

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING AND GREEN TEAM MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 - 7:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

To join use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87139369882>

Password: 935369

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,87139369882# or +13126266799,,87139369882#

Or Telephone:

Dial-in: 301-715-8592

Webinar ID: 871 3936 9882

Password: 935369

Members present: John Lippert, Erica Hernandez, Matt Dirksen, Ron Bjorkland, Michael Hartman, Steve Skolnik, Rhema Bjorkland. Luisa Robles (staff liaison).

Visitors: Royal Farms: Tom Haller, Wes Guckert, Richard Alter, Amanda Stamper, George Warholic, Thomas Ruzs. Planning: Molly Porter. Residents: Tom Taylor, Kevin Driscoll, Kathleen

Bartholomew, Bill Duncan, Bill Orleans, Michael Zelif, 301-204-3054

Excused Absences: Jane Young, Josh Hamlin, Xochitl Zamora-Thompson

Absent: William Manico, Larry Hilliard, Colin Byrd (council liaison).

Call to order: 7:34 pm

1. Royal Farms Greenbelt, LLC gave a virtual presentation on the 4,649 ft² food & beverage store and gas station, and a separate 4,368 ft² commercial building, they are proposing for the Golden Triangle Office Park at the northeast corner of the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Capital Drive next to Capital Cadillac. City of Greenbelt Planner Molly Porter provided Green ACES / Green Team with the City Staff recommendations.

Molly introduced the representatives and they gave a presentation of their project, starting with the history of the area. In the early 1970's the property was graded and then left alone, and that this property has no-regulated environmental concerns only.

After the presentation, Green ACES was in agreement with the Staff's Concerns as mentioned in their report:

*There are currently no electric vehicle charging stations provided on the site. Electric vehicle charging stations should be provided on the site. Several members of Green ACES/Team felt very strongly about this. They should want to be ahead of the curve.

*Green ACES/Team also mentioned the wish they consider solar panels on the canopies for gas and the roof of the building.

*The area shown for the development of a second commercial building should be left undeveloped.

Green ACES/Team were also in agreement with not prepping nor building the second commercial one as that would deplete a large area of trees that are now 50 years old.

*The lighting on the site shall be of a type and quality intended to prevent spillover

lighting effects. The developer said their lights had no spillover, but were not sure if they were Dark Sky compliant.

*Opportunities to retain existing trees, while providing visibility, along Greenbelt Road should be explored and implemented. The area between Greenbelt Road and the proposed one-way drive aisle should be provided as a “green area/buffer area” consisting of existing tree cover and proposed landscaping. Green ACES/Team believes that

*The installation of bicycle lanes or sharrows should be explored on Capitol Drive which will provide a connection from the bicycle lanes on Greenbelt Road to the site.

*Staff understands that Royal Farms utilizes Green Building Practices. The Applicant should provide additional information about how green building practices will be utilized, particularly with respect to the second commercial building. Green ACES would rather the second commercial building not be built at all, and that the proposed first building have a good envelop, solar panels, etc.

*The Applicant should work with Planning Staff, the Greenbelt Museum Coordinator, and County Historic Preservation Staff on an interpretive panel for the Toaping Castle Site.

We will have to talk about this at our next meeting to finalize the recommendations.

2. Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles.

1. **Energy / Solar Circle.** Solar farm going forward. PPA signed. Pepco connection approved. COOP solar roof array is going into preconstruction, staging materials, etc. Waiting on PGC permit. GHI waiting on PGC permit. Pepco putting an EV charging station at SHL Rec. Center.
2. **Food Systems / Sustainable Land care Circle.** Firefly sanctuary is doing well. People appreciated the spectacle this season.
3. **Green Building.**
4. **Land Use / Planning - Pathways of Sustainability Circle.**
5. **Transportation.**
 - a. MagLev discussion. Everyone is against it. Why not use existing rails?
6. **Local Economies - Time Bank Circle** next meeting September 8.
7. **Waste Management / Zero Waste Circle.**
 - a. Plastic bags at COOP not being actually recycled (we suspect incineration). Luisa will look into another company that will pick up and actually recycle.
 - b. Food scraps composting drop off at Buddy Attick. 150 households registered plus the ones that are not registered. 4 bins were filled this week. It is very popular.
 - c. We did not get the USDA composting grant ☹
 - d. Update to *Zero Waste Events Guide* document Tom Taylor put together and it is now up on the web.
 - e. NDC to offer worm castings at the fundraiser auction.
 - f. Clothing sheds are closed at our two GB locations.
8. **Water / Stream - Stormwater Restoration – Watershed Circle.**

3. Upcoming events people might want to share: MagLev meeting tomorrow.

Kevin Driscoll:

Bee City USA Certification – does Green ACES want to participate in this?

Volunteer options starting back up in September

Adjournment: 9:30 pm