

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 – Community Center

Members present: Eva Fallon, Herb Reed, Megan Hughes, Maggie Cahalan, Ed James (arrived around 8:30).
Visitors: Michael Hartman, Christine McElroy, Bill Orleans.
Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles; Council liaison: Konrad Herling.
Excused absences: Marti Galvin, Jim Kelly, Mary Chapman, John Lippert.
Absences: Joyce Griffin, Matt Berres.

Call to order: 7:35 pm. With only 4 voting members we do not have a quorum. Group asked about the member that has not showed up in several months, Joyce Griffin, and asked Luisa to follow up with City Clerk as to how many unexcused absences one can have before one is let go of a committee.

1. *Approval minutes.* Minutes of May, June, July 2010 could not be approved due to lack of quorum. Comments were made on July minutes that Luisa will incorporate.
2. Sustainability master plan. Megan assigned each member to a work group and assigned a few tasks. The groups are:

Land Use:	Eva, Matt, Maggie, Ed
Energy:	Jim, Eva, John
Transportation:	Jim, Konrad
Waste:	Megan, Luisa
Water:	Matt, Marti
Food Systems Security:	Herb, Maggie, Ed

And the tasks to be completed in four (4) weeks are:

- a) Choose a leader for each work group. This person will be responsible for keeping the email discussion moving and making sure that each month's assignment has been completed by the deadline.
 - b) Make a list of three to five other organizations who could provide input on your section of the sustainability plan. Examples people mentioned: Transit Riders United (TRU-G), Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (<http://www.beaverdamcreek.org>), Friends of Still Creek (<http://www.stillcreekwatershed.org/>), Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (<http://www.ccric.org/>).
 - c) Review the categories under your section of the sustainability plan. Do you still like the categories? If not, revise and adjust. Come up with 3 to 5 categories that you like.
3. Regional Energy Outreach. WE CAN Campaign powered by Earth Aid. COG would like Greenbelt to be one of the pilot communities. Green ACES has agreed to participate. Megan will draft a statement letting Council know the group is committing. Eva will draft a news release and John can edit it. The City will generate marketing materials, place ads in the News Review, post it in the Website, etc.
 4. Bill Orleans interjected and wanted to have a word with the group regarding "No Drive Day." He said this was a national movement and that this was the third year. Green ACES mentioned

that they had deliberated at the last meeting that they would consider it while writing the transportation section of the Master Plan. At this moment the group does not want to spend the time it would require to make such a recommendation. If Eldridge Brown (the proponent of this action) wants to meet with Jim about drafting a recommendation outside of meeting time, he is welcome to do so. The group would consider working off of that.

5. Labor Day – Green Effort Awards. On Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm., prior to the opening of the Labor Day Festival, booths have to be open and ready for health department inspections. Some members of Green ACES will walk around the booths with clipboards to collect data/check the various environmentally friendly efforts the different booths are making. They will convene and decide which booths deserve a Green Effort Award (Gold, Silver and Bronze).
6. Labor Day. – Information Day. Green ACES has decided to participate on Information day and will be promoting Clean Currents, WE CAN Campaign, Kill-a-Watt meters lending program, Recycling guidelines, and various activities such as Earth Hour, Earth Day, Cleanups, Electronics Recycling, Shredding, etc.
7. Green ACES would also like to participate in the Annual Fall Cleanup to celebrate Gorgeous Prince George’s Day on October 16. Maggie and Konrad are compromised to participate. They will choose an area later.
8. Community Center Display Case. Green ACES wants Luisa to take care of this. Luisa commented that she could do a three dimensional display of the Yes/No Recycling guidelines flier on one side, and promote all the various activities Green ACES is involved with on the other side (all the things they are promoting at Information Day). The group thought that was a good idea.
9. Luisa shared information with Green ACES:
 - A) Compostable mesh lawn bags. What does the group think? Should we switch from paper bags to these? Carolyn and Kenny attended a conference where they saw the “dsolv” mesh lawn bags. The group looked at the literature and the sample and decided that there is no research to support their claims of compostability. How long do they really take to fully disintegrate? Will the tub grinder tolerate them? Herb and Maggie commented that they liked the paper bags, why switch to something unknown and unproven?
 - B) Climate and Energy Action Plan. No idling laws. Distributed literature.
 - C) Rain Barrel Program. Distributed literature

Luisa’s announcements: (5 minutes)

1. Sent email asking about the Comingled Recycling stickers. Do we sticker our customers? Do we give stickers to each management? – No answer to this point on that.
2. Luisa is coordinating with William, Carolyn and Kenny to have a recycling bin next to each trash can for the Labor Day festival.

Adjournment: 9:10