

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
MEETING

Tuesday, November 23, 2010 – Community Center

Members present: John Lippert, Megan Hughes, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Matt Berres, Marti Galvin, Herb Reed, Michael Hartman, Konrad Herling.

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles

Excused absences: Ed James, Jim Kelly

Absences: Joyce Griffin

Visitors: Lore Rosenthal, Christine McElroy, Jane Young

Call to order: 7:29 pm

1. Minutes from August, September and October accepted with corrections (the group decided to review the minutes at home and send corrections later).
2. John attended a Clean Currents Neighborhood Challenge orientation meeting on Monday, November 22, in Rockville. He said about 6 people attended. The Neighborhood Challenge will go through April 22. The welcome packets for new Greenbelters will include information on Clean Currents. Greenbelt will receive \$10.00 per subscriber plus some extra perks depending on how many people sign up and what types of activities we promote. John Lippert will be the point of contact for Clean Currents.

Maggie suggested we send an email to Greenbelt organizations in order to further promote Clean Currents. John and Matt will brainstorm together to send an email to different groups. Matt wants to draft something in the lines of “give yourself a gift” or “make your New Year’s resolution”.

3. Lore shared the Clean Currents flier that was sent to Bev for the welcome package. The group decided they want the same flier on the website. Eva said she would contact Bev to get this done. The new flier is different from the one used last year, because it has no pricing information (which quickly gets out of date), it does not mention a collaboration between the four Greenbelt organizations, and it does not mention what organization will receive the money in April.
4. Megan Hughes from the Environmental Finance Center shared with Green ACES the “Sustainable Maryland Certificate” proposal. It is based on “Sustainable Jersey” ([www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com)). It is a way to certify communities that are doing sustainable actions. In New Jersey the program has been going for over two years. They have over 303 participating communities. The program gives tools, guidance, incentives, and continuing education units (CEUs). A community that wants to participate would have to make a Resolution, choose a point of contact, and actions/strategies to follow. They will create a Green Team (Green ACES would be the Green Team in Greenbelt). The certificates can be bronze, silver or gold depending on points earned in different categories (prosperity, people, planet). Incentives include forestry grants, Wal-Mart grants, etc. The idea is to give seed money for communities that want to do something. The National League of Cities (NLC) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) give awards to this program. MML receives

funding from the EPA and will be encouraging other sponsors. Perhaps next fall the Sustainable Maryland Certificate will be ready to take the first members.

Green ACES has decided to write a letter to Mayor Davis to thank her for her participation on this program. Megan will email Eva and compose a letter that the group can review and once approved John can sign it and send it to the Mayor.

5. Michael and Luisa attended the annual Maryland Multi-City Environmental Boards and Commissions meeting in October. Michael wants to talk about possibly hosting a meeting. He thinks Patuxent Wildlife Center could be a good venue and asked Luisa to look into it. Luisa agreed.
6. Sustainability Master Plan. Konrad distributed information on the Transportation sub-group. He mentioned that at the council meeting last night they talked about the possibility of having gas stations provide alternative fuels. Also about reducing the disincentives to use public transportation. Sometimes public transportation is prohibitively inconvenient and more expensive than just driving.

Megan said the Waste sub-group information is up on the web. This group has identified and contacted several allies.

Maggie said that her groups did not make much progress. She feels she would work better if we had a day when we invite the “allies” to participate and brain storm ideas for the master plan. Lore commented that before doing that the individual groups should meet and flush some ideas out, then invite the allies to each sub-group. That way we’ll have a base to work with when inviting all the allies for all the groups. Luisa and Megan think Lore’s proposal makes sense. Luisa said that each group must have a skeleton from which to work before inviting people to add the meat to it. Matt suggested that next meeting we should work with only one or two groups and focus just on that. Each group can start contacting allies by giving them our existing outline and see if they have any comments.

Adjournment: 9:10 pm