

Green Team Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2015

Attendees:

MaryLee Haughwout
Jessica Higgins
Krista Schlyer
Bill Updike
Joseph Jakuta
Brian Higgins
Veronica Owens

The meeting focused on discussing the Green Team work plan for 2015-2016 and identifying priorities and leads for particular actions. MaryLee will be presenting the work plan to the City Council at their work session on October 20. See the revised work plan for items and points of contact on the team who agreed to lead or monitor particular items.

Discussion focused around the following items:

Waste Reduction

Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

Bill introduced this as something to look into and present to the Council in the coming months. The objective is to reduce waste to landfill and encourage diversion to recycling, composting and reuse and reduction of materials. The PAYT model results in immediate reductions of landfill trash and can create a new revenue source for the City because residents are required to purchase special trash bags. Bill had the company that calculated the numbers for DC run the numbers for Mount Rainier. He sent this information to the Council but did not hear anything back. There is a company that runs programs around the country and they support communications and implementation. There was some discussion about doing a pilot and how to do that and the need for a long transition time given communication and compliance issues with basic rules in the City now. In the next year, it was agreed that we work to get this item on the Council's radar. Bill agreed to be the lead on this item.

Related to this discussion was other communication and outreach efforts related to reducing waste. The next Envirominute by Jessica will be on recycling. We also discussed continuing to contribute content in The Message (City monthly newsletter). Contributions are due by the 22nd of every month. Jessica Higgins volunteered to write something for the December newsletter on reuse and recycling. This content will be due to Veronica by Nov. 22.

There was a question about the County's curbside compost program. They did a pilot in a community a year or so ago and there was talk about scaling up to other communities. What is the status? Bill said he would find out from PG DOE.

Recycling continues to be a topic of interest from the team and MaryLee discussed setting a goal for improvement in recycling rates for the City residents. For example, we know the current rate of tons collected last year and in 2013. Is there a way to set a goal using some sort of scientific method? The goal would be a way to measure and work towards improvement, assuming certain efforts are made over the coming year to improve communications and outreach. Bill mentioned old data sets from the past 10 years Luther collected. Is there a way to get this information to track how we've been doing over the past 10 years? **Bill said he'd look in his emails.** Veronica said Jeannelle might have on her old computer (now used by Larry). Joseph was willing to help track down.

Green Purchasing Policy

We do have one that Krista worked on with an intern several years ago. However, implementation largely has not happened. Veronica wasn't aware we had one. MaryLee put it on the work plan because it was an area we didn't get points on for Sustainable Maryland because we had no evidence of implementation. **Veronica said that Jessica Love might be able to work on this during her year with the City.**

Energy

The NetZero Townhomes - are coming in the next few months. There is an opportunity to do press and communications around this. Veronica asked for the Green Team to think about opportunities.

Residential Green Certification Program – This item has been in our work plan from last year and MaryLee said it seems like a heavy lift. We agreed to modify to promote certification programs from other communities that homeowners can use as a tool to self-certify such as City of Arlington certification program.

Wind Energy – Brian has started to look into. Veronica volunteered that Jessica might be able to help with getting quotes. The City stopped purchasing wind energy when Clean Currents went under in 2013. The Green Team needs to present options to the Council/City staff and make a recommendation. Brian mentioned the Community Purchasing Alliance makes bulk purchases that help reduce costs. **MaryLee will send the info Brian compiled on companies to call to Jessica.**

LED Streetlights – Still an area of interest for Green Team but there are big challenges due to structural impediments. Continue to push Sustainable Maryland to host workshop and explore regulatory fixes.

Green Infrastructure/Local Habitat

31st St Pocket Park - MaryLee mentioned this is a big opportunity but needs some leadership. MaryLee spoke with Malinda and she wants to get this going this winter and organize a public meeting in November. Mary Abe is working on the design. The Green Team could help support but need to make it known. Krista mentioned the opportunity for stormwater funding from the

County and funding via the next Art Lives Here grant which is focused on environment and the arts. Krista agreed to be point on this and reach out to the Mayor and Mary.

Architectural Conservation Overlay Zone

Joseph talked briefly about the ACOZ and a letter he drafted from the Green Team. He'd like Green Team input and will send in a separate email.