

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

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Jane Young, Matt Dirksen, Josh Hamlin, Eva Fallon, Steve Skolnik, Susan Barnett, Elvina Newton, Patricia Walters

Visitors: Ben Fischler, Tom Taylor

Excused absences: Michael Hartman

Absences: Alejandra Camarillo-Beruman

Call to order: John Lippert called the meeting to order.

1. Welcome to new member: Alejandra Camarillo-Beruman was not present for her welcome.
2. Awards: Matt Dirksen received a 5-year pin after the meeting adjourned and Maggie Cahalan was absent to receive recognition for 12 years of volunteer service.
3. Updates from **Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles**.
 - 1.1 **Energy / Solar**. – Steve reported that the next Council Work Session will be held on December 19 at 8 PM. Green ACES/Team and Friends are encouraged to come. Solar Circle is going to meet prior to the Council Work Session (date TBA). Steve attended a Solar Conference downtown last week to learn about how to fix solar energy credits in Maryland.
 - 1.2 **Food Systems / Sustainable Landcare**. – Erin suggested that all the advisory groups involved with the Sustainable Land Care Policy meet to discuss their points of view on organic pest management and integrated pest management. Steve recommended making a structured agenda with topics to be addressed and that only a sub-set of groups or representatives meet to discuss. Green ACES representatives at the potential meeting would be Josh and Maggie. Matt suggested that the advisory groups write down their opinions instead of having a meeting to discuss organic v. integrated pest management. Tom asked whether the research comparing organic to integrated pest management is ongoing. Erin confirmed that the research is ongoing. Susan suggested comparing how the new policy will be different from the current practices. Susan suggested that we do a trial period of OPM before accepting IPM. Josh agreed that the City should do a pilot study on ball fields comparing OPM and IPM. Josh knows someone who might be able to do a study. Josh says that the fields at Mandan field are in terrible condition so the current pest management technique isn't working out anyway.
 - 1.3 **Green Building**. – Matt has no updates.
 - 1.4 **Land Use / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability**. – There will be a rain garden workshop in spring of 2017.
 - 1.5 **Transportation**. – No updates from Public Works about EV institute. John will follow up with Jim. Erin will share the map of proposed EV charging locations with Green ACES/Team.

Patty is going to the City Council Work Session with WMATA tomorrow night. She is going to ask for a permanent bus stop in front of their communities instead of shuttles. Steve suggested contacting the County for bus service instead of

WMATA. Patty is also going to look at connecting a walking path from the Greenbelt Station apartments to the Metro. She is also becoming involved with getting the bike lanes on Cherrywood Lane protected with swales. John said that they should look in the contract to see if the development was supposed to build the trail.

- 1.6 **Time Bank / Local Economies.** – Jane reported that there was a recent Time Bank social and more people are joining.
- 1.7 **Waste Management / Zero Waste.** – Connor reported that the Greenbelt Theater is hosting a Zero Waste Informational Meeting on December 6. He thanked Brian Abbot from Public Works for building a prototype zero waste station for the Theater. Connor worked with Bev to create a video clip featuring zero waste. He is recruiting zero waste volunteers at the Dec. 2 Tree Lighting Ceremony. Public Works and the Zero Waste Circle were awarded with the Jim Cassels Award to build a TerraCycle Drop-off Center next to Buddy Attick Park at the Recycling Center. Tom presented at the Co-Op's Annual meeting to thank them for their zero waste efforts. Susan suggested creating a survey with a list of things that people purchase. Susan reported that Nov. 21 Reel & Meal: Racing to Zero was well attended with around 80 people. Speakers included Adam Ortiz, Martha Ainsworth, and Raea Jean Leinster from Yuck Old Paint! Sierra Club and Connor made a Google sheet database for restaurants/retails that are/aren't in compliance with the Styrofoam ban. Susan suggested taking the Styrofoam handouts to retailers who are still using it. Erin mentioned that the AFF BG&E litter reduction flyers need to be hung around town.
- 1.8 **Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration.**—Tom said they are doing ongoing work for the grant-funded Greenbelt Homes Incorporated Clean Water Initiative. There was a Council Work Session that went very well. Susan said the discussion was about including stormwater management in the planning phase of new developments. Matt reported that the WISP program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School performs water quality testing and wants to know if there is a connection with the City. Susan said that she's tried to set things up but was unsuccessful, and Harriette Phelps had a better connection with the schools. Susan suggested that the high schoolers do a presentation on their water quality results for the City. Green ACES wants to know what's going on with the lake project on the west side and anything to do with an MDE permit.

Green ACES/Team wants to know how the lake project affects water quality in the City and stormwater issues. Erin reported that there is a stream restoration project behind Hanover Apartments by the Dog Park. Patty asked if this has something to do with the Financial Assurance Plan. Erin and Luisa will do a better job of communicating stormwater restoration projects before they happen.

4. Upcoming events:
 - November 30 – MDE Food recovery summit - daylong
 - December 2 – Connor is recruiting volunteers for the Tree Lighting Ceremony.
 - December 3 – Grand re-opening of the forebays – 10 am to 12 noon
 - December 6 – Zero Waste plan presentation by the County at the Greenbelt Theatre – 8 pm to 10 pm.
5. Adjournment: The December meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24. The meeting was adjourned.