

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

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Members present: Maggie Cahalan, Konrad Herling, Josh Hamlin, Michael Hartman, Elvina Newton-Tryer, Matt Dirksen, Patricia Walters

Visitors: Tom Taylor, Ben Fishler, Bill Orleans, Bill Duncan, Erin Josephitis

Excused absences: John Lippert, Jane Young, Eva Fallon, Steve Skolnik, Michael Hartman, Susan Barnett
Absences:

Call to order: 7:35

1. Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles.

- 1.1 **Energy / Solar.** *Steve Skolnik and John Lippert have been in touch with Greenbrier Condominiums to look into using the site at the end of Mandan road to install solar panels. This would be a PPA arrangement between the condo and the solar vendor.*
- 1.2 **Food Systems / Sustainable Landcare** – *Josh Hamlin shared the updates on Sustainable Land Care – he created a separate pesticide use section to go into the document produced by PW including organic plant management in the Plant Care section. Josh and Maggie have been working on it and are getting close to sending something back to Richard Fink. There is overlap between OPM and IPM, but the group would like to be more health oriented and more progressive. The group asks that Maggie's preface be included as background in the PW document.*
- 1.3 **Green Building.** *No updates.*
- 1.4 **Land Use / Planning / Pathways of Sustainability.** *Applying for a CBT – Chesapeake Bay Trust - grant to install permeable pavement at Youth Center. Demonstration of watershed BMPs, bioswale/rain garden, rain cisterns, permeable pavement, signage.*
- 1.5 **Transportation** – *Patty Walters gave an update on the Greenbelt Station path to Metro. Don't know what is going to happen. WMATA is holding up the project. Waiting for the FBI to come, if it does they don't want to construct the path till 2030 until the buildings are all done, they want to have a separate pathway for pedestrian at the parkway extension. Trying to get a bus stop in front of the development, but that requires a change of the curb. Meanwhile the developers and shuttling people to Metro.*
- 1.6 **Time Bank / Local Economies.** *No updates*
- 1.7 **Waste Management / Zero Waste** – *Tom Taylor gave a LDF recap. Record for composting collection, and number of volunteers, some dumpster diving, some issues with pairing the bins - vendors tend to move them around, clown landfill bins are confusing, when no volunteers are keeping an eye more contamination happens. Compost taken to MOMs in Bowie.
The group wants to contact the sponsors to the vendors so they respect the guidelines such as no Styrofoam, etc. A few years ago some Green ACES members went around to the vendors to let them know of the rules. Get LDF committee to do a bit more buy-in. New idea: Separate at PW next year to have less contamination for recycling?
Comment: Pairing and stenciling well done!
News: We are working on creating a TerraCycle drop off station at PW.*
- 1.8 **Water / Stream / Stormwater Restoration** – *Update by Bill Duncan. Friends of Still Creek, Stream Circle/Green Team, identifying streams that can be mitigated by developers. Mentioned people involved, several from all the watershed groups and some local professionals. Mitigations that developers do are wetlands or stream restorations, on land accessible to them; there are some places in Greenbelt that fit*

these requirements. Canyon Creek in GHI, Narraganset run, Northway stream that is cemented, Sunrise segment in East Greenbelt. Can we start doing some of the work ourselves? Contacted GHI about storm water management, crawl spaces, swale systems as another project to work on, Stream Circle spoke with Peter Joseph and will continue to collaborate with them. Received a CBT grant about community involvement, demonstration and education. See the attached report.

2. Community Center Display Case – *Luisa, Erin and Connor will install it. We are going to use a poster that Connor generated using the Sustainability Framework Document and the Green Team Circles.*
3. From Maia Davis at COG: *Luisa shared that there is an EPA Smart City Air Challenge, Grant due on October 28. EPA is challenging communities across the country to collect data using hundreds of air quality sensors as part of the Smart City Air Challenge. After looking at the challenge's details the group decided they don't want to participate this year, perhaps the next one, with more forewarning.*
4. Letter asking Council for a Sustainability-minded General Manager, update. *Konrad Herling mentioned that the firm handling the applicants has taken it into account. Mayor pro-tem J. Davis mentioned the letter at a work-session so it would be in the record. Thank her! There have been two meetings with the principal of the company doing the search, and they are aware of the letter and agree on including it in their search criteria. Hope to have a list of candidates for the City to vet and choose (meet and greet?).*
5. Working with Greenbelt Station on environmental issues –
Patty Walters shared that there is something in the water, some taps are turning muddy, there is a sewage smell, and around the toilets there is an oily film. Will send letter to WSSC to see if they can do something about it. Everything flows into Indian Creek because the development was permitted before the more stringent guidelines. Can development be slowed down? More impervious surfaces are being generated and it is all flowing into our streams. Call planning too these are code violations.
Bring a zero waste event to Greenbelt Station? Generate more awareness...
Forwarded the draft of the Sustainable Land Care policy to their manager to work with the landscape vendor so they can start some of those practices. People were concerned about their pets and children on the grass. The developers are not very "green" and we need to generate some awareness, they did not put the signs on the grass when they applied chemicals! (Another violation?).
Also want to organize a Public Safety event, CERT, neighborhood watch, snow storms people need help.
6. THE MEETING IN NOVEMBER WILL BE ON TUESDAY 11/29 THAT IS THE 5TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT THE 4TH AS USUAL.
7. Events: End of October – Win with your bin recycle right contest; October 22 – Electronics Recycling; October 29 – Shredding; November 5 – Composting workshop; Dec 3 - Grand re-opening of the Greenbelt Lake Forebays.
8. Adjournment: 8:55 pm

**Report to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability from The Green Team's
Stream Group Circle
September 6, 2016**

Purpose: To update the Green Team regarding our beginnings, our results, and our current initiatives.

Participants: There are representatives for each of the three subwatershed groups residing in Greenbelt, along with Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). These are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG), the Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), and Friends of Still Creek, Inc.

These people include: Susan Barnett, Mark Christal, Tom Taylor and Donn Ahearn (Beaverdam Creek); Cary Coppock and Ben Fischler (CCRIC); Bill Duncan (Still Creek); and Jeannie Bellina (CHEARS). In addition we have had assistance from Peter May, a local expert in storm water and stream restoration, and Claudia Fredetzky, a consultant, grant writer, and seasoned advocate for clean water issues.

Our original liaison to the Green Team was Kimberly Knox and is currently Luisa Robles. We also have had help from Erin Josephitis.

Origin, Purpose and Results: The Stream Group Circle began meeting in February, 2014 in response to an issue where a developer was looking to mitigate a loss of stream viability in a shopping center development by "restoring" a small stream in Greenbrier Park that did not need to be restored. The thought was that we, as a community should have better knowledge on possible projects for mitigation if this was to surface. The criteria for site selection consisted of the site being included as a possible project in the 2009 Anacostia Restoration Plan prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was either a stream or wetland restoration project, and was on public or otherwise accessible land.

We conducted three tours in the spring of 2014, one for each subwatershed, to examine possible sites. We identified several sites and, while they may be suitable for mitigation, we decided to be more proactive and planned to address these sites directly instead of waiting for a possible mitigation restoration project later.

These sites include:

- Areas of high erosion east of Ridge Road, between Northway and Laurel Hill Road. These areas of severe erosion, along two headwater tributaries of Upper Beaverdam Creek, are partially on land owned by GHI and partially on land owned by the City of Greenbelt. Several outfalls between Plateau Place and Laurel Hill Road direct runoff into a stream known locally as "Canyon Creek". One outfall between Northway and Plateau Place directs runoff into an unnamed stream that parallels Northway.
- The lower section of Narragansett Run, a tributary of Indian Creek located between the South Core and North Core development areas in the Greenbelt Metro Station vicinity.
- A portion of the stream between Crescent Road and Hillside Road, downstream from the area recently worked on by the City and GHI. This stream is a headwater tributary of Indian Creek, as it flows into Greenbelt Lake. The section of streambed immediately upstream of Crescent Road (between the Woodland Hills and Lakewood neighborhoods) was placed in a concrete sluice in the mid-20th century. This presents opportunities to innovatively restore a more natural streambed.
- A portion of Still Creek near the dog park off of Hanover Parkway on land owned by the City and known as the Sunrise Property (adjacent to, but not in the City's Forest Preserve).

It is the feeling of the Stream Group Circle that we have accomplished what we originally set out to do, which was to identify specific projects. We are now planning our next steps to move these projects forward.

Current Activities: In addition to the sites mentioned above, in early 2015, the Circle became aware of storm water runoff issues that were causing flooding of crawl spaces in GHI. Since many of us live in GHI, we saw this as an

opportunity to help with this problem using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to recharge rainwater back into the ground and modernize the swale system that runs through GHI. During the summer of 2015, we applied for a grant to the Chesapeake Bay Trust to address this issue, however we did not win the grant.

In 2016, the GHI Board assigned the issue of crawl space flooding and storm water policy to its Buildings Committee. In May, this committee formed a “Storm Water Task Force” that will include most of the members listed above. The Buildings Committee has been receptive to our ideas, but details need to be addressed. We have applied for an “educational and community involvement” grant to the Chesapeake Bay Trust; however, we will not hear if our proposal was approved until sometime this fall.

As this initiative primarily affects GHI and will be addressed through their organizational processes, we do not see this as an official Green ACES activity. However, it is very much in line with the overall goals of the Circle.

Summary: It is the feeling of the Circle that our original focus has been accomplished. In the meantime, our groups have been working well together as a unit and we wish to maintain that cooperation. Therefore, unless the Green ACES and Green Team feels otherwise, we expect to continue our relationship as other Citywide issues related to storm water mitigation and the health of our streams arise. Likewise, we appreciate the opportunity to advise Green ACES and the Green Team on ways the City could be more proactive in restoring and protecting our watersheds. We wish to thank Green ACES and the Green Team for helping us to develop this cooperation between our various partners, and we look forward to addressing future watershed-related issues together.