

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Members present: John Lippert, Eva Fallon, Aaron Marcavitch, Matt Berres, Kehinde Odebo, Konrad Herling.

Excused absences: Michael Hartman, Maggie Cahalan. Absences: Herb Reed, Matt Dirksen.

Visitors: Jane Young, Jennifer Robinson, Bill Orleans, Lieutenant Schinner.

Call to order: 7:35 pm

1. August minutes were accepted.
2. Jennifer Robinson visited Green ACES about a recycling concern. She likes to walk around Greenbelt with her dog and has noticed there are no recycling bins in public spaces. She finds trash cans, but no recycling bins. She has noticed that a good amount of the materials in the trash cans (about half) are actually recyclable. She asks Green ACES if there is something we could do to encourage the City to install recycling bins in public spaces. From her research she has found that recycling is more effective and has less contamination when trash and recycling receptacles are placed next to each other and are well labeled.

Luisa commented that she conducted an inventory of all the receptacles in public spaces and has been doing assessments of the contents finding that indeed about half of the materials being thrown out could be recycled. However, the cost of outdoor recycling bins is quite high (from \$200 to \$1000) so a special disposition would have to be made in the budget to purchase the bins. Previously Luisa recommended to start with the Roosevelt Center and sent a **memorandum** (dated May 31, 2012) to Jim who forwarded it to Mike. The cost of 5 recycling bins identical to the ones at the center would be \$5,160.00

Jennifer said she has seen dividers so that one receptacle can be used as both recycling and trash. That way the only things that need to be purchased are the divided inner liner, and the special lid.

Green ACES brought up the Blues Festival and lack of recycling bins. Green ACES submitted Council Action Requests that apparently had been accepted and approved by Council. Green ACES **Report No. 2011-02** asked about permanent recycling bins at the Roosevelt Center; and **Report No. 2012-01** asked that while we are waiting for the permanent recycling bins language be added to the “Application for a public meeting reservation as provided by ordinance number 636” to encourage organizers to contact PW and ask for recycling bins. How can Green ACES be assured that this language has been added to the permit? Moreover, what can we do when PW has been notified of an event to ensure that every effort has been made to provide recycling bins for the event?

On the same vein, John commented that the reception for the Outstanding Citizen was held at the municipal building and that food was served on Styrofoam plates!!! **Report No. 2010-03** recommends that the City procure alternatives to Styrofoam such as paper plates made of post-consumer waste, and that vendor agreements indicate that all materials used should be recyclable. This report was accepted by Council in 2010. What can we do to ensure that Styrofoam is not used at a City event?

Lieutenant Schinner attended the meeting to hear a presentation by John Lippert on alternative vehicles for the Police, and to share their needs and requirements in a vehicle. John gave a Power

Point presentation on various options, keeping minds open about various uses for the vehicles; from Segways, to motorcycles, to electric vehicles. Lieutenant Schinner mentioned that for administrative duties and for some jobs, Segways or motorcycles would be a good option, but that when it comes to vehicles the Police needs them to be crashworthy, and spacious enough to carry all the equipment they need, and be police pursuit ready. He also mentioned there are many vehicles the Michigan State Police could be testing and recommend to other Police departments. Furthermore, the State of Maryland should distribute the Safe Streets grant money more equitably.

3. Display Case at the Community Center. Aaron came up with the theme: “Turning over a new leaf” for our display this year. The group talked about the different things we are promoting. Aaron said his wife Andrea wants to help with the design. He has measured the display case and will get in touch with Luisa to proceed. Konrad said that we could show the same display at other venues and mentioned the library, Springhill Rec Center, and Greenbriar.
4. Labor Day Festival Recap. Everyone agreed that the vendor awards worked really well. John said that it was easier than in previous years, but still took a lot of time from going around the booths, to writing up and printing the awards. Aaron said that pairing up with Public Works to share a booth might not have been so good for Green ACES as during his shift no one came over to the booth. He feels that information day would be better to distribute information. Jane mentioned that being with PW provided us a base to rest and leave our things when making rounds and also a place to meet the volunteers and keep the pendants and other things. She just wished the booth were placed somewhere where we could keep a better eye on the volunteers and the festival goers. Konrad mentioned that next year we could let the schools know about our efforts to recruit more volunteers. The group thanks ATHA and Aaron for their generous donation to distribute prizes to the volunteers.
5. City Council sent the letter to Prince George's County Council advising on sustainability measures for the 10-year Solid-Waste Management Plan. John has a copy of it.
6. International festival at Franklin Park on 9/29, 10/13, and 10/27 being organized by Evan Allen of Fieldstone Properties. The group decided several could participate on 10/27 by staffing an informational table. John and Jane could lend their table. Green ACES can share information on wind powered electricity, energy-efficient lighting, and recycling.
7. Announcements
 - a) Clean Car Clinic on Thursday, November 1st from 10am-1pm
 - b) MMC meeting on October 18 at College Park.
 - c) Win With Your Bin Contest from October 22nd to November 2nd.
 - d) Shredding Event on October 13.
 - e) Electronics Recycling event on October 27.

Adjournment: 9:20 pm