

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 - 7:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

Members present: John Lippert, Jane Young, Steve Skolnik, Ronald Bjorkland, Rhema Bjorkland, Matt Dirksen, Larry Hilliard, Erica Hernandez

Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff); Kristen Weaver (Council)

Visitors: Tom Taylor, Ben Fischler, Bill Orleans

Excused Absences: Xochitl Zamora

Absent:

Call to order: 7:35 pm

1. Bring Your Own Bag Bill – Discussion. This bill would not allow businesses to give plastic film bags at the point of purchase. AND that if paper bags or reusable bags are given, at least 10 cents need to be charged for them.

How much to charge for the bags? Dan Gillotte was concerned about the difference of what they are paying now for plastic bags and how much the paper bags cost. At least 10 cents seems good especially since all the municipalities around here are going to charge 10 cents. Some people want that fee to be 15 cents. Discussion ensued. The members reviewed the statistics given at the presentation by the Sierra Club.

Members that want 10 cents: 4

Members that want 15 cents: 4

Mom's charges 5 cents per paper bag. In Michigan they have different rules. Some people feel that 15 cents will better incentivize people here in Greenbelt.

Definition of reusable. Some stores are giving away thick plastic film bags that can be reused, so they are getting away with using more plastic.

Are there plans to survey Greenbelt if/when this bill is enacted? Sierra Club might do it.

If the bill is enacted, there will be a transition period (with warnings) and after that there will be a penalty (fee to be determined).

College Park is passing a similar ordinance.

Time line for Greenbelt was discussed.

Worksession on Feb 15.

Then 2 Council meetings.

4 Cities meeting on Thursday, Kristen will give an update on the BYOBag Bill.

2. Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles.

- a. Energy / Alternative Energy Circle –

-PPA for a solar farm. Slowly progressing. We have now 90% drawings!!! Permits have still not been issued, perhaps April or May.

-Zero Emissions Council for MD has monthly meetings. This is a progressive area for zero emissions vehicles. Electrifying school buses. PGC has the most school buses in the area.

WMATA is also working on this.

-EVIPG -updates

-EV Event -Do we want to start planning another event in Greenbelt West, or Central? Not yet.

- b. Food Systems / Sustainable Land Care/Pollinators Circle.

- c. Green Building –

- d. Land Use / -
- e. Transportation.
- f. Local Economies - Time Bank Circle.
- g. Waste Management / Zero Waste Circle
-USDA Composting Grant was awarded.
What is going to happen in 2 years when the pilot project ends?
- h. Water / Streams –

- 3. Reminder Green ACES/Green Team has a new display board that can be borrowed for events.
- 4. Events/Other: Kevin shared Pollinator Steward Certification opportunity, if anyone else is interested
February 21st, 2023
<https://www.pollinator.org/psc>
Pollinator film for No Mow Month in April and coordinating with other groups.

| Adjournment: 9:03 pm