

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 - 7:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

Members present: John Lippert, Jane Young, Erica Hernandez, Larry Hilliard, Matt Dirksen, Ron Bjorkland, Rhema Bjorkland, Xochitl Zamora

Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff)

Visitors: Tom Taylor, Abby Jablonski (student at UMD journalism 320), Michael Hartman, Kathy Bartolomeo

Excused Absences: Kristin Weaver (Council)

Absent:

Call to order: 7:33 pm

1. Tabling at the Green Man Festival – May 13 and 14 (Mother’s Day weekend).
Several people want to volunteer. John has a new display board. Tom has the old images in his files, he can share. Luisa can print. Tom can do a Signup Genius.
2. Bring Your Own Bag Bill – Discussion.
Terri Hruby, Director of Planning, recommends doing a tiered structure for their fees/penalties. First time offence will be a warning... up to \$500 for subsequent infractions. This will be discussed at the work session which was moved to March 8th.
What has worked in places that have this ordinance? How is it going to be monitored? Psychological behavior studies? It was found that if the notices say that other people do x, then they might do it too. Do you know that your neighbors are doing it? Peer pressure.
We are just an advisory committee, it is up to Council to hammer out the details of enforcement, legalese language, etc. The fine goes to the store, not the cashier; and it goes to an individual store, not the franchise.
John wrote a sheet with the FAQs regarding the ordinance based on the points Greenbelt wants to make. We don’t just want to copy what College Park did. John shared it with Kevin Simpson (Economic Development) to distribute to the merchant community to invite them to the work session on March 8th. The Greenbelt Business Alliance has been alerted to the proposed ordinance and work session thanks to Michael Hartman and Kim Kash.
3. Do we want to meet in March? John, Jane and Luisa will be away.
March meeting is CANCELLED 😊 but keep your eyes open for BYOB ordinance action items.
Pollinator Circle can get together separately.
4. Updates from **Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles**.
 - a. **Energy / Alternative Energy Circle** –
-EVIPG -updates. A company called Citizen Energy, rep Steve Alfaro has a grant to install EV charging stations for free at low income and diverse communities. John Lippert, Steve Skolnik and Luisa Robles took Steve Alfaro around Franklin Park (FP) as a possible location. There can be a revenue sharing proposal so Franklin Park would not lose any money. Efforts to contact Denise Knight of FP by Luisa, Steve Alfaro, and Robert Goldberg-Strassler have been unsuccessful. Perhaps Council can help establish a connection? When is the next work session between Council and the owners of Franklin Park?
 - b. **Food Systems / Sustainable Land Care/Pollinators Circle**. No Mow Month is in April. No need to go to Council again. Advertisements will start next week. Last week of March people can pick up signs. Kevin will advertise, facilitate the signs, etc.

How can we reach a broader audience? Contact Marti Galvin so she can share with the Greenbelt East HOAs. Also contact GHI, Christine Gyemfi. The articles and ads can say to also not mow in March.

Is April still the right month to do it? Many plants are blooming earlier, and the pollinators are coming out early too. Is anyone monitoring pollinators' timing? UMD has some entomologists that might be able to look into it. Citizen Science project? Scout project?

- c. **Green Building** –
- d. **Land Use** / -
- e. **Transportation**.
- f. **Local Economies** - Time Bank Circle. Time Bank members can get hours for sharing about the TB at the Green Man Festival! Sign up! John Campanile put an article together for the NR talking about the new website platform for the Time Bank. We might reach potential members this way too.
- g. **Waste Management** / Zero Waste Circle.
Kristen Weaver filmed a short **video on our Curbside Recycling** tables from Labor Day Festival. Luisa is explaining what goes in the blue bin, and what needs to stay out. John Campanile edited the video. Comments: Show it at the Theater? Can we caption it? Make it accessible? Can we put it on the website? Can we insert a reference to the Zero Waste Guide?

USDA Composting Grant. The solicitor said Council can request that in the best interest of the City an RFP is not needed. Then we can proceed with the grant.

It would be great if Franklin Park could participate. Perhaps we can use CASA outreach efforts to get in touch with FP. Carolyn Davis could help us reach out (Earth Squad).

University Square apartments could also be an option.

Green Ridge House.

What about efficiency by location? Gas used to drive around? Concentrate participants to economize.

Food recovery: Tom Taylor: Dan Gillotte is open to food recovery but hasn't gotten around to it yet.

- h. **Water** / Streams – BARC, where the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility is planned to be built, will have a lot of waste water. Indian Creek, Beaver Dam Creek hearing tomorrow testifying on the negative effects of this plant on the watershed.

- 5. Events/Other: Electronics Recycling April 22.
Shredding May 20.

Adjournment: 8:43 pm