

# MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

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

Members present: John Lippert, Ed James, Jim Kelly, Maggie Cahalan, Marti Galvin, Matt Berres, Megan Hughes and Joyce Griffin. Mary Chapman arrived at 7:50 pm.

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles; Excused absences: Eva Fallon, Herb Reed, Konrad Herling, Mary

Call to order: 7:35

1. *Approval* of February minutes with corrections.
2. John Lippert has been reappointed to Green ACES for a new three-year term. Congratulations!
3. Green ACES continued working on the Logical Framework to flush out the main ideas for the Sustainability Master Plan. Members had emailed Luisa their priority areas which she compiled and distributed to the group. Based on this, six (6) main topics were written across the board with subtopics underneath.
  - 1) Land use: storm water; appropriate development; protect forests; protect farmland; land care and lower pesticide usage.
  - 2) Energy: efficiency; renewable; conservation.
  - 3) Transportation: public transportation; bike/pedestrian; low or no emission vehicles/electric vehicles; car sharing.
  - 4) Waste: reduce waste; increase reuse and recycling.
  - 5) Water: efficiency; source water; pollution.
  - 6) Food systems security: local production; CSA; gleaning/food pantry; access to healthy foods.

On a column to the left, four (4) concerns were identified with subtopics under each.

- a) Healthy people: exercise; diet; lifestyle; clean air and water; lower chronic diseases.
  - b) Economy: local businesses; green jobs/businesses; incubator of ideas/research; tax base.
  - c) Healthy environment: environment/resources; wildlife; biodiversity.
  - d) Education: internships; community/school partnerships; citizen education; outreach.
4. After some back and forth, Green ACES agreed on the final wording for the vision and mission statements.

**Vision:** Green ACES envisions a City of Greenbelt that has a minimal ecological footprint and supports all City stakeholders to live, work, and play in an **environmentally** sustainable manner.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Green ACES is to provide leadership to the City of Greenbelt on matters relating to **environmental** sustainability by serving the Greenbelt City Council in an advisory capacity providing guidance, recommendations, and research support on matters relating to environmental sustainability; engaging in sustainability projects and events, on our own and in collaboration with other entities that actively promote and model environmental sustainability; and educating City staff, elected officials, residents, and businesses on programs, practices, and activities that contribute to a green lifestyle.

Green ACES discussed the logo. Marti showed us a t-shirt with a tree and different shades like watermarks. We could do something simple but that speaks visually. The group voted for an A

with a belt and a buckle. They scribbled a design and would like for Bev to design something with that idea.

5. Green ACES was made aware that the City Council would like to hold a work session with the chairs of its advisory boards and committees on Monday, March 15, at 8 pm in the Council Room of the Municipal Building. All members are invited to come, but only one official spokesperson per group. John said he would attend and asked to have sent all the recommendations Green ACES has made to Council in the past year.
6. Green ACES discussed the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Luisa received an email from an Empirian Village resident (Brian Gibbons) saying he wants to register that site. The Cleanup is on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The group decided to work on the Spellman Overpass and the corner of Ridge Road and Westway. Also, Springhill Lake Elementary is participating with 200 students. Thanks to Shana Sterkin for being such a great liaison. Luisa will register the sites, pick up and distribute the supplies.
7. Council member Mach mentioned Earth Hour at the Jan 25 Council meeting. Earth hour is Saturday, March 27, 8:30 – 9:30 pm. Green ACES discussed things to do since the City committed to participate more actively. The group decided that a flashlight walk would be fun and a story telling hour at the Youth Center. Luisa will find presenters for the story telling and will coordinate all the details and logistics.
8. Earth Day, Arbor Day and Public Works Open House will be celebrated on Saturday, April 24. Green ACES decided to not do the T-shirt competition this year. The quality of the drawings has not been that great in recent years, it is very difficult to get people to participate, the T-shirts are very expensive and we don't know where materials come from nor how they are produced. Green ACES still wants to participate on Earth Day by helping with the planting of the rain garden at Buddy Attick Park. The group also wants to participate in the PW Open house. They want to advertise the Kill-a-Watt meters, Clean Currents wind power, etc. Luisa has emailed the 3 watershed groups and GCAN to invite them to have tables, and she has emailed "Green Home, LLC" and they said yes. The Master Gardeners of Prince George's County will also have a table with information on composting.
9. Green ACES will be presenting at GCAN meeting in June. The group talked about what the talk should be about: the new name, vision and mission; all the recommendations that have been presented to council; the pesticide report; the sustainability master plan.
10. Luisa talked about the Smart Energy Now Town Hall Meeting she attended at Prince George's Community College. She distributed her typed notes and handouts collected. Advertized the Sustainable Landscaping talk on Saturday, March 13, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and the Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, April 17.

Adjournment: 9:15