

MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

Monday, June 1, 2009 – Community Center, Room 114

Members present: John Lippert, Megan Hughes, Marti Galvin, Maggie Cahalan, Mary Chapman, Joyce Griffin, Matt Berres, Ed James (arrived at 8:15). Council liaison: Konrad Herling (left at 8:00 pm) Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles. Excused absences: Jim Kelly.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

1. *Welcome to our new member Megan Hughes.* Megan works for the Environmental Finance Center at University of Maryland.
2. *Mayor Davis reported on her trip to the National League of City's conference on Green Cities in Portland OR.* A handout was distributed with the notes the Mayor had presented to Council as well as many other materials pertaining to sustainability projects in various cities. The Mayor commented on several cities that have a sustainability plan such as Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Baltimore, and went through the handout and materials. She commented that all City of Greenbelt offices should think about sustainability, not just the sustainability office, but the entire operation of the municipality. She said she would like for the Recycling Coordinator to be more of a Sustainability Coordinator now that the mission of Green ACES has expanded.
3. *March and April minutes were approved.* April minutes were approved with corrections.
4. *Greenman Festival.* Luisa thanked everyone who participated at the festival. Participants commented that we need to improve the setting and taking down of displays. A pole is needed to hold the banner that says Greenbelt Recycles. The group also needs a canopy to keep them from the sun, something that is easy to put up and that will withstand the wind. The new yes/no flier for recyclables received good comments; as did the Kill-a-Watt demonstration. Attendants to the festival seemed reluctant to approach the table as they thought things were being sold. Perhaps a section of the festival should be reserved for demonstration and educational tables only. Green ACES needs a poster with the new name. John thanked Matt for the arrangement he made with Clean Currents. Information was handed out at the festival for people to sign up for wind energy.
5. *Other business.* John read in the News Review about talks with the City and Greenbelt and PEPCO to change the lighting on the streets at Empirian Village. He commented that he was shocked about the choice of light they were making. Why not go for the more energy efficient induction lighting or LED? John wants to set up a meeting with David Moran to talk about this issue.
6. *Dialogue.* A dialogue ensued regarding the sustainability materials presented by Mayor Davis. The group thinks they should look at what has already been done in the City of Greenbelt with respect to sustainability. For instance the charettes' results, green buildings and other initiatives. Green ACES should think about laying out a sustainability plan for the

City. Perhaps Green ACES could talk to other groups to work together and cooperate with each other. Megan offered to look for links to cities that already have sustainability plans to see what they have done. The group commented on feeling discouraged to undertake another big project when the Pesticide Report has been overlooked in spite of all their work.

7. *Luisa's report:*

- A) City Clerk Cindy Murray reported that Green ACES "name clarification" and the recommendation to "recycle at the workplace" were going to be on the City of Greenbelt council meeting consent agenda.
- B) Chinese exchange student Vicky Zhong wrote an article about the flashlight walk Green ACES organized for Earth Hour. The story got published in the local newspaper in Tianjin, China, the Tianjin Daily. Michael McLaughlin said we would get a copy of the article.
- C) Luisa attended the COG meeting on Organics Composting on May 21.
- D) Luisa will attend the Maryland Recycling Network annual conference on June 25 and 26.
- E) The next electronics recycling event will be on July 25, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.