

**MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING**

Monday, January 4, 2010 – Community Center, Room 114

Members present: Ed James, Mary Chapman, Joyce Griffin, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Jim Kelly, Marti Galvin, Matt Berres.

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles; Visitors: Lore Rosenthal, Michael; Council liaison: Konrad Herling. Excused absences: John Lippert, Herb Reed; Absences: Megan Hughes

Call to order: 7:31

1. *Approval of October minutes.* Minutes were approved.
2. *Recommendations to council regarding recycling at City sponsored events.* Luisa will check with John to see if final tweaks have been made.
3. *Kill-a-Watt instructions.* Luisa will check with John to see if he has finalized this document. Marti suggests we take pictures of the different steps to have a pictorial step by step guide. Matt said the GHI Communicator has already advertised the meters for GHI residents. He posted that each person can borrow a meter for one week.
4. *Green ACES mission statement, goals, logo.* Marti showed the group her sketches for a possible logo. People were pleased with her progress. The group mentioned that Megan was supposed to have sent the mission and vision statement they had worked on the November meeting. Luisa will contact Megan.
5. *Sustainability master plan, “logical framework” updates.* Green ACES needs to prepare for the work session we are planning to conduct with all stake holders in Greenbelt. Matt commented he really likes the logical framework as the organizing tool for our project. We can devote next meeting to review Jim’s summary and enter it into the matrix. We could start with all the high level issues. The group recommends including bikability and walkability into our plan. Konrad also wants to mention the Environmental Research Center. Maggie also wants the group to keep in mind the economics of things, job generation, etc. that should be part of sustainability. For next meeting Jim will bring his laptop, Matt a projector, and we need the matrix format from Herb.
6. *Three Sisters Garden Project.* Maggie Cahalan has been working on developing a project with Chesapeake Bay friendly landscape. It is a garden demonstration project. The idea is to have three plots, one in each part of Greenbelt (East, West and Center), in order to link the three different areas. Maggie wrote a grant to the Community Foundation. She has an appointment with Lesley Riddle to discuss possible site locations on City property. She has also contacted the Master Gardeners of Prince George’s County to see if this can be likened to their “eat it grow it” program. She will also contact the Earth Science Department at the University of Maryland. Maggie admitted that CHEARS does not have the resources to maintain the gardens, but hopes that with all the different volunteers and participants that they can grow and flourish for years to come. Maggie also thinks it is imperative to partner with the City and other groups. Joyce suggested approaching Home Depot for volunteer work and plants. The group also mentioned the current High School

requirement to do volunteer work. Konrad brought up the current situation between the gardens on City property and the issue with water and shading. Ed concurs that that issue needs to also be addressed by the City before acquiring new garden obligations. But the existing garden plots and Maggie's proposal are not exclusive of one another. Jim thinks the Three Sisters Garden Project would be a great way to tie in all the sections of Greenbelt and make East and West GB feel like Greenbelt too. Maggie proposes to hold 3 workshops in the spring to design the plots. The inspirations for this project are the forest gardens of Asheville, NC, and the different gardens of Adams Mills School. At the school they have several demonstration gardens in total, with 12 that include rain gardens, riparian buffers, butterfly gardens, etc.

Matt made the motion to ask the City to support Maggie's Three Sisters Garden Project with pending details to discuss. Jim seconded. All present members were in favor.

7. *Composting information.* Council member Leta Mach sent the group information on a Home Depot initiative called Sustainable Cities Institute and gifts in kind. Also an article from the October 2009 issue of "Governing" pertaining to composting. People mentioned that in the US and Canada, there are a few cities that have started a mandatory composting program. San Francisco just started implementing their three bin curbside pickup system. The black bin is for trash, the blue one for recycling, and the green one for compost. About 50% of the weight that goes to the landfill consists of compostable materials. We could be diverting much more if we composted. Is that feasible for the City of Greenbelt? How do we start?

Luisa's report:

1. Met twice in December with Sean W. Mahaffy. Whole Foods Market – Green Mission Specialist. NoVA Cluster (OTN, SPR, TYS & VNA C: 202/391-5735). I originally met him at the Trash Summit in October where he offered to help us implement our "Recycle at the Workplace" project. Part of the recommendations from the Alice Ferguson Foundation is to start a Green Team at the workplace. When the workforce is large it is good to have at least one member from each department/building/floor. The group suggests that the Green Team address not just issues of recycling but energy efficiency too, and sustainability in general. Green ACES wants Luisa to send an email to all City employees to see who would be interested in belonging to the Green Team. Lore recommends Luisa to read the book "Sustainable Systems that Work" from the Northwest Institute in Portland.
2. Recycled at the City's and at Public Works' holiday parties. Contacted the organizers of other holiday events to encourage them to recycle and offer help.
3. Win with your bin contest winners were presented on Monday, December 14, 2009.

Adjournment: 9:10