

Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes
May 9, 2016 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Attendees

Joseph Jakuta
MaryLee Haughwout
Jessica Love

1. June Meeting Canceled

The June Meeting of the Mt Rainier Green Team is canceled. The next meeting will be July 11, 2016.

2. Remaining FY 2016 GT Budget

Joseph discussed that, assuming the ICLEI bill was paid that we have about \$450 remaining to spend prior to the end of the fiscal year, which ends on June 2016. Joseph discussed that the solar meter was to be installed under the FY 2017 budget so there was no need for us to use our remaining budget to pay for purchase and installation. There may be some access already online to the solar system with only a need for a password. Joseph suggested supporting Thomas Stone through the "Green Ambassador" and MaryLee expressed concern about not supporting both schools, though Joseph said he will talk to Jes Ellis about that since she is involved in both. The need for recycling bins at the schools were also discussed, but that would be beyond our budget. Jessica brought up the idea of a native rain garden planting project that might need support as well. We also discussed the neighborhood trash pick up success and how there were recommendations to make it a recurring event that might need some funding for trash bags, though it is possible that Tracy Loh would like to support this effort too so we should discuss it with her.

- Joseph will reach out to Samantha and maybe Mike Hunninghake to figure out whether we have access to a solar meter.

- Joseph will contact Jes Ellis to see about "Green Ambassador" aprons.

- Jessica Love will look into funded needed for the rain garden project.

3. Resource Conservation Plan Update

The draft plan will be out in on July 28 and public hearing will occur in late September. We should see if the council will comment then. They did discuss the idea of focussing portions of the plan on the inner suburbs since they have the least amount of green infrastructure. In the long term we should consider looking at how we could pursue similar goals in Mt Rainier, or maybe among the several smaller municipalities, but more resources would be needed.

4. City Manager

a. Walk Through

Joseph discussed his meeting the new city manager, Miranda Braatz, and her request to have the Green Team do a walk through of city hall to look at ways to green up operations. This could occur during a morning coffee time if more convenient. Jessica brought up the potential problems with the cleaning crews too and recycling and perhaps shadowing them one night might be necessary.

- Joseph will work on scheduling a walk through with the staff.

b. Green Purchasing

Joseph also discussed Miranda's interest in green purchasing. MaryLee mentioned that there may be a resolution, either draft or on the books, calling for green purchasing, and that Krista would know best. There should also be some materials available that Krista had an intern put together several years ago that could be provided to the city as well.

5. Development Projects

a. Fee in Lieu Of

Joseph reviewed what he has learned about what the county calls “fee in lieu of” that are paid when a lot is subdivided, which was the case in the flywheel development. The fees can only be made available for capital improvement projects and might be a good source of funding for the pocket park on 31st street. The fees go into a fund that is available to a subsection of the area managed by the park planner (there are three areas in the county), but Joseph did not determine how big that subset is.

- Joseph will continue to research the subject.

b. Buchanan Green Street

Work is underway on the project which should be completed towards the end of the month and members of the GT are interested in participating in a ribbon cutting event, though cannot help plan it. We can help social media promotion.

c. 34th Street Bridge

Jessica discussed the status of the 34th Street Bridge project, which is the first step in the levee project. MaryLee reminded the committee of the ask for the slip lane to be removed. We also discussed the ask to the 2 for 1 tree replacement needed to offset the 278 trees being removed and the inclusion of a green street from 34th to 31st streets along Arundel. There also is a need to ensure that equipment isn't damaging the trees that aren't being removed during work and that they are clearly marked. Jessica mentioned here may be a stream restoration project as part of this work, but it was unclear where that would occur.

- MaryLee will follow up with the city council and staff concerning the issues that were resolved when this topic originally came up.

6. Events

a. Greening Fair Update

Attendance at our table was spotty until Judy brought her worms, which attracted the kids. We did give away a compost bin to support the city's composting efforts.

- Joseph will reach to Serenella to get pictures from the event that have not yet been obtained and post them on facebook.

b. Clean Up Update

Update given earlier during item #2.

- Joseph will reach out to Tracy to get pictures from the event.

c. Mt Rainier Day Planning

MaryLee discussed her work on developing a ZeroWaste event for Mt Rainier Day. The biggest challenge is with the food vendors and we discussed using facebook to find vendors that may already use recyclable and compostable materials. Veteran's should be able to remove the compostables, but we would need volunteers to oversee waste stations since the event will require 3 bins (landfill, recyclables, compostables).

7. Waste Issues

a. DCEN - PAYT

No discussion occurred since Mimi was not in attendance, but video of the event is online and Joseph will send it to the team.

b. Recycling Cost Analysis Update

Joseph discussed the updates he made to the recycling financial analysis. He mentioned that he updated it to include the PG running the program option and also considered truck maintenance, fuel, and replacement. In the end keeping it in house with the city and only upgrading to 32 gallon bins was still the best option, unless you were to consider the city labor being used for other work.

8. Carbon Footprint Reductions

a. LED Street Lights

Joseph began conducting a survey of all of the street lights in the city. There are street lights downtown that are owned by the city and in Kaywood that are not owned by Pepco that may be better targets for LED replacement. Joseph is looking into applying for a grant to replace the street lights. We should see if the Pepco owned lights can be separated from the city owned lights in order to see what the difference in bills are from replacing ours.

- Jessica will forward Joseph a Pepco bill in order to figure out what information dissection is available.

b. Renewable Purchasing - Tabled

9. Business Outreach - Tabled

a. Recycling Requirements

b. Styrofoam Ban

10. Topics for a Later Date

a. College Park Bikeshare

b. LED for Buildings

c. Complete Streets

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: July 11, 2016 at 7PM

PG Green Summit: Thursday May 19, 2016 - During the day

Mount Rainier Day: October 1, 2016