

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

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: Ron Bjorkland, Rhema Bjorkland, John Lippert, Jane Young, Matt Dirksen, Josh Hamlin, Larry Hilliard.

Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff liaison).

Visitors: Tom Taylor, Molly Porter.

Excused Absences: Steve Skolnik, Susan Barnett, Michael Hartman. Absences: Colin Byrd (council liaison).

Call to order: 7:31 pm

1. Planning Department (Molly Porter) presented to Green ACES/Team the Complete and Green Streets Policy document. Molly showed a power point describing Complete and Green Streets, the purpose of the policy, and the policy itself. The group discussed whether the City wanted to, eventually, make all streets Green and Complete, safety, cutting of trees, Pepco involvement in cutting trees... would the street still be considered green if Pepco cuts the trees? Can wires be buried? What would be the cost of burying all cables?

Q/A

Timeline of policy? Hopefully by the end of the spring it can be adopted by Council.

What projects are being considered? Cherrywood Lane (90% project), Hanover Parkway (30% project).

Group discussion: On February 26, 2019, Molly Porter from the Planning Department presented to Green ACES/Green Team the Complete and Green Streets Policy document. Molly showed a PowerPoint describing Complete and Green Streets, the purpose of the policy, and the policy itself. The group discussed a number of issues, including whether the City wanted to, eventually, make all streets Green and Complete, safety, cutting of trees, PEPCO involvement in tree cutting, and whether wires could be buried. Molly explained that technical implementation would be based on the latest available data and thus would be fluid and change over time as better practices and products became available. All present members agreed with the policy that was presented and expressed a desire to review technical details as they became available and updated.

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

2.1 **Energy / Solar.** – SHL Rec. Center – Has been connected and is up and running. The only thing still missing is the link to the website so the City can check on the electricity generated. There was an issue with IT, and it is being worked on.

Solar Farm - Pepco has received the interconnection application (ANEM) for the project in Oxon Hill, MD, and Spectrum Solar, LLC. has sent the Confidentiality Agreement to the City. Within the next couple of weeks there will be a time line established for the signage of the Agreement, and the next steps.

John would like to ask Council for a budget for Green ACES' projects. Since this project is going to save the City a lot of money, and Green ACES' members were instrumental in getting this going, and since he knows that there are other committees that have a budget and have gotten studies performed by request (APB pedestrian study, FPAB forest study). There are projects Green ACES could have done if we had some money from the City such as the Mosquito control collection traps...

2.2 **Food Systems / Sustainable Landcare.** –Green ACES wrote their comments on the penultimate version of the document. Luisa will send Josh the newest version so he can make the comments there.

2.3 **Green Building.** -

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

2.5 **Transportation.** – Electric Vehicles, stations. Luisa shared that PW is waiting for the soils to not be waterlogged and for the weather to turn so we can start trenching. Conversation on electric vehicles ensued.

2.6 **Time Bank / Local Economies.** – Social planned for May at Schrom hills.

2.7 **Waste Management / Zero Waste** – The Community Impact Grant circle will meet in two weeks to talk about the fate of the wigwams. The wigwams have been way more time-consuming than anticipated, and the Wigglers team is not willing to continue. Unless someone wants to take on the project, they want to give the wigwams away. Issues: the wigwams leak, they overheat in the summer, the worms don't consume as much as advertised, when the Café went vegan they started producing more food scraps...

-Green Man Festival will be zero wasted with the help of Jason.

-LDF possibly showing a couple of movies at the theater for the festival.

-Organics Task Force: have a presentation ready of the research they did about composting in other jurisdictions, different composting methods, recommendations, etc.

2.8 **Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration.** – GHI stormwater taskforce are mapping stormwater features, soils, areas that ponds, etc. Also with the help of Jason. See where problem areas are and think of solutions.

Items of information:

Josh shared about the Foam Ban Statewide Bill. The State senate is looking into banning foodservice expanded polystyrene.

Matt asked if anyone was aware about a study of what is going to happen to the coastal areas?

What will happen to PGC? Which communities are affected?

Luisa shared that Randy Bolt, a manager for PGC Western Branch, is looking for materials for composting at the expanded facility. Tel: 301.395.2118; Charge is \$45/ton; open M-F 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

Tree workshop organized by the County

Andy Fellows to present to the group?

Windsor Green renovation next meeting?

Adjournment: 9:00 pm