

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 - 7:30 pm – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles.

Members present: John Lippert, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Michael Hartman, Kehinde Odebo, Matt Dirksen

Excused absences: Aaron Marcavitch, Konrad Herling

Absences: Trevor Liburd

Visitors: Jane Young, Ben Fisher, Cary Coppock, Jeannie Iacovazzi, Bill Orleans

Call to order: 7:30 pm

1. Labor Day Festival wrap-up.
 - A) What went well
 - i) Signup Genius - we will use it again next year.
 - ii) Satellite table – most people thought this was a good thing to have in addition to being a part of the Public Works booth
 - iii) Pendants/paint/green – most volunteers were happy to wear them, the new stickers were welcomed as well.
 - B) What could have been improved
 - i) Signs at eye level for trash and recycling. It was suggested a platform could be made for each pair of trash and recycling and signs posted at eye level for easy identification and images showing what goes in each bin.
 - ii) Trash and Recycling bins have to all be PAIRED. They were for the most part, but sometimes they got separated, and in some instances there were stand-alone recycling bins. The group and volunteers found a significant decrease in contamination when the bins are paired.
 - iii) Each booth could have a sample of their items that can be recycled posted in front of their booth. Next year Green ACES could ask the vendors to bring a sample of their wares so we can set them up for display.
 - iv) Announcements could not be made at the big stage due to the new sound people. Announcements were made at the bingo stand. Next year we would like to be able to encourage recycling from the main stage.
 - C) What do we need to avoid
 - i) Can we avoid hijacking the Green ACES meeting with Labor Day Festival stuff for three months?
2. Community Center Display Case – Green ACES decided to promote the newly adopted Sustainability Framework Document in addition to our efforts at the Labor Day Festival, and our promotion of the Kill a Watt meter and Thermal Leak detector. Luisa will be in charge of putting it together.
3. Sustainability Framework - On September 16 Council held a work session; the framework is to be adopted at the next regular Council session. Luisa, John, Michael and Jeannie were present. At the work session Mike M. said that staff would review the Framework yearly and come up with action items that can be completed in that year and generate MBOs (Management By Objectives).

The group talked about the Land Care Policy and the Community Gardens. Should the City's policies apply to the gardens? The majority of Green ACES agrees they should. However, there are some garden members who don't want to follow those rules and are lobbying for something in between. Ben Fisher commented that the Garden Club is coming up with their own rules and they will be presented to Council sometime soon. Green ACES agreed to wait for those rules to make comments.

Composting was another topic of discussion as this seems to be a low-lying fruit. Public Works is already composting food scraps; a new compost bin was established at the Three Sisters Garden at the Community Center and it would be easy for food scraps to be collected from that building.

4. Rain barrel workshop – interested stakeholders are the watershed groups (Cary Coppock, Becki Wolf and Vicky Hageman); CHEARS; GHI; and Club 125; in addition to Public Works. Luisa agreed to contact stakeholders to organize said workshop.

GHI has a map of all the rain gardens installed throughout the COOP and they have special requirements for rain barrels.

The Watershed Coordinator for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Rebecca Wolf, is interested in collaborating on this workshop and providing rain barrels for those interested. Her contact info: bwolf@icprb.org; 301-274-8110.

A comment was made to compliment Brian Townsend for the rain barrel installed at Springhill Lake Rec Center. The Three Sisters Garden really appreciates it! ☺

Cary Coppock had a couple of updates. COG's Green Streets Policy Guide Template needs a longer comment period.

Bill 706 from MD House: mitigation is allowed, so it's not a great bill. A forest can be cut and some trees planted somewhere else and they are treated as if they were the same. They count how many trees are planted, but not how many survive, nor how many woods are cut down. This accounting system treats wetlands and forests as the same.

5. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan (from APB) – Michael, John and Luisa have read a bit of it. APB would like us to read and give comments.
6. Multi-City Environmental Boards and Commission Meeting is on October 16, 2013 at Rockville City Hall at 6:30 pm. Michael suggested a few topics to share with the MMC group. Several Green ACES members and Friends are interested in attending.
7. Council accepted Green ACES as the Green Team for Sustainable Maryland Certified – UMD Students will be doing all the data entry for the certification and they want to come meet the group at our October 22 meeting. We will start the meeting as The Green Team, and then continue as Green ACES. After our meeting with the students we can start planning on a strategy to invite more people into the Green Team.

Adjournment: 9:00 pm