

## MINUTES FOR THE RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2009 – Community Center, Room 114

Members present: Jim Kelly, Marti Galvin, Ed James, Maggie Cahalan, Mary Chapman, Matt Berres, John Lippert, Ed James.

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles.

Also present: Jean Snyder.

Excused absences: Konrad Herling.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

1. *Welcome new member*: James Kelly. People introduced themselves going around the table.
2. *Approval of minutes*. Minutes from the month of December were approved with corrections (previously submitted by email).
3. *New name for REAC discussion by council*. It was said that council would talk about the new name change at the January 12 meeting and that REAC members should be present. At the same council meeting the Mayor will present the “Keep Prince George’s Beautiful Award” that the Department of Public Works won thanks to REAC’s submittal for the award.
4. *Trash can issue*. Members had decided that the issue of leaving trash cans out more than 24 hours after collection was one to be dealt by the home owners association, and not the City of Greenbelt. Members decided to postpone the dialogue regarding the trash can issue brought up by Leta Mach until she addressed the Committee with her issues directly.
5. *Cool Capitol Challenge*. Given the fact that Public Works staff has their hands full with the finishing of the new building and the annual budget preparation, John Lippert recommended he and Luisa Robles look through the new building specifications, and talk to the architect in order to establish the potential energy savings for the challenge.
6. *Pilot program for compostables*. Within the spirit of the Cool Capitol Challenge members discussed different ideas on how to reduce the City’s carbon footprint. The idea of using compostable tableware was put forth. Perhaps the different City of Greenbelt offices and GHI could purchase compostable tableware for their daily usage (instead of the Styrofoam or paper/plastic now used). Or perhaps one major event, such as the annual City Council dinner, could use only compostable materials. Luisa Robles said she would consult with Lesley Riddle about the feasibility of such a program.
7. *Battery Recycling*. The idea of having a recycling battery program at the Food COOP was put forth. MOM’s is already recycling batteries. Members said consultation with MOM’s about their program would be a first step before approaching the Food COOP with a request.

8. *Letter of appreciation.* Visitor Jean Snyder commented that the group “Food for Friendship” has been separating the plastic tableware for recycling and if REAC would consider writing a formal letter of appreciation. Members voted unanimously to write such letter.
9. *Demonstration Gardens.* Maggie Cahalan talked about the possibility of having a demonstration garden at the Community Center with Chesapeake Bay friendly landscaping, permaculture, etc. She said she would try to get some guest speakers. Members said they would all be interested in having a presentation on the topic, and a demonstration garden.
10. *COG Meeting Report.* Luisa Robles talked about the December 4, 2009 Council of Governments meeting she attended. The prices of recyclable commodities have drastically fallen, to the point where now the City of Greenbelt is being charged \$30/ton of recyclables taken to our current contractor. However, recycling is not only the environmentally friendly option, but it is still cheaper to recycle than to landfill (at \$54/ton).

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.