

Draft Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes
February 8, 2016 7:00-8:30 PM
City Hall

Joseph Jakuta
Veronica Owens
Jessica Lawrence
MaryLee Haughwout
Bill Updike
Krista Schyler
Serenella Linares
Bernadine Sanders
Mimi McKindley-Ward
Scott Wilson
Rocio Lima-Martinez
Ashley Herber

Agenda

1. Budget

a. Pocket Park

Joseph brought up that the current budget has a line item for the pocket park and would like to consider using that money for the school aprons if nothing is moving forward with the park. At this point the park is waiting still on the MOU to be signed. Jessica reminded the team that money may be available from certain fees FlyWheel had to pay to benefit the future generations. Similar money may be available from other projects.

- *Veronica will reach out to Zunilda Rodriguez concerning the money available for parks.*

- *Jessica will look into the money Flywheel made available for parks in the community.*

b. FY17 Submission

Joseph reviewed the submission. The team agreed to include the pocket park and compost line items from last year's submission as well as a line item for a solar meter for city hall that should be added to the city building budget. The solar meter should be described as partially educational. Spanish materials were to be included in the recycling materials section. The team was fine with including the policy proposal for changing bulk trash and thought that we should aim for including all of the new recycling bins in one year's budget will simplify issues with rollout.

- *Joseph will make the updates suggested at the meeting.*

- *MaryLee will flesh out the policy proposal section with the needed information.*

- *Comments are due by Thursday 2/11 on the document.*

c. 2015 Year in Review

Joseph discuss the year in review document that needs to accompany the budget proposal and commented on the great number of accomplishments the

team has.

- *Joseph will make the updates suggested at the meeting.*

- *Comments are due by Thursday 2/11 on the document.*

2. **Green Team Summit**

Joseph described last year's Green Team summit. The Nature Center expressed interest in attending, but it was determined that may benefit more attending as a vendor rather than through the city. Krista, Jessica Lawrence, and MaryLee expressed interest in attending the event, and Veronica may as well. This event may provide an opportunity to collaborate with other cities on some projects that are harder to complete without more communities' involvement such as the plastic bag ban, LED street lights, and comments on the resource plan.

- *Joseph will reach out to the city council to see if there is interest in attendance.*

3. **Development Projects**

a. **Street Sense/Urban Ecosystems Restoration**

Rachel from Urban Ecosystems Restoration, a consultant hired by Street Sense, would like to meet interested Green Team members to discuss her ideas for green/art space at the Street Sense development. If the city likes the plans she proposes it is likely that the TIF mechanism can be used to require any work in some way. Jessica, Mimi, MaryLee, and Krista volunteered to meet with them.

- *Joseph will reach out to Rachel to set up a meeting.*

b. **Green Ordinance**

Jessica discovered some of her findings from the DPIE website concerning Mount Rainier's ability to enhance our green building code. The city and the county both have some ability to regulate residential and commercial building code, but where the division lies is murky. Maryland at the state level has adopted more recent international green codes than county so the city should be able to adopt the same codes as the state, but there is uncertainty. The recommendation however is focus on making a change at the county level and bring this forward at the summit to see if other municipalities are interested in joining us.

4. **County Resource Conservation Plan - Krista**

This an opportunity for us to really influence the county's priorities over the coming decades in regards to planning. There is not a specific draft plan but they are combining three existing plans. There is another listening session on February 23 and a draft is expected to be available for meetings in March.

- *Krista will put together some bullets for comment so that people can take them to the February 23 session.*

- *We will take the comments forward to summit to see if a joint letter can be signed.*

5. **BikeWays Grant**

Joseph reviewed the work plan for the Bikeways grant. It was suggested that we go back and confirm with the Bike Master Plan to make sure the workplan matches and that unnecessary bike racks not be included. Bike racks would be necessary at the schools. We also discussed the need for a Complete Streets Plan as a requirement of the grant, and Bill stated that the Green Infrastructure Plan in conjunction with the Bike Master

Plan was intended to be the Complete Streets Plan.

- *Joseph will draft up our feedback and distribute it for comments due Thursday.*

6. Events

a. Spring Green Fair

i. Activity for Green Team

Serenella let us know that she rearranged the listing of activities so that the Green Team can do the compost demonstration, which will work well with our promotion of the compost bins for sale. We would have a table and an hour long demonstration. There was discussion of donating a compost bin for raffle, which the Team agreed was a good idea.

- *Joseph will look into what is needed to donate the compost bin.*

ii. Other Coordination

- *Joseph will email the list serve and put updates on the Facebook page as they become available.*

- *Veronica will include mentions of the event in the The Message.*

b. DC Green Festival

A variety of options were discussed for Green Team participation in the Green Festival. Nothing clear was decided upon, but there was interest in the Team participating.

- *Contact Veronica with interest in participating as a volunteer*

7. Long Term Goal: Carbon Footprint Reductions

a. Renewable Purchasing

Joseph reviewed Jessica Love's work getting quotes for the city concerning renewable purchases. There was discussion of the variable pricing aspects of the proposal, though Bill stated that the issue of the price being less expensive overall should not be a problem. We should need to council to OK this decision, but should not require a formal resolution.

- *Veronica will include us on the next work session to bring this up and Bill will reach out to Groundswell to ask if they can attend.*

8. Topics for a Later Date

a. College Park Bikeshare - Patricio

b. Green Purchasing - City Staff

c. Complete Street Plan

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: March 14, 2016

PG County Green Team Summit: March 3, 2016

Spring Green Fair: April 16, 2016

DC Green Festival: May 6-8?, 2016

Mount Rainier Day: May 21, 2016