

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 2011 – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Herb Reed, Jamie Phillips, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Ed James, Michael Hartman.

Excused absence: Matt Berres, Megan Hughes

Absences: Matt Dirksen.

Visitors: Harriett Phelps, Bill Orleans

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles.

Call to order: 7:33 pm

1. *Sustainability framework*. John asked the group if they had a chance to review the different section drafts of the framework. A few people had read some of the sections. Some people were confused as to how to use the site that Megan set up. Also, the members of the food group have not carefully looked at the Temecula framework which we are using as a template. Given that all members of the food sector were present, and that that section is the one that has the least work done, the group decided to brainstorm some ideas.

Food Sector:

Goal – To increase local food production in Greenbelt. To increase availability of locally produced food in Greenbelt.

Establish a thriving farmers market.

Education and public outreach.

Develop a web based directory (and/or pamphlets) of pick-your-own, organic food sources, and farmers markets.

Conduct workshops on food production, nutrition, processing, marketing and preservation.

Promote seasonal consumption and eating patterns.

Promote opportunities for people to grow their own items.

Promote access to and support individual garden plots.

Garden plots to have access to water and fences to keep the deer out: devise ways to provide needed inputs for community gardens.

Establish a City Master Farmer (gardener).

Develop food production resource inventory.

Examine policy changes for local animal husbandry.

Examine/support forest gardening.

Promote edible fruit/nut trees.

Improve City composting (windrows).

Conduct pilot project to collect organic wastes.

Encourage restaurants and local eateries to purchase locally produced ingredients.

Support partnership with schools for school gardens.

Support healthy school lunches.

Funding/grant writing. Identify/seek funding sources. – Should we have a separate section of the framework for this item or should this be embedded within each section?

Take actions to secure funding.

Partner with federal agencies that have land to see if food production is an option (NASA, USDA).

Transportation Sector:

The ideas for this sector have been written but comments were made that it should be re-arranged so that language and style follows the Temecula format we are using as a guide. This is important to have the whole document in the same style. Michael said he would work on that.

2. *Display case at the Community Center.* This year the display showcased the Thermal Leak Detector and Kill-a-Watt monitor lending programs; the Labor Day Festival recycling success; and the Wind Energy program. The people that attended the Maryland Multi-City Meeting made positive comments on the display and the different programs that Green ACES is working on. Luisa commented that one person came to borrow the thermal leak detector and kill-a-watt meter from seeing the display!
3. *Multi -City Meeting.* The minutes have been sent to all attendees for comments. Five cities participated. Members commended the efforts of the organizers for a very educational and well run meeting.
4. Green ACES asked what had happened to their request that language be added to point four (4) of the “Application for a public meeting reservation as provided by ordinance number 636” to require that organizers contact PW and ask for recycling bins. Luisa said that she had asked Mike and he responded that when people fill out one of those applications, Anne Marie will get in touch with Luisa to let her know of the event, and then Luisa can contact the organizers and ask if they need recycling bins. Members were confused as they had only requested the addition of *one* sentence to the form: “And Public Works must be contacted to ask for recycling services at 240-542-2153.” They want to make a formal request to Council. A motion was put on the table and seconded; the vote was unanimous to proceed.
5. *Luisa’s announcements:* Recycle Right award ceremony will be held on Monday, November 28. Green ACES is invited to participate in the event.
6. Next meeting is scheduled for December 27. Several members expressed their concern of not being able to attend. Michael said he could attend the December meeting, but that he will miss the January one.

Adjournment: 9:05 pm