

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Council liaison: Konrad Herling

Members present: John Lippert, Maggie Cahalan, Roody Rosales, Megan Hughes, Matt Berres, Michael Hartman, Ed James. Visitors: Jane Young, Lore Rosenthal, Neil Barnett. Excused absence: Herb Reed

Call to order: 7:32 pm

1. Welcome to our new member Roody Rosales!
2. February minutes were approved with corrections.
3. Earth Hour. This year Green ACES does not have time to organize intricate celebrations or walks as they did the past two years. In addition to whatever lights the City can turn off for the hour, Green ACES will encourage the New Deal Café to turn the lights off. The New Deal Café will be handing out information on the event.
4. Labor Day. John and Jane bumped into Jon Gardner who is part of the Labor Day Committee. John Gardner recommended Green ACES to start attending the meetings and to have the information ready that we want to share with the vendors. John and Jane commented that last year the Festival did not have enough recycling bins, and that the ones they had were not always paired up with trash cans. The group decided that it is very important to start following the findings that people recycle more, and there is less contamination, when recycling bins are placed right next to trash cans; and when recycling bins are identified by the now typical “recycling blue”. Jane suggested we have volunteers as much as possible standing next to every trash/recycling set helping people choose the right bin for their discards. Maggie suggested we ask the Labor Day Committee to request the vendors to not use Styrofoam. The group suggested we make a recommendation to Council to include a ban on Styrofoam with all the pertinent literature given to festival organizers. Green ACES would also like to better understand how the crews work at picking up trash and recyclables during the festival. They want to request a meeting with the appropriate PW people and crew members. The group would like to make announcements (from the stage) during the festival encouraging people to recycle by using the hopefully prominent blue bins throughout.
5. Earth Day is celebrated by the City of Greenbelt on Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Mayor Davis will make a proclamation on Monday April 11th. Green ACES members are encouraged to attend the Council meeting. Saturday’s celebration will take place at Public Works from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Green ACES will have a sustainability exhibit, a recycling table and an energy saving table. Greenbelt’s watershed groups were invited to participate. At 10:00 am there will be a rain garden planting at Schrom Hills Park, and at 12:00 noon there will be a tree planting in honor of Arbor Day.
6. Thermal leak detectors. John and Jane have donated four (4) detectors for the City. We need to make a blurb similar to one for the Kill a Watt to promote them. Also, since the thermal leak detectors are more expensive than the Kill a Watt meters, we should ask for a refundable \$40 deposit.
7. John Lippert attended a Work session with Council. He talked about all the initiatives Green ACES is promoting and about the Sustainability Master Plan. It was suggested the group have a youth representative, which Green ACES agreed would be a good idea.

8. Sustainability master plan.
 - A) Work session on a weekend – pot luck? Megan will set up the doodle so people can say when they are available.
 - B) Complete email addresses for all stakeholders’ contact info. The group agreed they will finish that project by next meeting.
 - C) John asked if we can give the password to the Google documents to our allies. Green ACES thinks this could be risky as people could delete information or change it by mistake. It is preferable to download the documents and then share them with our allies.
 - D) Green ACES agrees that the structure from the sustainability master plan from Temacula, CA is a good one and we can use it with modifications for our purposes. Matt drew an outline of their structure on the board:
 - Section (energy, waste, water, etc)
 - Goals for each section
 - Success indicators
 - Baseline and Target
 - Action Steps (A, B, C)

9. Green ACES members are invited to a Sustainability Conference organized by MD DNR, ICLEI and Sierra Club at Arlington Echo in Millersville, MD on Thursday, April 14, 2011, to discuss current sustainability trends (<http://shopdnr.com/sustainability.aspx>). Megan, Lore and Luisa are interested. Others cannot make the date.

10. We Can Save Energy Campaign:
 - A) Thus far there are 109 people signed in Greenbelt (But only 65 with successfully linked utilities). There seems to be a glitch in the software that is not making the link between the account and the utilities. Matt Berres tried several times and he gave up. John tried several times and ended up calling his friend that works for Earth Aid who fixed the problem. How many other people could not link due to Earth Aid computer issues? John said he would call Earth Aid to see if they can fix this problem. Also, the social network aspect of the software was never implemented. When are they going to upgrade to this feature?
 - B) Plan for signing up businesses. Konrad said he could get the list of businesses and the dates for meetings and would see if we can get in their agendas. There is a meeting coming up with businesses. Konrad will ask at that meeting whether we can get in the next agenda.
 - C) We Can Save Energy Signup Event at New Deal Café during the Green Man festival on May 7 and 8. John will see if someone from Earth Aid can come help sign up people. Michael will check with the New Deal to see if it would be okay to set up shop at the Café or set a table outside.
 - D) How can we make a support group for the people that have signed up? We can invite them to share their email addresses at the Green Man festival and start a list serve or some other way to communicate with one another.

11. Megan will draft a Letter for J. Davis in support of Greenbelt’s participation in Sustainable Maryland Certified. Luisa will review it and send it to the group. John can have the last review and sign it.

12. Michael shared the City-wide/Goddard Pedestrian and Bicycle Route map which was presented to the Advisory Planning Board meeting on March 16. The map shows the existing and proposed bicycle routes to communicate the Metro to Goddard.

13. Margaret Rosch Jones Award. Maggie has decided to not apply this time.

Adjournment: 9:05 pm