

MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2009 – Community Center, Room 114

Members present: Jim Kelly, Ed James, John Lippert (chair), Marti Galvin, Maggie Cahalan, Joyce Griffin, Konrad Herling (left early).

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles.

Excused absences: Matt Berres, Absent: Mary Chapman

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

1. *Approval of minutes.* Minutes from February were approved.
2. *Report from the 21st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation.* Thanks to Matt Berres, Maggie Cahalan, Ed James, and Jim Kelly for being site leaders. Matt got 12 volunteers and they gathered items for 7 trash bags and 6 recyclables bags. Ed and Jim got 15 volunteers, 4 trash bags and 9 recyclables bags. Maggie got 22 volunteers, 10 trash bags and 7 recyclables bags. Members had some suggestions for next year: it would be good to have fine toothed rakes, shovels, a place to put broken glass and grabbers.
3. *Revision of February recommendations.* The committee reviewed the recommendation to council about encouraging recycling at the workplace, and the Council Action Request to look into the trash can issue. Members made final corrections and comments and asked Luisa to submit to council.
4. *Announcement of Earth Day t-shirt competition winners.* Jenae Addison and Djavana Cameron from the Middle School were the winners with their design “Only you can make the Earth Ecofriendly.” Earth day will be celebrated by the City of Greenbelt on April 25. Green ACES will help with the restoration of the raingarden at the Youth Center, and will have a table with information on Green power and Recycling at the Public Works open house. The awards for the Earth Day T-shirt competition will be given at the restoration site, and free T-shirts will be distributed to the participants. John will have his Kill-a-watt meter at the PW open house.
5. *Work session report of meeting with chairs of all advisory boards.* John talked about energy at the work session. He shared Green ACES’ various activities such as the meeting with the Obama energy group, meeting with Steve Kane, Earth Hour, green electricity; as well as things the board would like to do such as purchasing Kill-a-watt meters to donate to the library/GHI/PW for people to check out – library style. (Joyce mentioned that as the president of the Friends of the Greenbelt Library, she can probably purchase the Kill-a-watt meters).

At the work session, John also mentioned that the board still needs to get the information from the new PW building in order to be able to do the calculations to participate in the *Cool Capitol Challenge*. They also talked about the Pesticide Report. Green ACES feels that after all the work they put into that document, council could take some kind of action on it. Luisa mentioned that Lesley Riddle has cut down on pesticide use by implementing the “right plant right place” philosophy. Maggie said she attended one of Lesley’s talks and feels she is implementing the spirit of the report, but the report needs to be addressed directly. John said Mayor Davis did mention they will get to it at some point.

6. *Earth Hour wrap-up.* Green ACES hosted flashlight walk on Saturday, March 28 at 8:30. John was heading the walk, he mentioned that the tennis courts were light up when he went by, but Luisa was at the end of the group of people, and she said the lights were off when she went by. The group noticed that a couple of courts on the walk were completely dark, but that most were just partially dark.
7. *Greenman Festival.* The group has decided to participate at the festival by having a table with information on green energy and on recycling. John will make a flier on green energy to be distributed. Luisa was asked to file an application. The group talked about the schedule for people to volunteer to “man” the table.
8. *Suggested Lifecycle Changes to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint.* Luisa distributed list that had been sent by Mayor Davis. Members were encouraged to take it home and think about it.
9. *Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act of 2009.* Members were wondering what happened to this act, but Konrad had left by this time.
10. *Garden report.* Maggie commented she talked to Che, president of Greenbelt West Association, about establishing some gardens in that part of town. Having gardens in all areas of the City could bring Greenbelters together. Maggie had talked to Konrad about having 3 sites linked and people working together. A person from Empirian Village had shared with Maggie that the spot where 3 buildings burned down could be a good spot for the gardens. Maggie commented that John Henry and Harriette Phelps, from the Greenbelt Garden Club, would also be interested in participating on the 3 sites initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.