

Earth Circle

Library Community Room, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

November 18, 2017, 2 pm

Attendance: Nancy Alfuth, Vicki Andrews, Polly Edington, Pat Helmberger, Harry Hutchins, Jeanne Newstrom, Laura Thurman, Barb Veit (8).

Call to Order: The meeting started at 2:06.

Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and approved. Andrews apologized for a committee's inaction to make a pipeline presentation for ICTV. The resolution--made after adjournment--was also approved.

Committee Reports:

Reduce Plastic Committee Report by Helmberger/Veit:

- ✓ Received grant for \$630 from Community Foundation's "Fund for the Environment"; it will pay for over 100 cotton canvas bags, with a logo, made locally.
- ✓ Had published a letter to the editor, *Plastic is in Everything*, in Grand Rapids Herald-Review, 11/19/2017.
- ✓ Shared "A vigilant Rwanda is winning the war on plastic bags" (*The New York Times - Friday 3 November 2017*) -
- ...in Rwanda, it is illegal to import, produce, use or sell plastic bags and plastic packaging except within specific industries like hospitals and pharmaceuticals--and also that manufacturers and importers of plastic bags in Kenya face fines of \$19,000 to \$38,000 or four-year-jail terms.

Itasca Citizens' Climate Lobby Report by Newstrom

- ✓ Shared National Call-in effort (Nov 8) and subsequent photo/comment in Congressman Nolan's Monday Report about CCL lobbying the following week.
- ✓ Commented on J. Drake Hamilton/Fresh Energy participation in COP23 in Bonn, Germany; Andrews added that Amy Goodman broadcasted *Democracy Now* on location [<https://www.democracynow.org/>].
- ✓ Lamented (Newstrom/Andrews) that neither Itasca CCL or Climate Majority Project are growing locally. [<http://www.mn350.org/climate-majority-project/>]

Other Reports:

Itasca Clean Energy Team Report by Hutchins/Andrews

- ✓ Promoted attendance at Solar Garden event on December 4, 1 pm – 4 pm at Blandin Foundation.
- ✓ Emphasized that the team's main solar garden objective is to be affordable to all income levels.

GRHS Green Team Report by Andrews

- ✓ Attended school meeting and talked about Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project.
- ✓ Received invitation to participate in "Team Up to Green Up" to be held in the springtime; March.

Old Business:

- ✓ Reviewed Earth Circle's resolution on abandoned Enbridge Pipeline, the meeting location (St. Andrews Church) for Grand Rapids PUC on Line 3 Pipeline Deactivation in GR Well Head Protection Area Workplan on 11/20 @ 6:30 pm, and reminder to submit comments to MN PUC on Pipeline 3 by 11/22 @ 4:30 pm.

New Business:

- ✓ Confirmed continuation of current meeting place, day, and time for 2018.
- ✓ Brainstormed fundraising combo event including a rummage sale, educational movies, hands-on repurposing projects, and food.
- ✓ Pondered holiday emphasis for next meeting; watch for email notice.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 3:04. A few stayed to view an Enbridge Line 3/Tar Sand power point.

Jeanne Newstrom, secretary.