

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles.

Members present: John Lippert, Jamie Phillips, Matt Dirksen, Eva Fallon, Herb Reed, Aaron Marcavitch, Michael Hartman, Konrad Herling.

Excused absences: Maggie Cahalan, Matt Berres

Visitors: Jane Young

Call to order: 7:35 pm

1. June minutes accepted.
2. A letter in support of the Food Forest Project (CHEARS) was sent to the City Clerk to be included in Council's packet for their next meeting.
3. Update on Garden Club / City of Greenbelt meeting.
 - It was mentioned that a memorandum of understanding was needed between the Garden Club and the City. The gardens have changed much since the beginning of the City; they are reduced in area.
 - Rodney mentioned at the meeting that perhaps the City could expand the scope of the gardens to Greenbelt East and West as well as at the Greenridge House. If the residents of Greenridge were to participate it would be good for them and for the gardens.
 - The Sustainable Land Care Policy Report was brought up during the meeting. Some people felt that the report was not properly vetted for pros and cons. Konrad mentioned that an extensive procedure was followed before adopting it. Bill Phelan mentioned that he did not like the report because there are inconsistencies and a lot of it is black and white. People from Green ACES mentioned that they were tasked with reviewing the Sustainable Land Care Policy Report, and that is what they did; if the report was supposed to be shared with other groups, then higher City management should have done so. Also, the draft that was sent to Green ACES was not the final one and several people spent a lot of time correcting grammatical errors and other such mistakes.
 - Michael mentioned that a stakeholders meeting could be convened so all the different groups can air their grievances or support. Groups that come to mind as stakeholders are Green ACES, FPAB, ACT, GHI, Greenridge House...
 - A buffer around the gardens was suggested to prevent shading. The buffer could have understory type trees and shrubbery.
 - Walking paths and roadways to drive up to certain areas were discussed. There are fallen trees on the walking paths that need to be cleared out.
 - Water is an issue in the gardens. Green ACES recommended a deal with GHI, a fire truck or a water buffalo.
 - The Garden Club had not officially met since 2008. They made a commitment to meet more often.
4. GATE Public Service Announcements: Jamie drafted a script for the Labor Day Festival. John reviewed it and thinks it is great. Ideas were discussed with the group about incentives for the volunteers, distinguishing regalia, etc. John, Jamie and Luisa agreed to work on the PSA and get it done in time for the festival.

5. Labor Day Festival Organizing:

- a) Articles in the News Review asking for volunteers. John will draft and circulate for comments. We all need to circulate on the Greenbelters listserv and Facebook page, Mamas and Papas listserv, etc.
- b) Schedule of people staffing the booth. Michael agreed to post a doodle. Public Works has agreed to have a booth and to share space with Green ACES. All members present except Evan and Herb will be able to staff the booth at some point.
- c) Schedule to train volunteers. Luisa agreed to train the volunteers.
- d) Volunteer list management and “volunteer hours” to sign. Jane will have a blank form to be filled out by volunteers that we can sign.
- e) Regalia making. Jane’s students will make green pendants with turtles and frogs for the volunteers to wear.
- f) Incentive program for volunteers: St. Hughes, Rosedale, other? Jamie will ask if a few bingo cards can be donated. Perhaps Rosedale could donate some tickets? Or some organization could donate money or goodies? John mentioned the prize from COG’s WE CAN effort. Aaron suggests a competition between volunteers.
- g) The Labor Day Festival Committee said vendors liked the awards and prizes. The top 6 vendors got a money prize; and more got recognitions and bags from MOMs. How do we want to recognize the vendors? Perhaps each vendor can give us a list of all the green things they are doing? How to grade them? Give them stars?

6. Prince George’s County draft Waste Management Plan. John attended a meeting where the plan was explained. The landfill at Upper Marlboro is getting full. They expect it won’t be able to operate anymore in 6 to 10 years. The County is proposing to build a transfer station where our trash would be compacted and shipped elsewhere. Green ACES would like to propose to Council that they reject that plan, and instead focus on a Zero-Waste Plan where we educate people on recycling, reducing waste, composting, reusing; and perhaps businesses could be more responsible about their packaging and life cycle of their products. John drafted a letter, the group gave feedback and made suggestions. The final version needs to be ready in advance of the August 13 Council meeting.

Adjournment: 9:05 pm