

## Earth Circle

Library Community Room, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

May 20, 2017, 2 pm

**Attendance:** Dave Alban, Nancy Alfuth, Vicki Andrews, Bob & Linnea Boyer, Gary Burt, Nick Eltgroth, Dee Ensley, Pat Helmberger, Harry Hutchins, Jeanne Newstrom, Yvette Schultenover, Randall Streier, Janet Stejskal, Barb Veit, and Co-op presenters Corinn Tiwari, Annaleisa McCartney.

### Call to Order and Free Range Food Co-op Presentation:

The meeting started at 2:00.

Representatives of a food cooperative that is evolving in Grand Rapids presented a short video, handed out information fliers and ownership applications (\$100), and answered questions. To date the co-op has 327 members; they will begin construction when ownership hits 1000. Learn more at <http://www.freerangefood.coop/>

### Committee Reports:

Plastic Bag Committee Report by Helmberger:

- ✓ Pat and Yvette toured several businesses in their “bag lady” costumes and were posted by Affinity Bank on facebook.
- ✓ Legislation on preempting local regulation of plastic bags was being watched and thought to have been vetoed.
- ✓ Henderson Island in the South Pacific was a focus of plastic pollution concern in the news.
- ✓ The Boyers (introductions) were attending based on committee’s presentation at Pokegama Lake Association.
- ✓ More information is upcoming on a reusable bag exchange.
- ✓ The committee will be participating in the Legacy Youth Water Summit at the fairgrounds on 5/23/2017.

### Old Business:

Earth Day results from efforts were low; the group needs to reflect on changes for next year.

Dandelion Insurrection, an 8-week book study program, has been successful and may be repeated.

### New Business:

Pipelines Minnesotans for Pipeline Cleanup will be meeting on Sunday, 5/21/2017, at the YMCA; time: 3 pm. In addition to the issue of abandoned pipelines, concerned was expressed about Enbridge’s replacement of line #3; a pipeline committee was proposed; the Sierra Club’s power point on the issue was recommended.

Democracy Convention Conference 2017 was announced and recommended: August 2-6 at UofM; learn more: <https://www.democracyconvention.org/register-democracy-convention-2017>

March For Truth organized by Itasca Indivisible will be on June 3; 11:30 am. See March For Truth—Grand Rapids on facebook.

Community Action is a coordinating group between the various activists organizations in the area; it is in process; Dee is part of that group.

Solar Garden committee update had not been prepared; there has been meeting location and time changes; follow-up was requested.

Other Business was a discussion of the radioactive leak at Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington state.

**Business ended** at 3:10 pm. The film *Awake: A Dream From Standing Rock* was watched.

Jeanne Newstrom, secretary.