

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
March 11, 2014, 7:30-9:00PM
City Hall

Agenda:

Around the room (5 min)

Formalizing the Green Team (20 min)

- Environmental Protection Board Resolution
- Green Team Resolution
- Vision, Mission, Role
- Broadening our reach

Goals & Activities for 2014: Discussion on what we are working towards (45 min)

- Bundling activities into larger goals related to natural resources, water, air, and energy
- Example
 - Reduce Solid Waste to save the city money and conserve natural resources
 - Increase recycling
 - Develop recycling brochure for Mt. Rainier Message
 - Recommend City purchase larger recycling bins
 - Increase backyard composting
 - Recommend City continue to subsidize backyard bins for residents
 - Launch social marketing campaign
 - Encourage upcycling through demonstration projects

Updates (20 min)

- Spring Greening Fair – Mount Rainier Nature Center – April 19
- Civic Center (Brent)
- Levee / Arundel Green Street (MaryLee)
- Keep America Beautiful Grant
- Others?

Future Meetings: The Second Tuesday of every month

April 8

May 13

June 10

Meeting Minutes Green Team Meeting March 11, 2014

BUDGET

Brent would like the Green Team to chime in on Mt Rainier's green budget needs. Not only are we thinking for the Green Team but also, for the City (e.g. compost bin purchases, bike plan implementation, etc).

MOUNT RAINIER NATURE CENTER SPRING GREENING FAIR

The Green Team was invited to have a booth at the first spring greening fair at the Mt Rainier Nature Center. This looks like a great event for us to provide information to residents about our team and sustainability efforts. In the meeting we discussed composting, recycling demos, green energy information, etc. I spoke with the organizer and he encouraged demos because the audience will largely be kids and families. I think we could do a couple things at our table. The fair is April 19th from 10-2PM. Our registration form is due April 1. Any group or individual is invited to participate along the themes of the event so please pass around to your networks.

CIVIC CENTER

Members of the Green Team are invited to meet with the architect for the Civic Center - a \$7M project that will be where the library is. The Council was presented the design drawings and the Green Team has the opportunity to meet with the LEED consultant on the project and discuss what additional points/rating are possible to meet sustainability goals. Stormwater management is a weakness. We have the opportunity to provide input and offer recommendations to the architects and the City. The architects are able to meet with us in the next few weeks. **If you are interested in participating in this let me know by 3/18 and I will include you in the doodle poll.** Currently on my list is Brent, Bill and Lynn.

HAPPY HOUR WITH EDMONSTON GREEN TEAM

We are invited to meet with the Edmonston Green Team and with University Park Council member Dave Brosch. More information to come.

GREEN TEAM WORK PLAN FOR 2014

MaryLee drafted some ideas of how to formulate a work plan and passed around to the attendees.

It was decided that the team should have a work plan and produce an annual report each year. The work plan and report would be made available to the Council and could serve to help with grant applications.

We discussed that the work plan could include low-hanging fruit - things we are already doing and expect to complete this year, make progress towards a certain goal, create on-ramps for residents to get involved (outreach/education efforts), in other words lets expand the choir, including social marketing, grants, partnerships, etc. and focus on things the team can really do to help the City make green decisions. Grants were mentioned as a big way the team can help given the budget situation.

The discussion focused a lot on recycling and composting as specific work areas including social marketing efforts such as home green certification.

GREEN TEAM ROLE

We discussed the function of the Environmental Protection Board (EPB), which was established in 2007 as the advisory board on environmental matters to the City Council, and the Green Team that was established in 2012 to create and implement the City's sustainability plan to meet Sustainable Maryland Certification. Many see there is a need to have a Board or Committee that serves in an advisory role on environmental matters. Currently the EPB members are absorbed into the Green Team but the Green Team's role has not been advisory except in a few situations (e.g. Arundel Road Green Street). We discussed re-vitalizing the EPB. On paper we could keep the bodies separate but in function they could be one (this is how they are now). This would require us to renew the EPB mission and goals (outdated) and re-appoint members. The current 5 board members expire this month. Alternately, we could do away with the EPB and re-write the ordinance for the Green Team to be the advisory body to the Council, have 5 members that are appointed, voting members if decisions need to made, and keep all the other representation on the Green Team we have currently. We tossed around ideas and there are virtues to both. Additionally, I had an exchange with the new director for the Maryland Sustainable Certification program and he was very open to either. I also discovered other communities that are getting certified are having similar organizational struggles. Next Steps: MaryLee will have further discussions with Brent to gauge how the Council might perceive modification of the current status quo.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 8