

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

Tuesday, July 23, 2019 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

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

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

Visitors: Charise Liggins, Erica Hernandez, Ben Fishler, Bill Manico, Bill Orleans, and Jeannie Iacovazzi.

Excused Absences: Matt Dirksen.

Call to order: 7:30 pm

1. Visit from Charise Liggins, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Greenbelt. The group went around and introduced ourselves.

What are your goals for the City as the Economic Development Coordinator? She has been here since December. Taking on economic development in a more strategic way. She is getting to know Greenbelt, the business community, residents, organizations, events, etc. Focusing on developing tools to support and engage the business community (people interested in starting businesses, etc.). Long term we want to develop a strategic plan where we can see how everything interconnects to provide a good standard of living for our residents. Also want the businesses to be more sustainable.

Attached please see the document that John Lippert circulated. John explained that this meeting is for both Green ACES (to advise Council) and the Green Team (part of Sustainable Maryland Certified). Both do a lot of outreach with regards for the environment. Green ACES researches issues for Council and provides recommendations. Green Team does more proactive projects and activities.

Green ACES developed the Sustainability Framework Document. It has 7 sections: 1) Energy; 2) Food Systems; 3) Green Building; 4) Land Use; 5) Transportation; 6) Waste Management; 7) Water. Has goals, and how/when to achieve the goals. John read the goals from his document.

Mentioned the most recent request for comments/recommendations with which Council has tasked Green ACES.

Mentioned the Sustainable Land Care Policy.

Jane Young Mentioned the Labor Day Festival and our efforts to Zero Waste the event (pairing trash and recycle, adding composting, giving recognition to the good booths, dumpster diving, etc.). We got the festival to ban Styrofoam. People in the LDF Committee are becoming more green thanks to Jane's example.

We like to share our enthusiasm for the environment with other groups and encourage them to follow our steps. Green ACES has always been involved in outreach (in addition to making recommendations to Council).

Green Team works by using Dynamic Governance. The Green Team has several "Circles" and each circle comes up with their own projects. For example, the Solar Circle (or task force), has helped the City with the RFP and technicalities to obtain a grant from MEA to put solar panels at SHL Rec Center. Also developed the RFP to establish a solar farm (near Oxon Hill), within our grid, thanks to the Net Metering laws; the City will have a PPA with the developer for us to purchase the electricity from the farm. We will save 1.3 million dollars in the 15 years the farm will be active.

Other boards and committees get money to achieve their goals. Green ACES would like some budget for some of our programs (such as the mosquito control traps).

Electrical Vehicle charging stations. John heard of EVI and that they were giving away charging stations to municipalities; Greenbelt got one level 3 (fast charging) charging station for free; we are working to get several level 2 stations. This is important for economic development because when people are charging they stop by the Roosevelt Center and patronize our local businesses.

Zero Waste Circle and Organics Task Force are working on several projects. Got a County Community Impact Grant, working with Maker Space Co-op and the New Deal Café Co-op to do three different types of composting: 1) hot composting at SHL Rec Center --the "Hots"; 2) vermicomposting (worm composting) at the NDC -the Wiggles; and 3) vermicomposting at apartment complexes. The Hots is hoping they can establish another bin system, perhaps at Candy City next to the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

The Organics group has conducted a study to see the state of affairs of composting in the region. They interviewed multiple jurisdictions and are looking into different ways we can divert organic materials from the landfill. It could take many different scales and methods. County Zoning re-write now includes, within the small composting definition, a definition for Community Composting. August 13 is the next Zero Waste meeting at 45 Lakeside. This group is developing guidelines on how to hold a Zero Waste event. We would like for every group, and every event organized by the City or within the City, to follow these guidelines (e.g. Tree lighting ceremony, Outstanding Citizens award ceremony, composting at the Greenbelt Theater, Boards and Committees dinner, etc...).

Greenbelt Time Bank, part of Local Economies for SMC, was also mentioned and explained: reciprocity is expected, everyone's time is equally valuable.

Cooperation between Greenbelt and UMD also mentioned. Used mosquito control as an example.

Members of Green ACES/Team also appear at City Council to advocate for certain issues (for instance, purchasing electric vehicles).

2. Upcoming events:

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

Saturday, July 27 there is a donation drop at Greenbelt Community Church (Hillside and Crescent).

EAC –survey on marketing for recycling

August 24, Dr. Wilson from UMD, will give a talk on environmental justice

MD association of Climate Change, next cohort coming up.

Adjournment: 9:02 pm