

Congress Park Green Team (CPGT)

Steering Committee (ST) Notes

March 10, 2016

Seven members of the ST met at Amaranth Apartments Common Room, from 6-8 pm: Becky Coughlin, Liz Goehring, Patrick Treleani, Maggie Price, Joan Gregerson, Kimberly Rickards and Emily Hunter. Becky and Liz co-lead the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS: As this was the first meeting of the CPGT ST, we started with Introductions (i.e., how long have you been in CP? Why do you want to serve on the ST? What do you hope to get out of tonight's meeting?).

Length of time living in CP ranged from 1 month to 30 years.

Reasons for why we each wanted to serve included:

- To help build a sense of community
- To help organize our new Green Team efforts
- To help build camaraderie
- Because she enjoys getting results, planning - functions of the steering committee
- To help harness the energy of the larger Green Team

Expectations out of this meeting:

- That the ST will help provide more structure to our activities
- That we will find common ground
- That we will begin to form as a group working together, and making decisions
- To be able to hand off current efforts to a steering committee
- To leave with action items
- That the ST will define direction, action items and how to guide work.

HISTORY: We briefly reviewed the history of "green" efforts in CP

~5 years ago, Lisa Loranger conducted an energy survey of a portion of the neighborhood, as part of another CPN project

~1.5 years ago, Lisa L. submitted a proposal to the CPN Board to go for certification in Denver's Sustainable Neighborhood Network.

In Dec 2015, Joan approached Maggie about a Green Team, and was invited to start one for the neighborhood. Joan also met with Taylor Moellers (SNN) to understand the program and grant opportunities

Jan 1st, Joan sent out an invite to the neighborhood for Green Team members.

Jan 9th - 1st GT meeting (N=14)

Jan 30th - 2nd GT meeting (N=20)

Feb 13th - 3rd GT meeting (N=12)

Feb 27th - 4th GT meeting (N=18)

Take home: there is significant and sustained interest in the CPGT.

PURPOSE: We then discussed ideas for the Purpose of the GT, and reviewed the CPN plan for its mission/purpose:

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“Congress Park is a traditional city neighborhood with a small town atmosphere. Here people of diverse cultures, ages, colors and economic background share a sense of community, value older homes and mature trees, and enjoy the convenience of city living amid the stability of a thriving neighborhood.”

Ideas/thoughts/words put forward by members included:

That the GT

- Focus on long-term view of the health of the neighborhood/environment
- Include the concept of sustainability (e.g., triple bottom line which include economic, people AND environment)
- Consider the large system, “Green” is part of something bigger.
- Resilience
- Healing damage to planet done to date, rather than sustaining
- Adapt
- Understand the demographics of our neighborhood
- Connect our neighborhood individuals with City programs
- KISS (“keep it simple sweetheart”) ok - trying to keep it clean. ;)
- Provide resources

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: Next, the ST began discussing how we could best organize to help serve our purpose. Ideas proposed included:

- Block Leaders, or Grid “Captains” - essentially a point person for smaller sections of our rather large neighborhood.
- CPGT members serve as “evangelists”, “ambassadors” and “change leaders” for ideas and actions promoted by the CPGT.
- CPGT will facilitate linking neighbors with neighbors, and mapping ‘green assets’
- ST will serve as the connection to the CPN, Inc, and that others in addition to Maggie will attend the CPN Board meetings (3rd Wednesday every other month - next meeting April 13)
- ST will meeting monthly.

ST by-laws are needed but would require more time than was available at this meeting. Put this on the agenda for next meeting.

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS: Liz gave a presentation on SNN (see PPT in share drive) and led a discussion of whether the ST felt Congress Park should apply to the program.

Pros/cons were discussed.

Cons:

- The application process and participation in the program would require more work. As an alternative, we could do the same activities without tracking our efforts for credits.
- We don’t know if we really have the neighborhood behind us, as well as businesses

Pros:

- The SNN program provides a well defined and successful framework/structure to help us continue to grow as a team

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- Recognition

The ST came to consensus that we should apply to the SNN Program, and to present the recommendation to the larger CPGT for input and final decision.

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUNDS: A few members of the ST have been working on a proposal for matching funds from the SNMF pilot program, to support our efforts to “connect our community” and build capacity within our organization. Liz prepared a presentation but concerns were raised by Maggie about the structure of the grant (i.e., that the city make reimbursement based on expenses incurred, requiring CPGT to pay for expenses first). It was decided that the proposal be shelved at this time. The draft proposal is posted on the share drive and ST members are asked to review it for ideas that we may use going forward, AND think of ways that we may raise funds, seek donations, etc... to support our efforts.

ACTION ITEMS

- Post Lisa Loranger’s original proposal and survey results on the share drive (LL)
- Propose Sustainable Neighborhood Program application at next CPGT meeting (Mar 12) for input and concurrence with ST recommendation (LG)
- Post SNMF draft proposal on the share drive (LG)
- Develop ST by-laws, communications strategy and plan at next meeting
- Identify ST member(s) who will attend next CPN, Inc Board meeting