

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Members present: John Lippert, Maggie Cahalan, Eva Fallon, Aaron Marcavitch, Matt Dirksen, Michael Hartman, Kehinde Odebo, Konrad Herling.

Excused absences:

Absences: Matt Berres

Visitors: Doug Alexander, Kristen Worten (America Volunteer Coordinator)

Call to order: 7:32 pm

1. September minutes were accepted.
2. Doug Alexander from Cheverly shared the story of how he started a compost bin program. Eva Fallon mentioned that she applied for a Jim Cassel's award to get seed money to start our own compost bin program here in Greenbelt. Doug mentioned he got seed money from the City of Cheverly and from other sources. (The Chesapeake Bay Trust gave money for rain barrels which Cheverly sold at a discount and used the purchase money for compost bins later on.) He purchased a large quantity of bins at springtime at a big box store since they are more cost effective there (it is cheaper than purchasing from the manufacturer as that way we don't pay shipping). He got each bin for about \$40. He sold them to the residents for \$20. He sold 158 bins in 3 months at farmer's markets, from home, and from Public Works. According to Doug, Public Works is saving about 10% in landfill tipping fees since the compost bins were implemented. Composting also prevents the formation of methane gas at the landfill contributing to a cleaner atmosphere. The program has been so successful that Cheverly now gives \$1000 a year to purchase compost bins. Doug left the Composting Proposal he submitted to Cheverly for us to take a look and see if we want to do something similar. He also said he would donate money from his nonprofit as seed money for our program.
3. After a few cases where Green ACES witnessed Styrofoam at City-sponsored events, the group looked at the different recommendations they have made to council and wonder what the process is they use to actually get the recommendations implemented by staff. The group is working on a letter to the City Manager to address these issues. There was also a recommendation to put permanent recycling bins at the Roosevelt Center (or partitions in the existing ones per Jennifer Robinson's suggestion), and while we wait for that, Green ACES recommended to add language to the permit that stipulates asking for recycling bins for special events at the Roosevelt Center. The group wants to know how we can be notified when the requests are approved. Will they be enforced, will there be consequences? (Such as not hiring a vendor that does not respect our guidelines). In terms of recycling in public open spaces perhaps over a period of 3,4,5 years we can have a goal that bins increase in number throughout our parks (or whatever time line to see progress). Maggie commented that perhaps the City could make online submissions where residents request space, picnic tables, recycling, etc, and then each pertinent department gets automatically notified. What a great idea Maggie!
4. Display Case at the Community Center. Aaron and his wife helped Luisa with the setup. Di was happy with the look of it.
5. International festival on Saturday 10/27. Evan Allan from Franklin Park would like to establish relationships with all parts of Greenbelt. Volunteers to help staff the table: Michael, Konrad, Jane,

Marti Galvin, and John. They will distribute information about Clean Currents, Kill a Watt meters, Thermal leak detectors, efficient appliances, outdoor food classroom. Also the Time Bank and 8th Co-op.

6. Several members from Green ACES attended the semiannual Maryland Multi City Boards and Commissions (MMC) meeting hosted by College Park on Thursday, October 18. Green ACES noticed that all the jurisdictions present are working towards their Sustainable Maryland Certified certification. Greenbelt has stalled on it because we don't have a green team yet. John mentioned one of the speakers that does landscaping with all electric tools. Perhaps we can have them come and talk to Public Works to see if the City could also implement some electric tools in their day-to-day work.
7. Sustainability Framework. Matt D and John met to pull all the latest documents together. The Drop Box has all the right documents now. The transportation sector needs work as it is in a very different format and length from the rest. We also need some pictures to add to our final draft.
8. Announcements
 - a) Win With Your Bin Contest from October 22nd to November 2nd. Prizes donated by MOMs and REI. Awards to be held on November 26th at the City Council meeting.
 - b) Electronics Recycling event on October 27.

Adjournment: