

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Ed James, Jim Kelly, Megan Hughes, Konrad Herling.

Visitors: Jane Young, Eldridge Brown, Michael Hartman, Terry Goolsby.

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles

Excused absences: Matt Berres, Mary Chapman, Herb Reed, Eva Fallon

Absences: Joyce Griffin

Call to order: 7:30 pm. With only 4 voting members we do not have a quorum.

1. *Approval* of April 5, 2010 minutes with corrections.
2. *No Drive Day*. Eldridge Brown talked to Green ACES about his proposal. Luisa had emailed the group the resolution he presented to Council. Given that there was no quorum, a vote could not be taken to whether the group supports this action. Several questions were raised. The group did not think it wise to restrict the no-drive days to weekends as many people need to run their errands on those days. They thought it would be better to just have one day a month and to have that day be whenever it would be convenient for each individual. John felt that the time it would take to figure out the logistics for the program are too cumbersome right now, when the group is working on Labor Day issues, and in the sustainability master plan. Jim agreed to work with Eldridge to come up with appropriate language for a recommendation to Council saying that Green ACES would support the idea of visiting the issue when appropriate within the context of the master plan. Eldridge said he would contact Jim to work on that.
3. *Earth Aid*. Luisa had shared with Green ACES over email the interest of COG to have Greenbelt be a pilot community for their Regional Energy Outreach Program. Anne Mariani, Environmental Planner at the Energy and Climate Department of Environmental Programs of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has been in touch with Luisa and the group by sending an outline of the program. The objective is to motivate residents to reduce their energy use. Each pilot community should be able to guarantee a concerted effort and engagement to ensure participation in the pilot program. The goal is to get at least 50 participants per community. Green ACES (Megan) wonders who are going to be the champions to head this project? The benefits would be that Earth Aid measures consumption for the individual and services do not have to be purchased from them. Megan thinks that this will not work for people that live in condos with pooled metering, so it is not equitable for all users. Earth Aid would have to be clear in that measurements can only be done for people with individual metering for water, electricity, gas, etc. Since we do not have a quorum we are going to need to wait for next meeting to see if the group will support to be a pilot community.
4. *“Comingled Recycling” stickers*. Public Works received 500 stickers. They will be used for the rolling carts at the drop-off locations as well as for residents that ask for them. Megan mentioned that her condo has recycling bins that are not properly labeled as they say bottles and cans only, and paper only. Green ACES suggests that we figure out a way to properly label all the rolling carts of our clients. Should PW contact the management in each building so they can sticker the rolling carts properly, or should PW just go ahead and sticker all the carts they pickup. Luisa said she would send an email to Kenny, Carolyn and William to ask about this.

5. *Labor Day Festival – Information Day.* Green ACES decided they want to participate on information day. They asked Luisa to send the application for a table. Jane Young and John Lippert would be able to setup and stay for an hour or so in the morning. Megan said she could come late morning. Michael in the afternoon. We still need to formalize the schedule of who will be staffing the table at which time and we need to decide what types of materials will be promoted.
6. *Labor Day Festival – Green Effort Awards.* Green ACES needs to have a stronger presence at the Labor Day Committee meetings. Did Eva say she was going to attend the meetings? Is she our liaison? (Luisa will check with her via email). What types of questions do we want to ask the vendors? What exactly are we looking for? Do they know what we are looking for? Did the vendors get our initial letter? Terry Goolsby mentioned that each vendor is contracted by some organization in Greenbelt (the sponsors). The letter that we initially wrote asking if vendors could “green” their operations: not use Styrofoam, recycle, etc, was sent to the sponsors. Whether the sponsors gave it to the vendors we don’t know. Terry also mentioned that each vendor has a booth and they are provided with electricity and sockets for lights, but they have to bring their own bulbs and appliances. They also need to bring their own trash can. The committee members suggested each vendor should bring their own recycling bin for in-booth, but PW needs to make sure there is a recycling bin next to each trash can in the common areas so as to make it easy to place trash and recyclables in the right place without added effort. Things we can look for to see if vendors are “greening” their operations: type of light bulbs chosen, Styrofoam present or not, recycling in-booth, composting, vegetarian/vegan options, low wattage on appliances, energy star products, etc. Megan Hughes volunteered to write another letter to share with vendors where these things are clearly spelled out.
7. Luisa distributed information Mike wants Green ACES to consider. (Given that there is no quorum the information will be shared again at the next meeting).
 - A) Rain Barrel Program
 - B) COG Climate, Energy and Environmental Policy Committee. Staff update of May 26, 2010.
 - C) Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC of May 2010.
 - D) Maryland Green Registry.

Luisa’s announcements:

1. We had an electronics recycling event on July 24. 196 vehicles showed up bringing: 61 TVs, 75 CPUs, 20 laptops and 65 monitors.
2. Luisa attended Maryland Recycling Network and SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter 6th Joint Conference on June 24-25, 2010 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. What most caught my attention was the talk on “Promoting Your Program Through Social Media.” Also, several speakers mentioned the need to establish **policies** and programs that encourage “recovery” instead of “disposal”.

Adjournment: 9:00 pm