

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Members present: John Lippert, Susan Barnett, Kim Knox, John Berard, Jeannie Iacovazzi, Michael Hartman, Eva Fallon, Konrad Herling.

Excused absences: Matt Dirksen, Kehinde Odebo, Maggie Cahalan.

Absences: Steve Skolnik.

Visitors: Jane Young, Bill Orleans, Emmet Jordan.

SMC – Sustainable Maryland Certified Action Items.

Green Team and Green ACES Meeting

Call to order: 7:32 pm

1. Labor Day Festival Recap. SMC – Community Action – Innovative Demonstration Project.

Jane Young, Labor Day Festival Committee Member, Recycling, commented on the efforts of this year. Jane was happy with the number of volunteers and supervisors. She thanked the Green ACES/Green Team members that helped. She received several positive comments about our group greening the festival and that having volunteers is a good thing. The festival organizers received a couple of complaints from people feeling that the volunteers were too direct and that they could be softer. A conversation ensued as to how oftentimes when people are addressed regarding their recycling they take it personally and feel it is an “offense” if someone tells them an item is recyclable. Also, Susan mentioned that it is easier to complain than to praise, so perhaps we can try to make it easier for people to praise. Michael mentioned that the yard signs were very helpful and feels they made a difference. Suggestions for next year: Make sure volunteers bring their water bottles and provide hand paper fans for them to cool off.

Vendor experience: for the most part all vendors complied with the regulations. One new vendor did not realize Styrofoam was banned; they quickly got recyclable wares within a few hours. Another vendor, who has participated many times in the festival feigned not knowing the recyclability of her product and extracted an “okay for this year” from Luisa given she had already made her purchase. Green ACES members were upset she manipulated the circumstances and lied about not knowing. For next year, the group decided that if this person continues to use non-recyclable materials, to compose a letter to the organizer of the festival, Linda Ivy, and to Council. These regulations need to be enforced or Greenbelt is just “talking” about being green.

Jane Young said she would attend the first Labor Day Festival meeting.

2. SMC certification update. From the Green Team/Green ACES, Michael Hartman, (Lore Rosenthal), Matt Dirksen, and Jeannie Iacovazzi attended the awards ceremony as part of Maryland Municipal League (MML) meeting on September 12th. Mayor Jordan, and Jim Sterling, amongst others, were also in attendance to receive the commendation. The City recognized the award at the September 22nd Council meeting. Michael Hartman, Jeannie Iacovazzi and Luisa Robles were present to talk about the Certification process and Greenbelt’s achievements.
3. Display Case at the Community Center. It is the turn of Green ACES/Green Team to set up the display case. The group decided to have it SMC themed primordially, plus energy efficiency improvements, and mention the sub-groups that have formed: Sustainable Land Care, Streams, Companion Animal Feces, and Greening the Labor Day Festival.

4. Events Policies. John Lippert mentioned an article in the News Review where it says that Green ACES will receive a document from Joe McNeil about the policies for City events. Right now the document is in the first draft phase and comments are being incorporated.
5. Streams sub-group update. SMC - Natural Resources – Watershed Stewardship – Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship.
Kim Knox shared that Susan Barnett submitted the report for the Beaver Dam Watershed, and Bill Duncan for the Still Creek Watershed; and that the group is waiting on Cary Coppock’s report for Indian Creek.
6. Sustainable Land Care sub-group update.
Kim Knox shared that she is helping organize volunteers for National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at Schom Hills Park. Public Works is leading the charge, and CHEARS is also participating with the recruitments of ILS (Integrated Life Sciences) students from UMD.
Kim also said that she will be organizing more volunteers for service hours on Friday, October 17. Luisa recommended the removal of English Ivy from trees at Buddy Attick Park (and trash removal as needed).

<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow>

7. Announcements/Sharing of information (5 mins):
 - a) City of Greenbelt got awarded another MEA grant (for 80,000) for lighting retrofits for Public Works and the Police Department.
 - b) Shredding, Saturday, October 18 – 9-12 behind the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union.
 - c) Electronics Recycling, Saturday, October 25 – 9-12 at Public Works Yard.

Adjournment: 9:10 pm