

Notes

Lake Street Energy Challenge Monthly Meeting
October 21, 2015
3:00-4:30pm

Attendees:

Louis Smith	Midtown Community Works (MCW) Partnership
Chloe McGuire Brigl	Intern at Smith Partners, MCW Partnership
Elizabeth Henley	Intern at Smith Partners, MCW Partnership
Tami Gunderzik	Manages the Partners in Energy offering for Xcel Energy
Joanna	Whittier Neighborhood
Sean Gosiewski	Alliance for Sustainability
Paul Shanafelt	Community Engagement Manager for Whittier Alliance
Jenny Edwards	Partners in Energy Facilitator
Sally Spence	ECCO Green Team
Lee Samelson	Our Power Organizer
Doug Wise	Housing Coordinator at Seward Neighborhood Group
Katie Schmitt	Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association
Tim Springer	Landlord and resident in the Phillips neighborhoods

1. Welcome

- a. Introductions
- b. Neighborhood Association Updates
 - i. East Philips Improvement Coalition adopted the energy challenge resolution verbatim
 - ii. East Calhoun will collaborate on programs. Nov 17th community solar open house; Nov 11th no waste by Eureka
 - iii. Whittier: collaborating with Lake Street Council, small business corridor on Lake and Lyndale about collaborating for energy checks. Groundwork for environment sustainability task force.
 - iv. LENA/Wedge: two events, Nov 4th loans and grants for e saving projects. Dec 1st hosting 1st home energy party.
 - v. Longfellow: Holy Trinity and Longfellow CC partnering on community solar open house. Put together \$100 per household subscribing people

2. Survey Results

- a. Shared summary of survey. Timothy D.T. offered to take a leadership role. He will follow up with those that are interested. Partners in Energy role would be to can help put the group together, would not lead the effort.
- b. Discussed the affordable apartment group
- c. Suggestion: have a path forward for anyone who comes so no one feels excluded
- d. Timothy will move group forward; Partners in Energy can help with space and setting up

3. Home Energy Parties

- a. Seward Party Results
 - i. 20-25 people
 - ii. Presenters: Alexis on community solar, Hannah on Home Energy Squad
 - iii. 16 different pledges; 5 signed up for home energy audits
 - iv. Gave out light bulbs!
 - v. What was agenda? snacks at beginning; got people to sign pledges then. Chloe talked about Lake Street Energy Challenge. Doug talks about home improvement; presentation on community solar (Alexis). Had survey for community solar afterwards.
 - vi. Question: Demographics of participants? Mostly homeowners. Age wise a good mix (20s, 30s?). Would like to gear more towards East African community. A mix of people who had done things before (and if prior to 2013, can do it again). All tables were very busy afterwards. Had facility at Matthews Park and that worked well. Marketing: did e newsletter in there; quarterly printed newsletter; some flyering by Hannah; posters in businesses. Also blanketed: E democracy forum, website, Facebook
 - vii. Other questions about the Seward Energy Party: doug@sng.org
- b. Future parties
 - i. Parties planned in LENA
 - ii. Question: are there any other parties to observe?
 - iii. Now that marketing blurbs have been developed they can be shared with others to get the word out.
 - iv. Pending party plans: East Phillips (1st Dec week?) ECCO – landlord maybe in 1 month; LHE Dec 1; Longfellow Jan or Feb event
- c. Communications update
 - i. Has the pledge on the website, and pledge on Facebook and neighborhood's Facebook if neighborhood orgs can share. Main url is the Lake Street Energy Challenge page. Have Somali, Spanish guides. People have mentioned they saw in newsletters.

4. Community Solar Garden Meeting Update

- a. Question: How can this group address the update on community solar and not duplicate?
- b. Key points: Concerns that neighborhoods will make promises with lack resources and expertise; nervous about selecting vendor (is there liability?). LSEC can be a library of community solar info. Sean G. has vetted vendors and has ones to work with, and communities of faith. Opportunities to leverage what Sean G. has. He has worked through all this before.
- c. Sean G. update: Community solar will be a scarce commodity. Window to subscribe between now and next march. Would be constructed by end of 2016. Otherwise would be filled up. Alliance for Sustainability has worked with others: Novel energy; MN Community Solar are the two companies to work with. The Alliance has a partnership with MN Community Solar; gets \$100 finders fee. 25 year energy contract (with a transfer fee is want to get out). Understand it is a solid contract but could sell subscription. Big picture: if someone currently has \$100/month in electricity, then they pay \$90/month for subscription, and Xcel Energy sends \$100/mo credit. Gets evened out at end of year. CERTS has helped people understand issues; alliance has been able to delve into contracts.
- d. Steps: 1) reserve place in line, 2) send in energy info from utility bill. Once approved they will send you a contract

- e. Sean G. will be learning more about how many are in pipeline and if they are filled up. There will be a narrow window.
- f. MN Community Solar and Novel have first approved garden in state, in southern Minnesota. MNCS doesn't want a lot of aggregation partners, get people into their system.
- g. Did comparison of 10 different companies. Some didn't have contracts yet. If people want to sign NDA, they can access the power point.
- h. Sean G. can coordinate getting flyers on community solar for house parties.

*End of Notes. Next Monthly Meeting: November 16th (**Revised date**)*