

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
March 9, 2015, 7:00-8:30PM
City Hall

Agenda:

- Outreach and partnership opportunities with Mt Rainier elementary schools
- Update from City on development projects
 - Arundel Green Street
 - Allison Street Levee Project
 - Buchanan Green Street
 - StreetSense Development
- Residential recycling and composting in Mt Rainier
- Green Team participation in Spring Greening Fair 2015
- Project updates: Carbon footprint, wildlife pocket park

Upcoming Events

- March 18, 6:00-8:00PM: State Highway Administration community meeting at Mount Rainier Elementary (4011 32nd St.) on Queens Chapel Community Safety and Enhancement Project
- April 18, 12:00-4:00PM: Mount Rainier Nature Center Spring Greening Fair
- April 25: Annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap at the Mount Rainier Toolshed

Future Meetings: The Second Monday of every month

April 13

May 11

June 8

March Meeting Minutes

Here are notes and actions from our meeting last Monday. Thanks again for everyone who came out, especially Jes and Andrea. I think it was a good meeting where we identified some areas of help/partnership with the City schools.

Mt Rainier Elementary Schools

Jes from Thomas Stone and Andrea from Mt Rainier Elementary gave us an overview of the challenges and current practices at their respective schools. Their immediate interest is to get recycling going. At Thomas Stone they are doing no recycling currently (as far as Jes is aware) and Mt Rainier Elementary is doing a little with paper. Each breakfast and lunch generates plastic waste, food waste that all goes into the trash. Andrea and Jes were not aware of any recycling dumpsters at the schools but during the meeting we determined each school should have a recycling dumpster that is serviced by Aries - a contractor that works for the County/PGCPS. Their contract requires regular pick-up. Andrea and Jes emphasized that teachers want to recycle but they don't have the infrastructure or time for implementation. They need help getting this started. Andrea said that Mt Rainier Elementary puts paper out in the City yellow bins every Friday for City pick up. We discussed how the City should not be picking up the school recycling. Andrea also said there was a Green Team at one time but the teacher who was leading is now transitioned into another position.

Jes explained that it would be great to do composting but they are not there yet. Priority list would be to get recycling going first and then in a subsequent year get composting and then other projects. There is an overarching goal for all PGCPS schools to be Green certified schools. There was also discussion about the need for linkage between the community and schools. Lots of ideas for projects were discussed. Ideas included:

- Speakers - Green Team could help with identifying and organizing speakers on green issues
- Grants- City can incorporate schools/education into grant proposals; Green Team could help write grants for specific projects (e.g. CBT education grants)
- City-community-school initiative such as composting month - City could declare a month as a focus on composting, organizing demonstrations, speakers, events. Other ideas could include National Pollinator Week, recycling month, etc.

Jessica from Flywheel Development outlined an idea to partner with the schools on the Perry Street Townhomes project. The objective would be to expose the students to the different jobs involved in building from architects to landscape designers. Flywheel and the City are applying for funds via a CBT grant and are looking for letters of support from the schools.

ACTIONS:

- Jes and Andrea will check and see if 1) they have a recycling dumpster and 2) if it is being serviced regularly (should be 1-2 times a week). If there is not a recycling dumpster or regular service, the Green Team will draft a letter for the City Council to co-sign and send it to the CEO of PGPCS emphasizing the importance of recycling to the City and community. UPDATE: I've sent a letter to Andrea and Jes and cc'd Veronica, Brent and Joseph. Once we get information that will inform whether we write this letter.
- MaryLee will connect Jes and Andrea to Alice Ferguson Foundation Trash Free Schools contacts (complete)
- Green Team members and Andrea and Jes to think about projects and grants we can collaborate on.
- Green Team can serve as mentors for school Green Teams.

City Recycling/Budget Proposal

We had a quick discussion about the City recycling rate and the budget proposal for bigger and better carts. We didn't get the impression it has much traction at the Council. There was discussion about the need for education/outreach and the likely need to get funding to do this. Brent/Veronica suggested we come to a Council meeting and present and bring a public works official from another town who has made the transition with success.

Spring Greening Fair

Everyone at the meeting was unavailable to help on April 18. Unless I hear from two people who can help out, we are not going to participate this year. Sad as it is, we all have a lot going on. We can't do everything. Initially I said I might be available to do something but I am unavailable as well.

ACTION:

- If you want to lead or support our participation this year and are available from 12-4 April 18, please contact me by 3/25.

DC Greening Festival

Veronica got the City a booth at this festival and will be selling tickets. The City will receive \$5 for every ticket sold. Veronica is looking for ideas for an updated display, handouts, table materials.

ACTION: If you have ideas or want to help please contact Veronica.