

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 – Community Center

Staff liaison: Luisa Robles. Council liaison: Konrad Herling. Members present: John Lippert, Ed James, Herb Reed, Michael Hartman. Excused absences: Maggie Cahalan, Matt Berres, Megan Hughes. Absences: Roody Rosales. Visitors: John Henry Jones, Jane Young, Jamie Phillips, Lore Rosenthal, Harriette Phelps.

Call to order: 7:40 pm

1. April minutes approved.
2. Labor Day Festival. - Recap from meeting attended by Jane and Luisa. The Labor Day Festival committee reiterated the need to have one recycling bin next to each trash can. They explained some things about the rules of the festival for food vendors – each vendor is allowed to have three (3) “reserved” items, that is, three items that only they can sell (smoothies, burgers, hot dogs, pizza, Asian food, etc.) – therefore we need to change the way we award points based on them having a vegetarian option. They requested we do our survey of the vendors on Saturday morning (instead of Friday night). They would like us to include both food and non-food booths in our green recognition. To tie everything up, they are going to have the theme of the booths to be “green/recycling.” And they are letting the vendors know that Styrofoam is banned from the festival (to be lenient this year, and to not allow it at all the next). Jane and Luisa suggested for volunteers to have “green personas” or some kind of green identifier so they are more comfortable addressing people with recycling concerns. Jane said Marti could help encourage kids at her school to participate, and Jane is involving grandchildren and kids from her church
3. Community Gardens. - Ed James mentioned that the gardens were established in the late 30’s and that they used to be more abundant than they are today. There seems to be a domino effect of the gardens disappearing because they get shaded and abandoned. He said the City does not properly upkeep the gardens; and that there appears to be no city official or organization that supports the Garden Club outside of the Garden Club itself, and he hopes that Green ACES could become that voice. Garden Club members were upset that the pesticide report was misrepresented by someone saying that the use of pesticides is not allowed in the gardens. The gardens are within the Forest Preserve and there is a perception that the Forest people would like to see the gardens disappear. Luisa said that the gardens are grandfathered into the preserve and that they are actually protected in the management guidelines.

John Henry took the floor and shared with the group a brief history of the gardens. A while back they used to plow all the gardens and made people take down their fences. Now that they don’t plow anymore, trees started growing in between fences and walkways. Some people disregard their gardens and trees start growing inside their plots. Trees around the edges are starting to get really big and there is some encroachment from the edges of the woods into the gardens. Also, gardening is hard work. Many people give up mid July and abandon their plots. The Garden Club would need to make some rules so people can be kicked out if they are not working the land. Bylaws, rules and regulations. Martha is the new president.

Now a fee is being charged for Garden Club members. They hope the moneys could be used to hire someone to cut trees down and to thin the edges of the woods adjacent to the gardens. John Henry met with Lesley and other people from the City to identify problem areas and possible new garden locations.

Green ACES recommends the Garden Club put all their requests in writing. Then Green ACES can serve as an ally.

4. Sustainability master plan. - Recap from work session held on Sunday, May 22nd. Six people attended at John's and Jane's house: Michael, Lore, Megan, Matt, Maggie, John and Jane. They used the Temecula plan as a guide. They decided that each team will fill out their sections before the next meeting so we can have a draft. Green ACES will offer metrics, suggestions and goals. What they would like to present to council is a framework for sustainability as the plan can only be fully developed and implemented by City staff. As part of the framework Green ACES would like to propose citizen education and outreach that Green ACES can actively participate in. Konrad mentioned that the City already has some sustainability goals in place, in accordance with regional COG and ICLEI goals. Green ACES will write a resolution to council for them to accept the framework.
5. We Can Save Energy Campaign:
 - A) Rodeo at New Deal Café at Greenman Festival: no one showed interest in signing up for WE CAN at this time. For next meeting Green ACES wants to invite all the WE CAN participants to hear about their experience and get ideas of how to continue to save energy. We'll ask Maia Davis from COG to send out an invitation to her contacts, and Luisa will advertise through the usual channels.
 - B) Konrad still needs to get the names-emails-phone numbers of the three contact people for Roosevelt Center, Greenway Plaza and Beltway Plaza.
6. Clean Currents Campaign: (10 minutes)
 - A) Rodeo at New Deal Café at Greenman Festival: three people signed up. Many others showed an interest but did not have their electric bills handy; we gave out information on how they could sign up.
 - B) There were 30 new purchases from the last energy campaign. Jane and John will work on the paperwork needed to receive the \$300 donation which will be given to CHEARS for their fruit garden project.
 - C) No one from Green ACES will be able to attend Clean Currents' canoe trip John and Jane informed Kristin.
7. Multi City Meeting. – The group agreed to have it at the New Deal Café or somewhere else in Old Greenbelt. To be discussed in more detail at next meeting.
8. The letter for J Davis in support of Greenbelt's participation in Sustainable Maryland Certified was sent. J wants to hold off giving a formal presentation until the program is actually launched.
9. Thermal leak detectors. John and Jane have donated 4 detectors for the City and 4 for GHI. John and Matt will coordinate to write a blurb.
10. Green ACES commented on some minor changes that could be made to the Green Steps section of the City's website. Asked Luisa to convey to Bev.

Adjournment: 9:10 pm