

MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

Monday, February 1, 2010 – Community Center, Room 114

Members present: John Lippert, Ed James, Jim Kelly, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Marti Galvin, Herb Reed. Matt Berres, and Megan Hughes arrived later.

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles; Visitors: Lore Rosenthal, Michael Hartman, Sandy Roberts; Excused absences: Konrad Herling, Mary Chapman; Absences: Joyce Griffin.

Call to order: 7:31

1. *Green ACES congratulated* Mary Chapman for being reappointed to the Committee for 3 more years. Congratulations!
2. *Approval* of December and January minutes with corrections.
3. *Alice Ferguson Foundation, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup*. Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010. The group discussed possible cleaning sites for this year. Luisa commented that she received an email from an Empirian Village resident saying he wants to register the Springhill Lake site. Maggie wants to coordinate with him and attend that site. Ed and Jim talked about Braden Field stream. Matt said he was going to talk to the Woodlands Committee as they have a site in mind (not the Spellman overpass as they did last year). Eva Fallon also had an idea for a site. Everyone agreed to survey the sites and come to a decision next meeting.
4. *Earth hour. Saturday, March 27, 8:30 pm*. It was the consensus of the group that they want to participate, but need more commitment from the City and all the different departments to make it worth while. If the City cannot commit to a higher level of involvement, Green ACES is not interested in participating.
 - 1) Green ACES would like to make sure that absolutely all non-essential lights in the City are turned off on time.

Last year when the group started the flashlight walk, many of the City buildings had ALL their lights on. The tennis courts were lit as well.
By the time the end part of the group walked by the tennis courts, the lights had been turned off, but all the lights inside the Youth center were lit, including inside offices that had no one in them. Walking around the Community Center it also did not seem like anyone had made any effort to turn lights off.
 - 2) Green ACES would like the different departments to host Earth hour activities. For instance, the Youth Center could have a ghost story telling hour. There could be special games/activities at the Community Center. Green ACES would like to emphasize social recreational alternatives one could have with the lights off.
 - 3) Green ACES would like the City to encourage businesses to turn the lights off too. Perhaps the New Deal could turn the lights off for one hour for a candle light dinner, perhaps some acoustic music could be played, no sound system on?
 - 4) Given that many lights are going to be off for one hour, Green ACES would also like to see increased police security for that time period so that people will feel comfortable turning the lights off.
 - 5) If the City can commit to this level of involvement, Green ACES would like to see ads in the News Review, website, Facebook page, listserves, etc. to get the message out to as many people as possible.

5. *Recommendations to council regarding recycling at City sponsored events.* The group discussed the points they want touched in this recommendation. John is going to send out the language on email to finalize it. Green ACES also talked about having an incentives system for vendors at City sponsored events. For instance, at the Labor Day festival there could be awards for the most sustainable booth, float, etc. Sustainability would be measured by usage of recyclable materials, energy, water use, reusable containers, etc. When hiring vendors preference should be given to people that have sustainable practices and use recyclable materials.

Emphasis was made on the fact that we need to get new stickers for all recycling bins all over the City and Recycling Centers that say “Comingled Recycling” instead of the “Bottles and Cans Only”.

Lore mentioned the “Responsible Purchasing Network” (<http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/>), it is an international network of buyers dedicated to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable purchasing. Their membership program and consulting services provide institutional purchasers with cutting edge procurement tools and resources designed to save money, conserve resources, reduce waste, and improve efficiency.

6. *Kill-a-Watt instructions.* Eva offered to take pictures to add to John’s instructions. The instructions are already up on the GHI website. So far no one has asked to borrow the meter.
7. *Green ACES mission statement, goals, logo.* Megan shared a tree diagram with the group to consider as a logo. She will send an email with the vision and mission statements as the group had discussed at a previous meeting. Marti will keep working on the logo.
8. *Logical Framework.* Herb recommended we start with the Outcomes/Impact column. What is the vision for Greenbelt? The group wrote: decrease in energy usage; increase in usage of renewable energy; decrease in water consumption; increase in water reuse; decrease storm water runoff; increase sustainable food production and consumption; increase sustainable transportation systems (walkability, bikability); lower landfill usage; increase recycling rate; increase tree canopy and green spaces; increase healthy lifestyles; lower carbon footprint; increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Next meeting the group will categorize and bundle these outcomes into medium term and ultimate results. People are to email their 5 most important issues.

9. *Three Sisters Garden Project.* Maggie Cahalan shared with the group that she gave a presentation to City Council on Monday, January 25 and that Council approved the Garden Project.
10. Luisa shared with the group that on the January 23 Electronics recycling event there were 201 vehicles. And 69 CPUs, 81 laptops, 80 monitors and 74 televisions were recycled amongst many other items.

Adjournment: 9:05