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

Tuesday, June 22, 2021 - 7:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

**Members present**: Ron & Rhema, Ben Fischler, Xochitl Zamora-Thompson, John Lippert, Michael Hartman, Steve Skolnik, Erica Hernandez,

**Regular visitors:** Tom Taylor, Bill Orleans

**Liaisons:** Kevin Carpenter, Molly Porter

**Visitors:** Matt Tedesco, Jim Riviello, David Polonsky, Sheryl Fishel, Nat Ballard, Alex Villegas, Jason Staley, Ruth Grover, Kap Kapastin

**Excused Absences:** Luisa Robles

Absent:

**Call to order:**

* Presentation of the Beltway Redevelopment Plan updates

Matt Tedesco led off the presentation with a reminder that this project was previously presented to Green ACES on October 27th, 2020. He introduced the other members of the redevelopment team that were on the zoom call and showed the timeline of the project approval cycle. Phase I will have a 5-8 year buildout and consists of buildings 1A, 1B, and 1C. Building 1A is the first building designed and is planned to be LEED certified at the Gold Level. Each has an associated parking deck, internal courtyard(s), and common areas. The biggest change from the October 2020 proposal is the movement of the East garden walkway between the current retaining wall (adjacent to Greenbelt Middle School) , and building 1A, was moved to between building `1A and building 1B. It was referred to as a Linear Park Pedestrian Plaza and is projected to be a programmable community space. An amphitheater was proposed facing Breezewood Drive at the North East corner to retain some of that green space at that end. At the North West corner of the Phase I project (West of residential 1C), there is still a hotel planned, but no tenant was identified.

Three storm water management features were described as micro-bioretention planters, rain gardens, and silva cells. The courtyards and other garden areas were described in greater detail. Greenbelt Road too.



1A

1B

1C

* 1. Concerns: Green ACES and the Green Team had concerns about the proposed turf being artificial; the number and capacity of the EV charging stations; etc.
  2. 10 charging stations on 4 decks. Level 2 charges, power infrastructure for up to 20. Residential garages, swipe a card and energy sub-metered on house panel. Trip cap explanation, no charging station for the hotel. Green ACES EVIPG will make recommendations for the hotel.
  3. Recommend the sizing home service for 10% rather than 10 or 20. Heavy up the service now, hotel needs Level 3 chargers (at least 2). No provision for alternative energy, providers must have 14.5 %, by 2030. Design structures that plan for that Quantum owners. Long term benefits.
  4. Chat Q& A:
     1. From Steve Skolnik, Green Team to Everyone: 08:13 PM
        1. Do BOTH. High efficiency HVAC and lots of insulation, PLUS solar energy.
     2. From Xochitl Zamora-Thompson to Everyone: 08:26 PM
        1. Does anyone remember if we ever talked about exploring the use of ground source heat pumps for the site?
        2. David Polonsky: Tankless gas driven / hot water heater. If Economical, they’ll do it. On previous projects, it’s been hard to make economical.
  5. Audio Q & A:
     1. John L. – EV charging on parking platforms is planned as level 2, 10 parking spaces/4 platforms. Kiosk where residents can charge to their housing unit power panel
     2. Steve S. (Solar, EV charger Level 3 – Hotel/Phase I). / comment:
     3. Q: Ron: Ron: Power lines on 193. PG County will not allow piecemeal undergrounding. All rentals, no owner occupied as of now. Phases (Leed Gold for 1A), what about 1B and 1C. / A: No cert target yet. Silver minimum, Gold probable, Platinum possible (based on recent Rodgers projects which had solar on them) Claims 1/3 less energy used. 5 phases in all.
     4. Q:Larry: Space against retaining wall/ A: NE Amphitheatre is last remnant of Oct. 2020 plan, retaining wall was too problematic structurally. No flag/ customer for hotel.
     5. Q: Michael: What about accessibility?/A: Left out of the presentation. Existing building doesn’t have electric doors.
     6. Q: Ben: Turf or grass in courtyards / A: Artificial Turf where there is no Sunshine. Green is where the shrub beds are. Limited use life.
     7. Q: Xochitl – green screening for the garage / material – Passive House International for the USA (A: PHI not mechanical, very hard) – shade for the dog park. Tankless gas-driven water and heat.
     8. Q: Tom Taylor: Micro-bioretention planters, orchard park somewhere else? woodland conservation offsite mitigation. Can you reduce building footprint and preserve more green space? Adding back the community gardens.
        1. A: Yes, they can look at putting Orchard Park somewhere else.
        2. A:David Polonsky 5 story building(wood) 🡪 10 story building (steel/concrete, noncombustible)
     9. Q: Erica: What are the plantings?/ Street trees A:Sheryl Fishel landscape architect answered 50% shade trees, 50% ornamentals /30% Evergreen , 30% Shrubs of native species required by PG County Landscape Manual. Just minimums but they’ll look at upping beyond minimum evergreen and shrubs. Add pollinators adjacent to fruit trees and other areas where it’s applicable.
     10. Landscape Actual Schedules: 70% shade trees,77% Ornamental, 100% Evergreen, 32% shrubs. Asked Erica to suggest native types and they will consider upping shrubs native percentage.
  6. Q: Rhema: Question about design in “pandemic preparedness” sidewalks, shared space. –Air circulation systems that in 5 foot width of sidewalks, bisected by open space, Rogers commented: Elevators that use outside air (newer technology that they haven’t incorporated yet). Office spaces that can be rented out.
  7. Bill Orleans: skeptical about content of phase II, phase III. Have you reached out to the residents of Springhill Lake? A: Planned this summer. February 2020 SHL asked Rogers NOT TO come to community meeting.
  8. Molly Porter: 1C Parking Garage conflict with Hotel and Breezewood Drive traffic congestion. Franklin Park and Greenbelt Station. Additional open space redesign should be considered in the proximity of the proposed hotel and garage. All captured in staff report.
* John Lippert - Michael Travis of Audubon Naturalist Society/ USGS Cease using bird feeders – bird borne diseases.
  1. Kevin Carpenter: USDA/USFW bird feeders. – will send out bird list
     1. Bird houses OK.
     2. Bird feeders dangerous at this time
     3. could be cicadas, mold, only theories
  2. From Steve Skolnik, Green Team to Everyone: 09:04 PM
     1. Here is the statement from USGS:
     2. The District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and National Park Service are continuing to work with diagnostic laboratories to investigate the cause of mortality. Those laboratories include the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the University of Georgia Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and the University of Pennsylvania Wildlife Futures Program.Birds congregating at feeders and baths can transmit disease to one another. Therefore, the state and District agencies recommend that the public in the outbreak area:Cease feeding birds until this wildlife mortality event has concluded;Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution;Avoid handling birds, but wear disposable gloves if handling is necessary; andKeep pets away from sick or dead birds as a standard precaution.If you encounter sick or dead birds, please contact your state or Dis
     3. The Internet site for this reference is: [https://www.usgs.gov/news/interagency-statement-usgs-and-partners-investigating-dc-area-bird-mortality-event](about:blank)
     4. **Decision to advise Greenbelt to advise citizens about recommendations from USGS about bird feeders**
* **Other Topics**
* Michael: Animal Control has been unresponsive (anecdote) in assisting a Blue Jay in distress.
* Tom Taylor: 2nd Michael’s concern
* Kevin: Wildlife Rehabilitator List sent around to members – send list to animal control
* Kevin will present on “Native Pollinators” at Zoom Gathering w/Community Church
* PG County Climate Action Plan email to be sent around by Steve Skolnick.

End of Meeting without updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles (in June)

* Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles.
  1. Energy / Solar Circle
  2. Food Systems / Sustainable Land care Circle.
  3. Green Building.
  4. Land Use /
  5. Transportation.
  6. Local Economies - Time Bank Circle.
  7. Waste Management / Zero Waste Circle.
  8. Water / Stream -
* Events:
  1. Enviro series of GCC and City Green Teams. Topic: Pollinator Zoom presentation on June 27.

Adjournment: