

MINUTES FOR THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2009 – Community Center, Room 103

Members present: John Lippert, Maggie Cahalan, Ed James, Joyce Griffin, Marti Galvin, Matt Berres, Jim Kelly, Megan Hughes. Other attendants: Eva Fallon, Che Sayles, Susan Barnet, Bill Duncan.

Guest speakers: Lore Rosenthal and Steve Kane from GCAN

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles. Absent: Mary Chapman, Konrad Herling.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

1. *Introductions.* Eva Fallon, a prospective new member to Green ACES was in attendance. We all introduced ourselves and welcomed our possible new member.
2. *Presentation by Lore Rosenthal and Steve Kane of Greenbelt Climate Action Network GCAN.* Lore commented that she saw the world as made of many bricks. We all hold a brick and each of us is responsible for putting the mortar and holding the Earth together. She mentioned the different environmental groups in the City so we all know what our brick is and how we can better contribute. **The Meal and Reel** shows movies on environmental issues. **SMEI** has circles and engages discussions on simplicity living. **TRU** is working on transportation issues. **CHEARS** fosters the “three Rs” with the 9 lives yard sales they have at festivals, solstices and equinoxes, gardening/food/permaculture topics. **GHI** has a buildings committee and a green ribbon task force and is working on housing retrofits. **Transition Town** talks about peak oil, climate change, action projects, and partnering with other groups on gardening, bartering and re-skilling. **GIVES** is about bartering with different skills. The **Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN)** works on lobbying, Susan Stewart is involved with 1Sky, and cooperates with GCAN heading legislative issues. GCAN also organizes monthly programs on the 2nd Weds of the month. Amongst some of the topics from last year include how to reduce energy consumption, alternative energy vehicles, green jobs, transition movement, food and climate change, energy usage, etc. This year GCAN is planning talks on stormwater management, energy efficiency, Baltimore energy challenge, the David Corten movie “Moving from a corporate economy to an Earth based economy”, mountain top removal, Chris Barnet on climate change, smarter-growth multiuse development in Arlington, etc. GCAN invites Green ACES to give a presentation to their group. Green ACES agreed to do something in June.

Steve Kane started a discussion about how Green ACES and GCAN can work together in the future. How can we facilitate for all green organizations to get together and combining forces for outreach and involving citizens to do things with and for the City. Steve suggested working on a calendar on Google docs where all environmental events would be listed. Eva agreed to talk to Steve about the technicalities. John volunteered to put some information up on the calendar. Luisa said she could update City events as well. Could Beverly Palau help with something like this?

3. *Labor Day Information Day update.* John Lippert, Megan Hughes, Marti Galvin and Ed James volunteered at the Green ACES table on Saturday, September 5. They handed out information about recycling. People are happy with the new yes/no flier. However, Megan and Marti commented that Green ACES needs a logo and a sign with its name. We need to start sharing with the public the new broader mission of sustainability. We need more materials and props that reflect our new mission. Other comments about labor day: there did not seem to be enough recycling bins around. There should always be a recycling bin next to every trash can at every event and in the recreational fields. At the Roosevelt Center there are two spots to put recyclables. That is insufficient. Next to every single trash can there should be a recycling bin. Next year Green ACES should team up with the

organizers of the Labor Day festival to “green” the festival, not just with recycling bins, but in many other ways. Matt commented that instead of spending our time thinking about banners and logos we should be thinking about the broader agenda for the group and to do things that will actually happen. If Green ACES generates a sustainability plan, will it just sit on a shelf like the pesticide report? How can we get management to actually implement the recommendations that Council approves? We need the City to get behind the sustainability plan.

4. *Plan of action. What is Green ACES going to do this coming year?* The group wants to continue to participate in various events and organize activities as well as to start the development of an actionable sustainability master plan. Ed will look into sites for a possible cleanup on October 3 as part of the livable community initiative of Prince George’s County. Earth Hour is an event in which we would like to participate if the City buildings actually turned all the non-essential lights off and if the City made a better effort to get the word out to all employees and to the public in general.
5. *Sustainability plans for the City.* To begin with the masterplan John asked that people email him with ideas for a mission statement and vision. It was brought up again that the group does not have the power and support from the City to actually get things done. How can Green ACES be more relevant? Megan mentioned the City’s visioning goals and that we should use those as a starting point. The group discussed ICLEI and how it would help the City on the path of sustainability. Also, we can have a guest speaker with experience in these matters address the group.
6. *Clean Currents update.* As of July, 70 households have signed up using the Greener Greenbelt option that donates to the Greenbelt foundation.
7. *Other issues.* Bill Duncan from Friends of the Still Creek, and Susan Barnet representing the Beaver Dam Watershed, addressed the group. Prince George’s County is currently formulating an ordinance to comply with the State’s Stormwater Management Act of 2007. Bill and Susan are requesting that Green ACES recommend that City Council send a letter to Prince George’s County in favor of a strong stormwater ordinance which will assure that the streams and watersheds be protected from at least a one-year storm event. Maggie put the motion on the table that Green ACES recommend such letter to Council. The motion passed 5-2-1.
8. *Luisa’s reminders:* 1. Wednesday, September 30 at 8:00 pm is the Council work session on the Pesticide report. 2. Shred it day – Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. 3. Electronics recycling – Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Public Works Yard. (We can make this event in honor of 350 day: www.350.org).

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.