

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

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Jane Young, Matt Dirksen, Eva Fallon, Josh Hamlin, Michael Hartman, and Susan Barnett.

Visitors: Brian Townsend, Tom Taylor, Bill Orleans, and Michael Travis.

Excused absences: Ronald Bjorkland, and Patty Walters.

Absences: Elvina Newton Tryer.

Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff).

Call to order: 7:33 pm

1. Updates from **Sustainability Framework** / Green Team Circles.

1.1 **Energy** / Solar. – Solar Home Tour was over 2 weeks ago. 6 homes in Greenbelt on the tour, 23 people visited John and Jane, other neighbors got 30 people. Many questions were asked. It was a successful event. Some other Green ACES members have solar panels, perhaps next year they can be on the tour (Eva and Matt). We will probably not hear anything about the RFP for a solar farm until after the elections. The RFP for SHL rec center is not completed yet but Attachment A needs to be completed asap.

1.2 **Food Systems** / Sustainable Landcare. – we have the green light to discuss the Policy, get together with ACT and other groups. Josh will do a comparison of documents, meet with Maggie and when ready will ask for a meeting with ACT. (softer sell of NOFA standards, perhaps?). IPM is symptom driven where as NOFA is holistic. There is not a lot of disagreement on the use of pesticides among the different groups. The argument is more philosophical. The policy applies to where PW excerpts its efforts. Gardens and Forest Preserve are excluded. Susan Harris did a study on community gardens across the country, she found most people are trying to use less pesticides.

1.3 **Green Building**. -

1.4 **Land Use** / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability. -

1.5 **Transportation**. –

1.6 **Time Bank** / Local Economies. – Planning a social on November 18.

1.7 **Waste Management** / Zero Waste. – *Will compost pumpkins and guts from the pumpkin festival/walk. PW will collect and take to Western Branch together with what the New Deal Cafe produces that weekend.

*Zero Wasting the Theatre, ongoing.

*Composting survey is out and will be collecting responses until November 11 (which is until Survey Monkey is paid). Lore is imputing the hand surveys that were done at Labor Day.

*Hot compost grant is progressing. Thanks to PW for coordinating to purchase materials, etc.

*Vermicomposting group went to a farm to see their operation. Now working on the electrical outlets at the NDC. Worms are ready to be ordered, as well as bedding material.

1.8 **Water** / Stream / Stormwater Restoration. – GHI update. Article in the News Review, construction started, rain garden going in soon, should be ready by the end of the month.

2. Sustainable MD Certified awards during MML conference. David Moran, Emmett Jordan, Judith Davis, Leta Mach, John Lippert, and Luisa Robles attended. Eva will look at our application and Takoma Parks to see where we can improve and get more points.
3. Brian Townsend to address the group about the “adult mosquito spray program” to prevent West Nile virus. Both Hyattsville and New Carrollton have unscheduled spraying programs, could Greenbelt benefit from such a program? Brian read to the group from the document he shared with Council on Sept 23, 2017. One of the conditions to keep the proposal (so the City is now on the waiting list) is to have the opinion of Green ACES. Greenbelt has been treated for mosquito larvae as we are in the Larvicide program. Department of Ag conducts the Larvicide.
Brian recommends we go back into the spray program for adulticide. Council wants to hear Green ACES opinion.
Permethrin is very damaging to bees. Spray with ultra-low volume sprayer truck.
Josh and Matt will look into Permethrin; Luisa, Susan and Michael will talk to David Brosch to see what they are doing in University Park. They are trapping, are they testing, and for what, who tests, etc.? Groups bring back the information to the November meeting.
Get private contractor do testing? How much does that cost? Is it better than MD DoA doing it?
4. Upcoming events:

Friday, October 27, Pumpkin Carving at the Roosevelt Center - evening
Saturday, October 28, Electronics Recycling, Styrofoam and Paint – 9 am to 12 noon
Saturday, October 28, Shredding – 9 am to 12 noon
Saturday, October 28, Pumpkin Walk at the North Preserve - evening
Wednesday, November 15, Sustainable Maryland Certified Leadership Training – 9 am to 4 pm
Thursday, November 16, Alice Ferguson Foundation’s Trash Summit – day long
Saturday, November 18, Green Team Time Bank Social – 2 to 5 pm
5. Adjournment: 9:05 pm