

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

Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 7:30 pm – Greenbelt Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles (not in attendance)

Members present: John Lippert, Susan Barnett, Jeannie Bellina, Eva Fallon, Konrad Herling, Kim Knox, Trevor Liburd, and Kehinde Odebo

Excused absences: John Berard, Maggie Cahalan, Matt Dirksen, Michael Hartman, Luisa Robles, and Steve Skolnik. Visitors: Jane Young

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. Greening the Labor Day Festival Subcommittee Update:

Jane Young has been receiving responses from teenagers who want to volunteer for the festival; however, these kids will need adult supervision. Jane has a budget of \$100. Ideas for consideration include permanent recycling signs for the bins, stickers for children, etc.

Activities suggested to bring awareness: 1) Jugglers juggle various recycled items and then throw each of the items into the appropriate recycling bin. 2) A circus person on stilts gets a partner to throw an item into a basketball hoop attached to the circus person's head and has the item land in the correct bin after quizzing the audience about the appropriate bin. 3) Volunteers pantomime or have a horn or bell to tell festival goers if they threw their items into the correct bin. 4) Make announcements and give out Public Works "I Recycle" stickers when kids guess the correct bin for the appropriate items.

Jeannie Bellina recommended examples of recycling bins can be found at Mother Earth News Fair held at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Seven Springs, PA; Seattle Convention Center, Seattle, WA; DC Convention Center, Washington, DC; and St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO.

What went well at last year's Labor Day Festival? 1) Signup Genius: we will use it again this year. 2) Satellite table: most people thought this was a good thing to have in addition to being a part of the Public Works booth. 3) Pendants/paint/green: most volunteers were happy to wear them.

What needs to be improved from last year's festival? 1) Trash and Recycling bins have to all be PAIRED. 2) Signs at eye level for trash and recycling. 3) Each booth could have a sample of their items that can be recycled posted in front of their booth. Green ACES could ask the vendors to bring a sample of their wares so we can set them up for display. 4) Announcements could not be made at the big stage due to the new sound people. Announcements were made at the bingo stand. We would like to be able to encourage recycling from the main stage.

2. Stream Restoration Sub-committee Update:

There was a walk-through of Indian Creek on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm by Susan Barnett, Jeannie Bellina, Ben Fischler and Kim Knox. It was suggested that Seth Coffman of Trout Unlimited be contacted as he and his team were responsible for a major restoration of Mossy Creek near Staunton, VA. They also received funds and equipment help from the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Susan Barnett and Bill Duncan will develop a summary of the four walk-throughs of different creeks. Cary Coppock and Bill Duncan will review their top choices for each of the watersheds to see what needs to be worked on the most.

For Coit Hendley's water quality project with Eleanor Roosevelt High School students, it was suggested by Susan Barnett that they look at Beaver Dam Creek, different parts of the stream near the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, Silk Creek behind the compost piles, and the part of Indian Creek that goes through Greenbriar. Note that any part of the creek near Beaver Dam Road requires obtaining a permit first.

3. Sustainable Land Care Sub-committee Update:

Kim Knox is awaiting a written update from Jim Sterling of Public Works on the status of the implementation of the 11 measures of the Sustainable Landscaping Policy that the Greenbelt City Council had adopted in 2009.

The City of Takoma Park passed an ordinance on August 12, 2013, called the "Safe Grow Act of 2013," to add restrictions on the use of pesticides on public and private property: <http://cityclerk-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/ordinances/2013/or201328.pdf> In the ordinance, Takoma Park compliments Greenbelt: "...and Greenbelt, MD strictly prohibits the use of synthetic and chemical pesticides on all city-owned land with its Sustainable Land Care Policy of 2011; and..."

The Sustainable Land Care Sub-committee will review Takoma Park's Safe Grow Act of 2013, along with a similar pending proposal by College Park, to develop a draft proposal for the City of Greenbelt. Susan Barnett will be contacting the College Park committee regarding their progress.

College Park's community gardens are all organic. There is concern in Greenbelt about crops that demonstrate signs of pesticide drift from one garden plot to an organic garden plot. This eliminates the right for that family to eat organically grown produce.

Jeannie suggested that alternatives to pesticide use will need to be presented to the community via outreach education.

4. Pet Waste Sub-committee Update:

Eva Fallon stated that Mike Hunninghake from the Sustainable Maryland Certified will be speaking about the topic of pet waste at the July Green ACES/Green Team meeting. The Pet Waste Sub-committee is looking at several towns that are composting pet waste, including municipal dog parks in New York, Toronto and Atlanta. Jim Sterling states there is a pet waste ordinance in Greenbelt, although it mainly involves picking it up off the lawn and throwing it in the trash.

5. Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Update:

Jim Sterling of Public Works presented the Greenbelt Green Team Action Plan to City Council on Monday, June 23rd. It went well, except that one of the Council Members complained that a particular project he had worked on wasn't included. The Greenbelt City Council stated in so many words that they were very happy that the SMC application process on behalf of Greenbelt had been completed. We assured the Greenbelt City Council that any missed items would be included in next year's application process for the next level of certification for the SMC application. Eva Fallon and Jeannie Bellina from the Green Team were present at the meeting.

SMC documentation was submitted on June 10. The awards ceremony will be held during the Maryland Municipal League fall conference being held in Annapolis, MD, September 11-13.

6. Playground Surfaces Council Work Session on June 18th:

No one from the Green Team/ACES attended this meeting; however there was discussion surrounding this issue: 9 out of the 35 playgrounds in Greenbelt have pervious surfaces. It was discovered that heat retention on impervious surfaces can reach 156° F, whereas pervious surfaces such as those that use wood chips reach 119° F. Wood chips were recommended by Public Safety. However, they are generally not ADA compliant. There are also fungus and mold concerns, which can cause asthma. It is

recommended that regular wood chips be replaced by engineered wood fiber (EWF) as they are less prone to be scattered and usually have less mold buildup. Costs and timeframe to replace the wood chips with the EWF wood chips are being considered, as well as poured in place alternatives.

7. Other:

- John Lippert is trying to recruit business leaders from the Buzzuto Group to be on the Green Team.
- John stated that there were about 100 people at the Prince George's Green Launch Party, and that the Livable Projects Conference was the weekend of June 28-29.
- It was recommended that the City of Greenbelt's website be easily linked to the Sustainability Plan Framework and the Greenbelt Green Team Action Plan. This would not only be great marketing to promote the City of Greenbelt, but would also enable the Green Team to reach out to businesses to better teach them how to be green. It was suggested that the City of Greenbelt have its own sustainability web page that would also connect Green ACES, the Green Team, as well as information about a sustainable environment. This website should also list all Greenbelt green businesses included in the Maryland Green Registry. Two out of the four hotels in Greenbelt are "green" hotels.
- Jeannie Bellina asked which Green Team members would like to be included on the Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) e-mails. The following members indicated an interest: Susan Barnett, Jeannie Bellina, Eva Fallon, Konrad Herling, Kim Knox and Kehinde Odebo. John Lippert and Luisa Robles are already receiving the SMC e-mails. Jeannie is going to be asking the other Green Team members who were not present via e-mail if they are interested too.

Adjournment: 9:04 pm