

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

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

Members present: Ron and Rhema Bjorkland, John Lippert, Jane Young, Matt Dirksen, Michael Hartman and Larry Hilliard.

Liaisons: Colin Byrd (council liaison), Luisa Robles (staff liaison).

Presenters: Judith Howerton from Planning, Kathy – Chair of Windsor Green HOA, Grace Fielder, GE from Fielder and Associates, and Andy Fellows from UMD - National Center for Smart Growth and College of Information Studies. **Visitors:** Tom Taylor, Jeannie Bellina, Marcus Evans, Bill Orleans.

Excused Absences: Josh Hamlin.

Call to order: 7:05

1. Windsor Green representatives gave presentation on Windsor Green Community Center Renovation to get Green ACES'/Team recommendations. 3.3 acres for Windsor Green Community Center Recreation Area. Ms. Fielder went over the center as it is now, and commented on the proposed improvements. New things: bio retention area, moving some things around, freeing some trees to grow their roots better, generating a green sitting area, gray wall on Greenbelt Rd will be gone and replaced with a nicer fence. ADA compliant (with 60-inch turnaround for a wheel chair). Water fountain with refillable water option too. Plantings: more new plants, cherry trees, small plantings, black gum, red oak, hydrangea, cherry snowbell, Echinacea, Black Eyed Susan, pink muhly grass, red twig dogwood. Fences will be all alike to have more consistency throughout the development. Along Greenbelt Rd there will be a forest generated. Storm water management areas will not impact tree roots; using native plants and grasses in the bioretention area. .772 impervious area reduced to .49; 37% reduction in impervious surface, and will treat 75% of runoff. The community has been part of a well-thought-out plan; there have been surveys and meetings to get input from residents. Corrugated metal pipes are under the plaza right now; if necessary, will be replaced with dense plastic pipes to keep a similar system. The drainage pattern will not be changed much. Trash and recycling will be paired. Parking spaces will remain the same for the pool and will be increased a bit for the enlarged building. The access points cannot be changed (talking about parents dropping off students going to the high school). There is no interest to do community gardens at this development. How about composting? There is no adequate space for that. Residents might be interested in backyard composting, Michael mentioned vermicomposting. Construction to start the day after Labor Day. Part of the 5-year planning committee – Center is rented every weekend. High motivation to expand. There are 654 houses across the development. Were solar panels considered? Yes, but not sure if the roof can hold it, also, limited space, also it is shaded. Bill Orleans mentions there are no basketball courts – there is a site that is planned elsewhere for that – there is concern about the noise, but it is being addressed. Budget and cost estimates are close, depends on if the lights might need to be replaced. Also concerns about Mandan Road area. New building is environmentally friendly and contains energy conservation features; insulated in attics with batting insulation; lighting lower wattage; HVAC system and all appliances will be replaced, the energy draw will go down. Focused on inclusiveness and ability.

2. Andrew Fellows from University of Maryland will share projects in which UMD and the City of Greenbelt are collaborating. Projects designed for the long term to develop a stronger link between UMD and the City. How do we design projects so students, faculty and staff can

participate, do capstone projects, etc? Students can also volunteer in City events as individual engagement. Academics live in the community too, so they can include it in their research. Andy mentioned Peter May and his enthusiasm to do things with UMD and Greenbelt. Andy – state, regional and local focus on different political issues during his career. Served 3 times as College Park mayor. Looked into how to engage College Park with UMD. Now works for the National Center for Smart Growth at UMD – wanted to do outreach with other jurisdictions surrounding CP. There are 80 projects in place throughout this area. Also familiar with the Committee for a Better Environment (Green ACES of CP). The 10 projects Andy presented at the meeting were proposed by the City of Greenbelt. Also interested in watershed issues. Already in touch with Friends of Still Creek and Bill Duncan. How can we devise projects, long term, to be more involved with Greenbelt? How to fit Greenbelt into grant submissions from UMD? Etc. Discussion ensued about ongoing related projects, such as the mosquito testing, Roosevelt High School stream measurements (WISP with Coit Hendly who no longer works at RH but Tom Taylor has the info of the new teacher), CMON, etc. Smart Cities Initiative, Partnership for Action in Learning Sustainability (PALS), were mentioned. How do we coordinate all of these activities? Greener Greenbelt Initiative/Charade – Carl Elefante and Jim Cohen, and others. What projects have we done with University engagement? Green ACES will put together a list of projects where we have collaborated with UMD and send back to Andy.

3. There was no time left for the updates from the different Circles.

4. Upcoming events:

Saturday, March 30, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm – Earth Hour

Thursday, April 18, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm – Scoop that Poop Summit, County building

Friday, April 26, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon –Cleanup at Springhill Lake Elementary

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon – Shredding

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon – Electronics, Styrofoam and Paint recycling

5. For future agendas:

a) MSEC goal of reducing fuel usage. City of Hyattsville example of Police EV and inverters in the trunk so their computers can remain on and the vehicle turned off (no idling).

Adjournment: 9:07 pm