

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY MEETING AND GREEN TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Jane Young, Steve Skolnik, Josh Hamlin, Eva Fallon, Patty Walters. Visitors: Connor Roessler, Ronald Bjorkland, Tom Taylor

Excused absences: Michael Hartman, Matt Dirksen. Absences: Elvina Newton Tryer.

Liaisons: Luisa Robles, Konrad Herling

**Call to order: 7:34**

1. Welcome to our \*almost\* new member Ronald Bjorkland
2. Updates from **Sustainability Framework** / Green Team Circles.
  - 2.1 **Energy** / Solar. – The City is considering entering into an electricity procurement contract with the State. Has the contract language been reviewed by anyone? Will we be locked in to purchasing with them all of our electricity consumption? Is there a clause that says we have to purchase a certain percent? Does this package include wind and solar? It probably includes mainly coal and nuclear. If the City enters into such a contract, how will it impact the City's requirements to purchase renewable energy, and how will it impact our consideration of a potential solar energy contract with NRG Energy or Standard Solar? Is the NRG Energy contract appropriate for piggy-backing onto their Cecil College contract? Cecil County is probably not a member of COG. Can we actually piggyback on that? Standard Solar lowered their rates. What are the terms?
  - 2.2 **Food Systems** / Sustainable Landcare. – Richard Fink is still working on it. It is under staff revision. Steve mentioned that an article in the Post said that Montgomery County has a bill in the works that says that pesticides/herbicides won't be used for cosmetic uses by anyone (public and private property). Conversation ensued with Josh Hamlin sharing that Takoma Park has something similar in the books now. There is a similar law in Algonquin Maine, Hyattsville, Seattle, Marin County, Boulder CO, Kenton in Baltimore, and others but just for public property. Chip Osborne is leading multiple efforts to care for turf and plants without using pesticides. Are there metrics to measure the ecosystem improvement when no pesticides are used? Not to Josh's knowledge. It is a recent trend, so time might be needed to see positive impacts. Human health impacts? Provinces in Canada have implemented very restricted pesticide use public and private (Ontario) they might have some data. (time and space). What is the enforcement mechanism? You have to catch someone in the act, so neighbors would have to monitor neighbors. Rely on people doing the right thing.
  - 2.3 **Green Building**. – Konrad is taking a class at UMD and wondering if there is a trend to have more energy efficient envelopes for houses/buildings? Discussion ensued, John Lippert mentioned Performance vs. Prescriptive. MD has adopted the latest construction code and it is very strict. What about passive housing? Life cycle cost? In the US builders make houses and don't care how they work down the road.
  - 2.4 **Land Use** / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability. - Konrad mentioned that Arbor Day went really well. Trees and shrubs were planted at Buddy Attick Park under the power lines by the playground. Trees were liberated from English Ivy. There was a very good turn-out.  
There will be a Rain Garden workshop Saturday June 24 partnering with the County. Come by and learn how to install a rain garden in your yard.

- 2.5 **Transportation.** – \*\$76 million dollars awarded to MD from VW. \*The City received a grant through the Electric Vehicle Institute (EVI) to install one DC fast charging station at the Municipal building. We are still waiting for the other EVI grant for six (6) level 2 stations throughout town. \*How long will the charge last in terms of distance? It depends on the vehicle; it is the vehicle that draws the power, not the station that pushes the power. \*Talk to Zip car? They have some EVs in their fleet. \*Can the DC fast also take level 2?
- 2.6 **Time Bank / Local Economies.** – There are no trainings/orientations planned for the near future. Only 1:1 orientations. Exchanges are happening.
- 2.7 **Waste Management / Zero Waste.** – \*A grant submitted by MakerSpace and the Zero Waste Circle to PG County Community Impact for a compost program. Time frame to hear back? Eva said the County usually does it as they get filed... 6 weeks to go through applications. \*Organics task force members are looking into organics recycling for Greenbelt, they have made a two (2) question survey to gauge interest. Pickup? Volunteer? Etc.
- 2.8 **Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration.** – \*GHI grant: the contractor has almost finished the design. Expect work to be done by the end of the summer. Info will be shared at the Green Man Festival. Will reapply for the 56-58 courts, canyon creek grant to the CBT (Chesapeake Bay Trust).
3. **Greenbelt Station -** City council approved the DSP, but they removed the paths that were part of the plan. Submitted a revised trail map. There might be a path people can take in 2 years. Can there be an alternative? The shuttle has been inadequate. Woodlawn has stopped paying for the shuttle, now the County will take over with The Bus (started on Monday) but residents have to pay for the service. After 200 sales are made, the developments need to provide a direct route to Metro, but nothing was said about cost. The HOA is discouraging residents from getting together, participating, and providing opinions on what is going on.
4. Elliott Campbell can speak to the group at our next meeting on May 23 – HT Odum Emery Concept –
5. Legislative update by Tom Taylor – see attached.
6. **Upcoming events:**  
Saturday, April 29, 9am-12noon, Shredding behind the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union.  
Clean up green up Schrom hills  
Saturday, April 29, 10am-2pm, Drug take-back at the Police Station.  
Saturday, April 29, 9am-4pm, Climate March at the National Mall.  
Saturday, May 6, 9am-12noon, Animal Shelter Open House.  
Breeze wood drive tree planting  
Saturday, May 13, 9am-12noon, Green Drop behind the municipal building.  
Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14, Green Man Festival at the Roosevelt Center. –ZWC will be zero wasting the event and doing TapIt.  
Friday, May 19, Bike to work day.  
Saturday, May 20, 10:30am-1:30pm, Public Works Open house.  
Saturday, May 27, - NO Green Drop.

**Adjournment: 8:55 pm**