

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

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: Michael Hartman, Eva Fallon, Steve Skolnik, Josh Hamlin, Konrad Herling, Matt Dirksen, John Lippert, Jane Young, and Patty Walters.

Visitors: Garth Beall (Renard Development), Rob Ballock, Bill Duncan, Connor Roessler, Jeannie Iacovazzi, Jessica Bellah (Planning), Harriette Phelps, Ben Fischler, James Williams Jr., Lutz Rastaetter, Bill Orleans, Tom Taylor, and Michael Travis.

Excused absences:

Absences: Elvina Newton Tyler.

Liaison: Luisa Robles

Call to order: 7:35 pm

1. North Core Plans – Jessica Bellah and Garth Beall.

The County Planning Board has formally accepted the plan for revision on an expedited time frame; need a response by April 27. City Council will vote on April 10. Our comments need to be in by **April 5**.

We are reviewing the DSP for the North Core on Infrastructure: mainly roads and the parking garage. Jessica went over the plans and mentioned the differences between this proposal and the previous one.

John mentioned the concern about the water management and retention pond that College Park asked about at a previous meeting. The pond that will be covered by the parking garage never worked properly; it was supposed to be treating the water coming from College Park and the existing Metro facilities. Getting rid of it won't affect the water quality. The water coming from College Park will be piped past the current pond and back into the stream floodplain/wetland areas.

Storm water plan expires in May. A new one needs to be put forward. If there is no more than 5% increase impervious surfaces the old plan can be used. They will develop a new one. Want to put in some mitigated wetlands.

It has been a struggle for the City/Developer to work with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to have a 2-lane and compact road instead of the larger ones SHA wanted. The problem might be solved with dynamic lane identification.

Bike path: If the North Core (land owned by WMATA) does not get built, the South Core (now developed) will build a straighter path to Metro using a pre-existing road bed (presented to Green ACES/Team a while back). If the North Core gets built, the biker path that runs north-ish will be built and Renard Development would purchase the land.

2. Updates from [Sustainability Framework](#) / Green Team Circles.

2.1 [Energy](#) / Solar. – Standard Solar was purchased by a Canadian utility firm. NRG sent the proposal with Cecil County. We need to read it and see if it is better than Standard Solar's. Steve Skolnik said since they have been bought their prices will change.

2.2 [Food Systems](#) / Sustainable Landcare. – No update.

2.3 [Green Building](#). – No update.

2.4 [Land Use](#) / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability. – Tree master plan meeting on April 12. All are welcome to attend and give comments.

2.5 [Transportation](#). – EV charging stations. VW money was awarded to the state of Maryland. Dept. of the Environment will distribute the money.

- 2.6 Time Bank / Local Economies. – Now the TB is remunerating all volunteer work. Also accepting organizations and businesses.
- 2.7 Waste Management / Zero Waste. – Working on the compost grant. Green Man Festival will be ZW.
- 2.8 Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration. – Stream groups will share their comments with the group. Harriette will do a bio-analysis post construction to see the health of the streams/wetlands. GHI 20 Court Ridge Road project going on right now, Bill Duncan, EcoSite are on a time line, construction will be this summer, rain garden and infiltration techniques, report going to CBT this week, educational/community outreach component has gotten a coordinator they are in the process of hiring.

2.9 Greenbelt Station updates by Patty Walters – PATH-TO-METRO

- a. Obtained the support of Berwyn Heights and College Park Mayors for this effort at a Greenbelt City Council Work Session with the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) of which I'm on the Board of Directors.
- b. Obtained the support of Michael Yeltin, the Greenbelt Station HOA President representing Woodlawn, the developer of the Greenbelt Station Community, as well as Greg McGowan, the Managing Principal of Coast Oak, the Nation-Wide Consortium of developers under which Woodlawn falls. Had email exchanges and a teleconference with them before the Work Session with WMATA on 29 March to coordinate strategy, verify/corroborate facts, and obtain the most recent shuttle ridership and residential unit occupancy statistics.
- c. Prepared a testimony to present at the Greenbelt City Council Work Session with WMATA on 29 March.

ROUTE 193 "GREEN-UP"

- a. Coordinating with Greenbelt City Council, Berwyn Heights, and College Park through the GCDC on a Green-Up plan for Route 193. Mayor Jordan supports this as an effort to "get-ready for the eventuality that FBI is coming to Greenbelt".
- b. Green-up development will include Green medians with trees and vegetation along the road that will have several functions: storm water management, traffic calming, aesthetic appeal, and protection for a bikeway.
- c. GCDC applied for a \$30K Low Impact Design (LID) grant to develop a conceptual design which incorporates the factors in b.
- d. I set a meeting with Kap Kapistan, the General Counsel of Quantum (developers of Beltway Plaza) to discuss ideas and a vision with him. The meeting is set for April 9.

GREENBELT STATION TRASH CLEAN-UP EVENT

- a. A trash clean-up event was held on 25 March. It was sponsored by the activities committee of the HOA. Alice Ferguson Foundation provided gloves and bags and also captured metrics. It was a gorgeous day - sunny and warm. 35 volunteers showed up to participate.
- c. One of the volunteers was a construction manager who observed some bad construction practices adding to the trash problem.
- d. I distributed the infographic created by public works that describes what is and is not recyclable. I hope to introduce more zero waste practices to the community at future events.
- e. Cary Coppock, of Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC) came to the clean-up and suggested that the Greenbelt Station residents take over CCRIC since the

Creek runs through our community. This is a great idea, but would not be supported by the HOA any time soon.

WATER QUALITY

a. Working with Peter May, GCDC Board and University of Maryland Instructor, on getting a way to have multi-meter datasons installed at various locations along the creek to capture water quality metrics.

3. Making a video of Green Team activities. Konrad and Jeannie want to bring this to the group. Next steps – develop a script and share with Beverly. Could be shown at the Theatre.

4. Composting/Vermicomposting Community Development Grant (PGC). Seeking funding for two composting systems: a 3-bin hot compost system at Spring Hill Lake Community Center and vermicomposting at loading dock at the New Deal café (NDC). Food scraps from NDC are going to feed the worms; food scraps from 25 families will be used for the three-bin system. PW/volunteers will conduct a workshop where 100 vermicomposting bins will be given to apartment dwellers. Families that participate will get the compost made on the three-bin system. John Lippert will be in charge of the vermicomposting bin at the NDC. Discussed the letter of support from Green ACES: Green ACES/Green Team supports the effort, but who is going to actually volunteer to do the work?

5. Invite Elliott Campbell to speak to the group – HT Odum Emergy Concept Ecosystem Services and how to quantify them. The group would like to have him come speak.

6. Upcoming events:

Saturday, April 1, Rain Barrel Pickup

Thursday, April 6, 6-9pm, SMC Pet Waste Workshop

Saturday, April 15 - MakerSpace Fair

Sunday, April 1st weekend NDC celebration of poetry

April 8 arbor day – planting at Buddy Attick Park

Saturday, April 22, 9am-12noon, Electronics Recycling

Saturday, April 22, Earth Day celebration at SHL

Saturday, April 29, 9am-12noon, Shredding

7. Adjournment: 9:10 pm