

**Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes**  
**April 11, 2016 7:00-9:00 PM**  
**City Hall**

**Attendees**

Joseph Jakuta  
Jessica Love  
Jessica Lawrence  
Patricio Ilerena  
Scott Wilson  
MaryLee Haughwout  
Veronica Owens  
Bryan Higgins  
Doug Alexander

1. **Letters**

Joseph told the committee that both of the letters, the one concerning the Resource Conservation Plan and the one concerning state legislative matters, were sent to the appropriate parties towards the end of March.

2. **Resource Conservation Plan**

Joseph informed the committee that another meeting would occur concerning the Resource Conservation Plan on May 4 in Bowie and that it would be great if Green Team members could attend.

- *Joseph will attend the meeting and send out a reminder for it.*

3. **Waste Issues**

a. **Zero Waste**

Doug Alexander from NIE came to discuss zero waste, which is a new project NIE is undertaking. To undertake zero waste there is a need for a 3 bins system (trash, recycling, and composting). Maryland does have a zero waste plan but is hasn't seen much implementation. There is the possibility of delivering compost to the PG County Facility, but we would have to pick up the compost ourselves. University Park already picks up their own compost. Regular trash trucks are fine for compost pick up. A pilot project would be a good start, though it would need to be either mandatory or financially incentivized to be successful. NIE would provide funding for the compost pickup bins if we proceed with this.

b. **Big Belly Trash Cans - item added**

The one will be placed in front of city hall and the second somewhere on 34th street yet to be determined. There will be a walk through in a few weeks to site the second one.

c. **DCEN - PAYT**

There is a morning training sponsored by DCEN to learn more about pay as you throw programs and Mimi McKindley-Ward will attend for the Green Team.

- *Joseph will reach out to Mimi to either get her to give an update at the next meeting or get an update to provide on her behalf.*

d. **PG County for Recycling**

Joseph discussed the idea of switching to having the county pick up recycling rather than the city and that Hyattsville saved a considerable amount of money switching. Joseph asked if he should bring this up during the budget work sessions. The committee felt we needed to crunch the numbers first and only bring it up if we had solid numerical backing.

- *Joseph will look into whether or not it was cost effective to switch to county recycling.*

#### 4. Events

##### a. **DC Green Festival**

Mount Rainier will not have a table this year.

##### b. **AWS/Nature Center Earth Day Watershed Cleanup**

There is confusion as to what the Green Team should be doing for this event. The Nature Center site is full. We can participate there, but would not be able to promote the event because there are no spots for the general public or the schools. Council member Loh is also discussing being a site leader for a local cleanup.

##### c. **Spring Greening Fair**

We will have an activity centered around composting. We will have a quiz/game for the kids where they determine what is compostable, recyclable, etc. The compostables should include browns and greens. We should have the stages of compost as a prop. Judy Walsh-Mellet will also bring her worm composting when she arrives. We should bring information on the compost bins, recycling fact sheets, and Jessica's fact sheet. We also need to make sure public works delivers the compost bin for raffling by the Nature Center to Joseph

#### 5. Development Projects

##### a. **Buchanan Green Street**

Jessica Love introduced the 100% plan for Buchanan Green Street and we discussed ways to promoting the completion of the project which is expected towards the end of May. The committee discussed reaching out to Greater Greater Washington and The Washington Post, social media promotion, creating an EnviroMinute video, reaching out to the apartments, and holding a ribbon cutting. Several committee members expressed interest in attending a ribbon cutting or other similar event.

##### b. **Rainier Manor**

Construction has begun and there were no real efforts made by Rainier Manor to make the project greener. There will be an influx of money for tree planting from the impervious fees paid to the city.

##### c. **Flywheel**

The project is still waiting on a site development permit from the county. Construction on the structures is beginning on April 28 in Delaware. It is too soon to set any dates from events to promote such as a ribbon cutting because of the permit problem.

#### 6. Carbon Footprint Reductions

##### a. **LED Street Lights**

There is a grant that should be pursued called the Community Legacy Program that could be used for LED street lights. Public works is probably the best source for data on what street lights are available. If not information on how many street lights we have and which ones are owned by the city will be necessary.

##### b. **Renewable Purchasing**

Joseph is continuing to follow developments on the City Council concerning the GroundSwell proposal

#### 7. Business Outreach

##### a. **Recycling Requirements**

##### b. **Styrofoam Ban**

Due to time constraints this topic was not discussed in great detail but the committee did agree that it was a good topic to pursue on a future occasion.