

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 – Community Center

Members present: Ed James, Maggie Cahalan, Herb Reed, Matt Berres, Marti Galvin, Michael Hartman, John Lippert, Megan Hughes, Konrad Herling.

Visitors: Mark Christal, Cary Coppock, Christine McElroy, Jane Young, Lore Rosenthal, Roody Rosales

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles

Excused absences: Eva Fallon, (Jim Kelly and Joyce Griffin have resigned)

Absences:

Call to order: 7:30 pm

1. November minutes approved.
2. Introductions of some of our visitors. Mark Christal is the head of the Beaver Dam Watershed group. He is interested in stormwater issues and legislation. Cary Coppock is the head of the Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek. He is interested in energy issues.
3. Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) representative Roody Rosales gave a presentation about their group. <http://www.ge-ac.org/>. GEAC is a group of Home Owners Associations (HOAs) in East Greenbelt. He showed us a map with their geographic location. They had their first annual picnic at Schrom Hills Park. To become a member dues are from \$50 to \$200 per year depending on the size, and you need to attend the meetings. Windsor Green is the largest HOA member and Greenspring II is not a member. GEAC works with the City to improve playgrounds and to set memorial benches at Schrom hills park. Thus far there are 6 playgrounds and one sitting area in Greenbelt East. They also encourage the HOAs to have a neighborhood watch program. They try to deal with home owner issues. And they have a website with lots of useful information. Marti mentioned that Hunting Ridge has a representative that attends GEAC's meetings and reports back to the HOA. GEAC is trying to generate more of a community spirit, but the HOAs are all very different and many are reluctant to use email to communicate. There is a swimming pool at Windsor Green which all GEAC members may use. Joyce Gladstone is the president of GEAC, contact her to disseminate information to all HOAs.

GEAC is planning a renewable energy training/learning series on solar power, geothermal, wind, WE CAN campaign, Clean Currents, etc. Roody says Greenbelt East is still in very preliminary phases of getting information out and generating awareness on these issues. Now that there are some leaders in the community, like Joyce, we need to get them together. Matt asked what is the biggest problem for the HOAs right now? Roody says that delinquency in the payment of dues. Matt asked what has GEAC worked on? Roody says they have worked on putting traffic circles and lights to force traffic to slow down as the pedestrian issues were important to address. They are working on architectural guidelines. Matt asked if solar panels, rain barrels, and such things would be allowed? (GHI has very strict rules regarding such things). Marti said that those topics are usually handled by the property manager, such as flooding... instead of thinking about rain gardens, the management takes care of things and does not engage the home owners.

Lore commented that Greenbelt East does not really read the News Review, they don't hear about all the things Old Greenbelt is already doing with regards to renewable energy and sustainability. Carrie commented that East Greenbelt has issues with water and tree plantings. He has seen a contractor at Ora Glen putting fertilizers on the sidewalks! Konrad mentioned that the City is

purchasing 100% wind power starting in July 2011 and that the economic aspect of renewable energy will eventually catch on to the environmental aspect as well. GEAC allows home owners to be more active participants in the community instead of just letting management take care of things as they wish. Transportation issues will affect Greenbelt East, now they are participating in TRU meetings. Walkability is important, the new post office required new cross paths be put in place.

4. Sustainability Master Plan. Land Use section. Matt distributed handouts. He talked about all the different allies and said we can now include GEAC too. Land Use was broken into five different types of usage: forest and stream corridors; farmland; mix-use/commercial development; residential; and public/municipal. Notice there are no "streets and corridors," which will be addressed by the transportation group. Matt mentioned that the City can take a leadership role in implementing sustainable practices. Also, most of the farmland around here is actually in BARC. Mark talked about BARC's commitment to reach the public and how it's dwindling as they are not having "field days" anymore.
5. Green ACES will be hosting of the Maryland Multi-City Environmental Boards and Commissions meeting at the Patuxent Wildlife Center in the fall since Gaithersburg called to have it in the Spring.
6. Green ACES will give sustainability master plan presentation to GCAN on Wednesday February 9, 2011. Megan and Lore will write a blurb and make a flier to send out to GCAN list, News Review, list serves, etc. We want to invite Green ACES "stakeholders" from the 6 sub-groups, the leader of each group can contact their allies. It was agreed that there would be a very short presentation by John about Green ACES in general; then Matt will give an overview of the sustainability master plan; then each sub-group will say something about their topic and goals; finally, Megan will explain the dynamics of the "speed dating" style breakout groups. Participants will go around the group giving opinions, comments, etc. that will be written down on big paper.
7. We Can Save Energy Campaign. Thus far there are 88 people signed up in Greenbelt. We have met the minimum of 50 people. We would like to continue promoting with individuals to sign up. In addition to that we need to focus our attention on signing up businesses. Formalizing the plan for signing up businesses will have to wait till next meeting since we are running out of time.

We Can Save Energy Event. Lore asks: Does Green ACES still plan to have a day at the New Deal Cafe, to sign up people online for www.wecansaveenergy.org and at the same time for www.cleancurrents.com (both require the same Pepco bill)? If so, GCAN would like to "partner" with us and combine this with a "support group" for the 88 people who are already signed up to come talk about how they are doing with their action commitments. Talk about this at the next meeting.

8. Clean Currents flier for city website. Lore sent Eva and Matt a flier, but it is not on the city website yet. Lore believes Kristin Schulz just sent a new flier to use instead? Eva isn't here. Talk about this through email.
9. Matt wants to share that the GHI board just signed up with Clean Currents for a 2 year contract of 100% wind!

Adjournment: 9:10 pm