

Green Team Meeting Notes
May 18, 2015

Attendees:

MaryLee Haughwout

Veronica Owens

Joseph Jakuta

Bill Updike

Krista Schlyer

Green Team Budget

We made some good headway in the recycling cart funding proposal for FY16 but ultimately were unsuccessful in getting it funded. I presented our proposal to the Council in early May and although several members seemed interested, funding is a challenge. The good news is that we got some airtime and people are thinking about this. We've been presenting this as cost saving to the City with the ability to save at least \$7,500 per year in tipping fees once we pay of the cost of the bins. The Department Managers did support this in the budget (which is great!) but ultimately it wasn't approved by the Council. I've been listening in on various webinars and receiving lots of great emails from the Recycling Partnership whose sole purpose is to help communities transition from bins to carts. If you want to hear some good presentations on the economics and rationale behind larger carts for recycling there is a recent seminar you can access [here](#). Also there is some good information about communications and contamination (an issue for all communities including Mt. Rainier).

Joseph met with the Mayor on a related issue and she voiced her interest in mandatory recycling and using old trash cans for recycling. This last item is an interesting idea but I think is flawed and we need to better communicate why that is not a good practice. Contamination is a big issue and worry that using an old trash can may result in more issues. Also I think of recycling carts as a form of infrastructure that indicates this is important to the City and it should be important to residents as well. I think getting more information from the Recycling Partnership would be helpful.

We have more money to spend from our budget - based upon my accounting it currently around \$650. I gave \$500 towards the Mount Rainier's DC Green Festival efforts last week.

Pay as You Throw

Bill provided an overview of a recent presentation he heard on PAYT. This is a practice that results in immediate savings and increased recycling rates upon implementation. As the title describes residents are responsible for buying special trash bags (in some communities they use special trash cans) and the more trash you produce, the more you pay. The incentive is not to produce more trash because it costs more, therefore residents focus more on diversion through recycling, composting and donations, etc.

Bill put together the following slides based upon Mt. Rainier data. I encourage you to take a look. It is very impressive to see the savings and reduction in carbon. His calculations project an annual trash diversion of 444 tons, and the program generating tipping fee savings of \$26,200 annually.

Buchanan Green Street

Veronica gave an overview of the status of the Green Street project. RFP opened on April 5 and there was a pre-proposal meeting on April 22 that was well attended. Proposals are due on June 8 and award notifications will occur on June 30. Krista and I will be on the review panel for the proposals and will speak on behalf of Green Team interests.

Arundel Road Project

Everyone probably saw the email from the County but basically the project on Arundel Road associated with the levee is not a Green Street but an "Urban Restoration Project." I think it is important to make this distinction since it is becoming clear that the County will not be able to meet minimum stormwater capture requirements as specified by the Stormwater Design Manual. They are stating those standards are for new development and re-development and this project is categorized as something different. There are site constraints with bioretention but we need to keep the pressure on to embrace other practices such as permeable pavers and pavement. To me these doesn't seem to be any reason why this couldn't be embraced in the parking and hiker biker trail. I don't want to seem ungrateful because this street will be improved and have some stormwater capture but think we need to make sure it is the best it can be.

DC Green Festival

Veronica provided an update on the Festival and Mt Rainier's involvement June 5 and 6. The City has several sponsors and will have many different items featured as part of the booth including info about the Net Zero homes and the smoothie bike from the Watering Hole. The City was facing a budget shortfall for the festival so we contributed \$500. Veronica - please send an info on tickets since I believe the City receives some money with each sale.

In other news - The City received funding for an electric vehicle! This vehicle will be used for code enforcement.

We only have 10 compost bins left for sale! Our communications efforts have been working.