

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

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

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles.

Members present: Matt Dirksen, Eva Fallon, Michael Hartman, Kim Knox, John Lippert, Steve Skolnik, Josh Hamlin, Susan Barnett

Excused absences: Maggie Cahalan, Konrad Herling,

Absences: Jon Berard, Jeffphine Dawson, Kehide Odebo, Kathleen Shaw, Jeannie Iacovazzi.

Visitors: Jane Young, Ben Fishler

Green Team and Green ACES Meeting

Call to order 7:33 pm

1. Quick updates from the Green Team

1.1 Solar: Solar City to implement large solar projects. They are interested in a ground mount site at Mandan Road. Some of that area is owned by Greenbriar. They are interested in solar. Steve asked them for a meeting to see if they would be interested in linking to the solar panels there. John is concerned that perhaps the City won't be able to use that as part of our renewables, and we might not get the discounted price for piggy backing on the Montgomery County contract. There is a lot to talk about to see what permutation of solar/land/piggybacking/etc. possibilities. Also there is a second RFP by MC that solar city did not want. Elgatus 6. Urban Grid will tap on to Jim at MML; in that case the City can do their own RFP and see who will do the work for us. Federal grants will end at the end of the year. The companies can get the credits and pass on the discounts to us.

1.2 Zero Waste: Speaker next on the agenda.

1.3 Greenbelt Time Bank: Next meeting July 15 at Scrhom Hills Park. Steve thinks it is completely useless.

1.4 Sustainable Landcare: They have been talking about the pesticide issue.

1.5 Stream/Stormwater Restoration: Met with Steve Skolnik and Ed James representing GHI. Interested in resources the green team can garner for them. Will meet next Monday at GHI with more staff. Several grants and resources available. GHI is already doing stormwater management stuff and would be nice if they could get some money for it.

2. Speaker - Joella Mosely from New Green Industries. She is the founder (2011) and owner - <http://ngi-dc.com/home> - Promote more environmentally friendly serving-ware and group purchasing to aid/encourage the local merchants. Business match maker. Keep money circulating locally, get the best prices available, be green. Cost differential drives some people away from doing the green thing. Shifting supplies that people use – office, electricity, waste, etc. Bank upon the small yeses that snow ball into bigger yeses and bigger engagement for small successes. Negotiates whatever a group wants to address.

Income stream comes from the sharing of the savings. Suppliers are vetted, and bids are put out. Want group members and vendors to be engaged. 20% from savings. Restaurant supplies, if there is a group that wants discounts on serving-ware they look for it. Styrofoam ban is coming on so people are starting to look into it. Some products are overly priced and don't necessarily need that kind of performance (i.e. Cham pack). Foil or tin is more recyclable and more affordable. Also what is it that the consumer wants from that establishment? Some things have been negotiated and Greenbelt businesses can piggy back on that; or we can negotiate separately and make Greenbelt a group. What are your baseline goals? Do you have buy-in? Zero waste is a very large goal; it would be better to start with something smaller and then take it from there. GB wants to reduce the stream of materials going into the landfill. There are events that happen throughout the year and the Green team would like to help with that reduction. The City already has stated no Styrofoam in City sponsored activities or events. LDF is also non Styrofoam.

In Joella's system, each business would have to join the group individually. All members will agree to do the same thing with respect to one issue. More businesses want to join because all their neighbors are doing it too. The Styrofoam ban starts on January 1, 2016.

3. Recycling materials taken to PG County – new yes/no flier. Talked about the issue with plastic film gumming the machines, the drop in the market, etc. Mentioned the article in the Washington Post.
4. Greening Labor Day Festival – John and Jane will be in charge of volunteers Friday and Saturday. Luisa Sunday. Luisa will do a sign-up genius. Want to focus on recycling and perhaps reduction of plastics in the form of water bottles. The LDF does not want to upset the vendors that are selling water. We will get some restaurants/spaces on board to offer water (maker's space signed up to Tap-It and they have not heard from them). We will just publicize where people can refill their water bottles. Green ACES can also offer to play a game and we can give prizes (water bottles for free). Prizes: budget from PW we can get water bottles. Budget from LDF other prizes like gift cards from businesses at the Roosevelt Center.
5. Other? What is the philosophy behind calling the sub-groups "circles"? Dynamic Governance: areas of shared interest – Sociocracy. Kim says we did not have a discussion to call the sub-sets "circles". Michael said we did not discuss to call it a "sub-group" "sub-set", "task force" either etc... Luisa said she mentioned her logic at the beginning of a meeting and the members present were okay with it; but it can be put on the agenda for next time if people want to talk about it.
6. Adjournment: Michal/Matt 9:08 pm