

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

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: Ron and Rhema Bjorkland, Matt Dirksen, Michael Hartman, Larry Hilliard,

Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff liaison).

Visitors: Robyn Barnhart CPJ Associates, Judith Howerton, Bill Orleans, Kathy Bartolomeo

Excused Absences: John Lippert, Jane Young. Absences: Josh Hamlin, Colin Byrd (council liaison).

Call to order: 7:36 pm

1. Update by Planning Staff on the Cherrywood Lane Complete and Green Streets Retrofit project.

A presentation of this project will go to Council on July 10. Green ACES needs to have a report by July 3. The City got funding in 2015 to do the engineering design. Design phase is almost complete and the firm is seeking opinions from boards before bringing to Council. They need to keep the Beltway Plaza plans in mind. Phase One is from Breezewood Drive to the Metro Circle. The street now is a large width of pavement, a lot of it stripped to make it into a 2-lane road, so there is a lot of unnecessary impervious area. Project goals were read from the Low Impact Development Center (LIDC) proposal.

Recommendations include a green median, a sidewalk on the forested side of the road, more bus stops to match the ones on the Franklin Park (FP) side, pedestrian lighting; bike lanes separated from travel lanes. Bio-swales proposed by LIDC. Need to watch out for utilities. Instead of bio-swales (trapezoidal) grass channels are proposed where they conflict with utilities.

Questions about bike safety with the swales were addressed. Capacity of the swales – Robyn says 10-year storm and the existing inlets will not go away, so they will be catching the excess rainwater. Has this been shared with Franklin Park residents? – Judith, not sure about that. What is the traffic pattern projection for that street several years down the road? – Robyn: the preliminary study suggests there is not going to be an increase in traffic. It is suggested that Beltway Plaza be consulted on this in case they feel that the traffic will increase.

The existing sidewalk on the side of FP will remain. Then a bike path, then the green strip for grass swale or bio-retention, then the road, median, road; and mirror image of grass swale, bike path, and sidewalk built on the other side (forested).

Project estimated years ago at 3 million dollars.

COG provided funding to develop the plans for Phase 1, the Planning Department has started plans for phase 2. The City is waiting for Beltway Plaza for Phase 3.

Funding to build will need to be researched to actually build the Green/Complete street.

Green ACES felt the design was good. Robyn, the presenter, answered all the questions.

Concerns about coordinating with Beltway Plaza and FP were raised. Other concerns included the capacity of the road if Beltway Plaza builds new housing.

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

2.1 **Energy** / Solar. – The solar farm arrangements continue, but no real updates on this topic.

2.2 **Food Systems** / Sustainable Landcare. – No updates.

2.3 **Green Building**. – No updates

2.4 **Land Use** / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability. – The City is working on pollinator gardens throughout the City, especially the ones around Buddy Attick Park.

2.5 **Transportation**. – New Level 2 stations to be installed at PW, but only for PW vehicles. No updates on the Level 2 stations to be installed by the Electric Vehicle Institute.

2.6 **Time Bank / Local Economies**. – We are getting new members every month, and organizations can now be members of the Time Bank too.

2.7 **Waste Management / Zero Waste** – Update from CMON: Composting Municipalities Organizing Now has been getting together to see about establishing a community composting site that would be closer than Western Branch. The group has petitioned Joe Gill (Director of DOE PGC) for support on this project, in the form of finding land, helping to find grants, etc.

- Update from Organics Circle: Michael Hartman and Tom Taylor have been working on a document on how to make a Zero Waste event. It is a 2-page document now, plus an attachment. Once the document is ready it will be circulated to the group for comments.

Vermicomposting at NDC in slightly new location for more shade. Will see how it goes this summer.. Extra food scraps from the NDC that cannot be handled by the wigwams is being sent to the three-bin hot system at Springhill Lake. No update on the new possible 3-bin system proposed for Candy Cane City. Brian Townsend was working with Halley about that site.

2.8 **Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration**. – No update.

3. Upcoming events:

Saturday, June 29, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Composting 101 at PW

Saturday, July 27, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Electronics Recycling at PW

Adjournment: 9:00 pm