

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2015 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Members present: John Lippert, Michael Hartman, Matt Dirksen, Jeffphine Dawson, Josh Hamlin, Steve Skolnik, Konrad Herling.

Excused absences: None.

Absences: Maggie Cahalan, Kehinde Odebo, Eva Fallon, Katleen Shaw.

Visitors: Tom Taylor, Ben Fishler, Erin Josephitis, Jane Young, Cary Coppock, Bill Orleans, Molly Lester.

**Call to order 7:35 pm**  
**Green Team and Green ACES Meeting**

1. Updates from Green Team Circles

1.1 **Pathways of Sustainability.** Collecting inventory of BMP: compost bins, rain barrels, rain gardens, permeable pavement (on city's property). Sponsoring a Reel and Meal in May about pollinator friendly gardening, avoid neonicotinoids. Sponsor sustainability walks touring the different BMPs collected. Sponsor a pollinator garden workshop. GIS intern putting in the points, making very good progress. Most BMPs are in Old Greenbelt, not so many in East and West.

1.2 **Solar.** MD law allows to aggregate different metered locations, and allows a solar developer to set an array of panels off site and have virtual net metering with the aggregated municipal meters. Two contactors are working proposals that include these options. We would save about 50,000 per year, but would be offsetting close to 100% of our electricity. We hope to have at least one proposal that can be taken to City Manager/Council.

The proposal with Montgomery County is now looking complicated. Many City roofs are very old and need replacing making a solar project less enticing. We don't have enough roof space to offset all our electricity. Also ground mounts are cheaper than roof mounts.

We would still have at least one site in the City most likely at Public Works.

1.3 **Stream/Stormwater Restoration.**

a) *Rain Garden Workshop Recap.* A series of three workshops were planned by the City and the County's Department of the Environment. The first workshop was held on Sat, Jan 30; over 50 people came by. We learned about the Rain Check PG program, how to remediate storm water, challenges, virtual audit, working from the property outwards and inwards (runoff and runoff). Rain gardens should be placed at least 10-15 feet from the property. The second workshop is on Saturday Feb 27. We'll spend more time looking at what makes a Rain Garden and touring a couple. The final workshop is on March 30.

b) *Greenbelt Lake forebay dredging presentation.* The presentation from Corvias was shared with everyone via email. The objective of the project is to improve water quality, clean the fore bays, and someone else will pay for it. Comments from members that attended PRAB meeting (Feb 17): The lake is in good shape and not in need of dredging. Depth about 20 feet and some shallow parts, diversity is good, variety of plants is good, healthy ecosystem.

The forebays were constructed in 1988, dredged in 1999; and they need work now. This will help clean 168 acres running into the lake.

Taxpayers will pay less for this project, it is needed, and the cost will be spread out the entire County. Concerns from Green ACES: wildlife, timing, written on the permit (which is fast tracked) from MDE.

Joint meeting with Parks and recreation: access to the path? (one month work?) Limit of disturbance?  
Vegetation replacement, keep tree canopy the same or better, get rid of invasive species.  
Dry sediment where will it dry? Where will it be taken?  
Protect runoff during dredging.  
Vote: Agrees 10 yes. Unanimous.  
c) *Road Salts and Water Quality Briefing Paper.*

1.4 **Sustainable Landcare.** What is the status of the Sustainable Land Care Policy? Josh Hamlin researched the City's documents regarding organic management and pesticide usage. He came up with a very comprehensive document detailing all the different reports. What is the actual status of this policy? What policy is PW acting under? Should it be formally adopted by the City? Other committees are also waiting on this report. It is time to act on it. ACT, FPAB, PRAB? Does the group agree to share Joshes' document with PW and ask what is going on? Yes.  
Title: Request for status update on sustainable land care, March 2016.  
Can we get all groups together, come with a joint resolution coming to Council with a time line?  
Konrad agrees that this issue should be brought forth to Council, perhaps on March 14.

1.5 **Time Bank.** Training scheduled for 2016. We are waiting on venues to house the trainings. Making the website accessible to blind. Currently 112 members.

1.6 **Zero Waste.**  
Yearly report: 11 zero waste events, 120 volunteers, several articles published in the News Review, articles on City Website. It's all about repetition. 500 lbs of compostable materials diverted from the landfill. Brought to MOMs and greenbelt composters. Zero Waste station at event hosted at theatre including a liquid disposal bucket.  
March 5 composting workshop coming up.  
Sustainability survey by Tom Taylor.  
Met with various merchants to get them thinking about Zero Waste. Coop has instituted paired bins and removed micro bead products.  
"How to run a sustainable meeting" manual generated by Tom Taylor, Hally and Michael.  
Hired a zero waste intern, who is a student at UMD.  
Tap it! Just like Greenbelt water works. Several businesses are participating. Split the cost of reusable water bottles between Tap it and the City. The bottle will have the City's logo and the line "Greenbelt streaming to zero waste one water bottle at a time".  
Labor Day Festival: State Department filmed a documentary that was presented in Paris, Greenbelt was one of the Cities showcased as doing environmental issues.  
Reusable bags at COOP, some bags are dirty, can we ask people to wash their bags every now and then? Be green not grotty.  
Question from Bill Orleans: Can we look at private haulers as to their trash/recycling collections?

2. Use Google Docs to share information & pictures for the City of Greenbelt website. Click on the links below:  
(5 min)

\*[Greenbelt ACES / Green Team & Sub-Group](#)\*

\*[Green Steps](#)\*

3. Sharing of information/Other? Next week Green Team Summit in Hyatsville. Thursday March 3, 6-9 pm.

4. Adjournment: Michael/Matt 9:05 pm