, 2, 2023 | 7:00–8:00 PM

Present: Ian Young (Chair), Wanja Kuria (LCC Staff), Dan Schultz, Dave Zumeta, Carolyn Carr, Nathan Hemann, Reed

Recorder: Carolyn Carr

Agenda Items	Notes/Comments
Motion: Approve November 2022 Minutes	Led by: Ian Young Moted by: Carolyn Carr Seconded by: Dan Schultz <i>(approved without objection)</i>
Motion: Approve January 2023 Minutes	Led by: Ian Young Moted by: Dave Zumeta Seconded by: Carolyn Carr <i>(approved without objection)</i>
Discussion: Minutes will need to be done by Committee members	Led by: Wanja Kuria Due to work needed for the upcoming event season, LCC staff can no longer do minutes for committees. Committee members will need to do the minutes, perhaps on a rotating basis. A template is available, and Wanja will be glad to assist as needed. Carolyn volunteered for this meeting. Ian will add a link to the minutes template to each monthly agenda (duplicated and dated, in order to protect the template). Also - next month, Ian will send draft minutes out ahead of time for review/comments/updates. (NOTE Added by Carolyn later: Draft minutes must be provided to LCC office within about 10 days after our monthly meeting so they can be circulated to the Board at their monthly meeting).
Discussion: Compost drop-off program for	Led by: Wanja Kuria Wanja had circulated materials from her recent meeting with a

Environment and River Gorge Committee
Longfellow Community Council
(Draft) Monthly Meeting Minutes

multi-unit residents

grant funder about grants available to promote composting for multi-unit housing residents in Longfellow.

Two grants exist. We determined that Grant 1 is too much for us - it requires LCC staff/committee to find, operate and maintain a composting site, including ongoing management tasks at the site (a big negative) but anyone in the neighborhood interested could use it (a plus).

Grant 2 is for a property owner applicant who will be provided with countertop bins for residents to use, \$ for a large disposal bin, but the owner must find a compost hauler. City will provide assistance for 6 months. LCC ERG would have to contact building owners to recruit them, and assist them through the application process.

No ERG members present can take the lead on this but we would like for building owners LCC that interacts with to know about it, at least.

-Wanja offered that LCC has a Building Ambassador program at Hiawatha Commons and Everlake, and the grant materials could be shared that way. If there is interest, ERG/LCC can figure out how to assist the building owner/s to apply.

-Wanja will send a followup email to the committee about this.

-Dave will mention this to his next door neighbor who is a landlord in Longfellow.

-Committee members emphasized that having a contact list of multi-unit building owners in Longfellow would be very helpful - for this kind of project and others.

Discussion: Events

Led by: Wanja Kuria

Rachel (LCC's ExDir) is creating an events document to assist with event planning, and Wanja will be creating one for the River Gorge Festival. It will be a link that can allow people to share in the planning and sign up for tasks. Wanja would like to build this from recent past event planning materials.

-Wanja will ask Sophie and/or Molly for last year's planning materials - and Ian has previous versions too.

-Wanja will send the committee the River Gorge Festival planning doc link.

- March agenda will include choosing a subcommittee for this year's event planning.

Environment and River Gorge Committee
Longfellow Community Council
(Draft) Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Discussion: Tree Project
in Longfellow**

Led by: Dan, Dave and Carolyn

Dan's past idea to do a native tree planting program for Longfellow residents isn't possible because the nursery has backed out. So Dan, Dave and Carolyn met recently to brainstorm ideas about other potential projects.

This is in the brainstorm stage and we invite anyone interested to join us. Current ideas: 1) protect existing street trees with some kind of block-based project to promote watering of street trees (saving street canopy from drought conditions protects a big past investment); 2) promote planting of native trees in city boulevards - residents can request particular tree species when a tree needs replacement, and we could develop materials to encourage native tree selection for all their ecological benefits; and 3) educate about important of native trees planting in home yards, not just in boulevards.

We want to leverage our efforts, and coordinate with Mpls Forestry (they deal w/ boulevard trees) and Tree Trust (they promote tree plantings in yards), with a focus on Longfellow trees and building awareness and connections among people in Longfellow.

-Nathan expressed interest in joining this subcommittee and we welcome him.

-We'll be researching more about MPRB Forestry's work/needs. We'd like to meet with City Forester to learn MPRB's greatest needs, so we are coordinating efforts.

-Dan has set dates for his two workshops this spring on the value of native plantings - we'll hear more from him by email about these.

Adjourn

Summary of Meeting and Committee Work: *The Environment and River Gorge (ERG) committee works to create environmentally focused programs, projects and events that help advance the greening of Greater Longfellow. By promoting and protecting the Mississippi River Gorge, we ensure its longevity.)*