

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles

Members present: John Lippert, Ed James, Matt Berres, Megan Hughes, Herb Reed

Excused absences: Konrad Herling, Michael Hartman, Maggie Cahalan

Absences: Roody Rosales

Visitors: Jane Young, Bill Orleans

Call to order: 7:05 pm

1. March minutes approved with corrections.
2. John, Jane, and Michael staffed a couple of tables for the Earth Day/Public Works Open House celebration. They set up in front of a large sustainability display showcasing the areas of interest of Green ACES. One table was dedicated to recycling information and material; the other to energy information and demonstration of the kill-a-watt meter and the thermal leak detector. They distributed information on recycling, Clean Currents, WE CAN Save Energy Campaign, etc. There was a steady stream of people in spite of the strong rains.
3. John and Jane have donated four Thermal Leak Detectors for the City. Matt said he could write a description on how to use them, John said he could also give it a try.
4. Megan, Lore and Luisa attended the Sustainability Conference at Arlington Echo in Millersville, MD on Thursday, April 14, 2011, hosted by MDNR, Sierra Club and ICLEI. Points of interest: we heard from Adam Ortiz and the green street they built in the City of Edmonton; the importance of having support from elected officials for sustainability efforts; new Sustainability Planning Tool from ICLEI; ecosystem services-- why they are important, how to measure them, how do you integrate them into budgets and plans? Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator.
5. Jane and Luisa attended the Labor Day Festival Committee Meeting. The group is supportive of making the festival more environmentally friendly. They support banning Styrofoam. They suggested telling the vendors that even though it is banned, it will be tolerated this year, but not the next. They mentioned Green ACES should also give awards to the non-food booths. The book booth is very environmental, they are reusing books and bags. They suggested Green ACES do the booth check on Saturday morning instead of Friday night, when the vendors won't be quite as busy and will be able to focus more. They want us to make a list of where vendors could purchase alternatives to Styrofoam (Costco, Giant, websites, etc.). Jane mentioned how at the Green Festival in DC they had volunteers standing next to the recycling and trash bins letting people know what items could be placed where, and that we could have something like that at the Labor Day Festival too. Discussion ensued about proper training as to not generate animosity. Boy scouts, girl scouts could participate, volunteers could be identified with

green t-shirts, bandanas or something similar. Announcements about recycling should be made on stage. An idea was put forth for a competition using shopping carts and seeing who collects the most recyclables at the end of a certain amount of time (or other games). The Farmers Market could be used as practice of this shopping cart game. The group also recommended we put recycling bins at the Farmers Market.

6. Sustainability master plan.
 - A) Work session planned for Sunday, May 22nd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Jane and John's house at 45 Lakeside Drive. Megan will send out a tentative agenda. There will be a potluck lunch. Please let Jane know if you can come, and what you will bring.
 - B) Complete email addresses for all stakeholders' contact info. Each member needs to go back to the website and fill in the gaps.
 - C) What are the intermediate steps we need to take to achieve our environmental sustainability goals? We need to have a visioning session. Where do we want to be in 20 years? Will the City need to use incentives to encourage people to conserve energy and resources? Tax credits, something else? What other ways can we achieve our goals? Through policy?

7. We Can Save Energy Campaign:
 - A) Green ACES will have a "rodeo" at New Deal Café at the Greenman Festival to help people sign up for the Campaign and for Clean Currents. The WE CAN website is not working properly. John will talk to Dave (from Earth Aid) to see if this can be fixed.
 - B) How can we make a support group for the people that have signed up for WE CAN? Since we don't have the contact information from the people that have signed up we'll need Earth Aid's help in either getting that, or in having them upgrade their website with the social networking capabilities, as they had promised.

8. Luisa volunteered to finalize the letter for J Davis in support of Greenbelt's participation in Sustainable Maryland Certified. Megan sent it out several weeks ago. A few people made comments that need to be incorporated.

9. David Moran sent information (late this afternoon) regarding an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) project they want to use to switch lighting in parking lots to LED, and wants Green ACES members' opinions on it. Green ACES agreed to take a look. John said he would review the documents carefully and send his opinion to David Moran and city employees first and then to Green ACES members.

Adjournment: 9:15 pm