

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Members present: John Lippert, Maggie Cahalan, Michael Hartman, Matt Dirksen, Megan Hughes, Aaron Marcavitch, Konrad Herling

Excused absences: Matt Berres, Herb Reed, Eva Fallon, Jamie Phillips, and Ed James (who had just resigned from the committee).

Visitors: Kim Welsh from CHEARS

Call to order: 7:40 pm

1. March minutes accepted with the corrections John sent.
2. Greenbelt 75th Anniversary Symposium was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. John Lippert gave a presentation on the various things Green ACES is working on and supporting. He mentioned that there were other two speakers that presented on environmental sustainability issues, Jim Cohen talked about the charette and what came of it, and Bob Trumble talked about Greenbelt trees. Michael Hartman said John did an excellent job, he is a very effective communicator. Maggie Cahalan also mentioned everyone's appreciation of John's hard work.
3. Greenman Festival was held on Saturday and Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2012. Maggie Cahalan said the festival went really well. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! We had good participation and good music. Nineteen (19) people volunteered at the table. The no-idling and tire-inflating exercises were well received. Thanks to the Sunoco gas station for lending their free air pump to fill tires. John Lippert signed up one person per day to Clean Currents. Many people were made aware that tire inflation and how we drive have a big impact on energy efficiency and pollution. Even though there were recycling bins throughout the event, the bins were open vs. the closed trash cans so people tended to throw all their refuse in the open container regardless. This was a prime example of the fact that people are more likely to do the right thing when it is convenient. In this case it was inconvenient to push the trash lid, so people threw their trash into the open recycling bin. Luisa mentioned she has read numerous papers on this type of human behavior and that it was interesting to see it in action. This was a learning opportunity for the next event.
4. GATE - opportunity to advertise events for non profits. Green ACES wants to have a spot to get the word out about greening the Labor Day Festival. Konrad said we need to write a script about a page long so it reads for 2 to 3 minutes. They have a teleprompter and meet the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Saturday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon. FCFS. Call Malia Murray with questions at: 301.507.6581. Ask on Greenbelters to see if anyone has Labor Day Festival pictures of the recycling effort and the green awards. Who volunteered to write the script? We also need a liaison for the LDF.
5. Kim Welsh from CHEARS talked to the group about the Food Forest Project. CHEARS won a 1500 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a water quality project and a forest garden. Kim explained the layout and area for the proposed plantings and the species composition. They are going to plant 6 trees in a patch design (permaculture terminology). They will be in charge of maintenance, pruning and harvesting, hopefully with the help of Franklin Park. They have about 10,000 residents and want to support container gardening. Permaculture uses the strategies of healthy resilient ecosystems to design for human spaces. The patch design is good for educational workshops. Greenbelt Middle School is already working with CHEARS and they will start working with Springhill Lake Elementary as well. They want to build community hoping for a behavioral change towards

sustainability. There is a regional movement based in watersheds. There are people that are more insular and people that are more expanding, pollinating and sharing of ideas. We need both kinds of people to have a sustainability movement. In Philly there are neighborhood orchards and neighborhood cupboards. There is a Food Forest Network connecting DC, Baltimore, Philly, etc. In 2007 Green ACES brought the Pesticide Report to Council, showing our leadership. The Chesapeake Bay Trust supports City wide level actions so now CHEARS is asking for Green ACES' support for the Food Forest project. Green ACES said they do want to support this project and that a resolution will be drafted.

6. Luisa shared Public Space and Event Recycling info from the March 22 COG meeting. She was happy to report that all the efforts Green ACES made at the Labor Day Festival are exactly what the new research shows should be done. There was just one thing recommended that we missed, and that is to make some kind of frame (like a soccer goal) to hold signs for trash and recycling above the stations. Luisa said she would scan her notes and send them to the group.
7. Megan shared she is moving with her family to NC. This will be her last meeting. The group thanked her for her hard work, and told her she will be missed.
8. Konrad mentioned that at the last Council Meeting the topic was brought up about purchasing an electric mower for the Roosevelt Center. Michael Jawer has been asking for one. Is there an acceptable electric equivalent?
9. Sustainability framework. John wants to get it done! Set a context for the intro. Greenbelt since its inception had views and ideas of sustainability (without calling it that). It was designed as an English Garden City, pedestrian friendly, etc. There are seven (7) coops in Greenbelt: GHI, Nursery School, Rapidan, News Review, Federal Credit Union, New Deal Café, and the Food Co-op. The City of Greenbelt has at least three "green" advisory committees: Green ACES, ACT (Advisory Committee on Trees) and FPAB (Forest Preserve Advisory Board). Matt Dirksen mentioned that he feels the sustainability framework we are working on should include something about building health and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and about sustainable procurement. Luisa mentioned that as part of the Sustainable Maryland Certified actions there is one about green purchasing and the City is getting a study done by UMD students. John said he wants to get the sustainability framework done so the City can move on with the Sustainable Maryland Certified certification, but Megan said that those are two different things and that Sust. MD Certified can move ahead without Green ACES having the framework completed.

Adjournment: 9:10 pm