

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

**Attendees**

Joseph Jakuta  
MaryLee Haughwout  
Krista Schlyer  
Mimi McKindley-Ward

1. **Renewable Purchasing**

The City Council approved moving forward with purchasing 100% renewable power through the power provider recommended by Groundswell. Staff is finishing up the paperwork currently.

2. **Green Ambassador Aprons**

The Green Team purchased "Green Ambassador" aprons for the two schools in order to benefit the children that collect recyclables during lunch. Once the school year starts the Green Team should hold an event with the schools to talk about recycling with the kids. MaryLee brought up the question of whether we renewed our ICLEI membership with the budget and Joseph mentioned that we did, though we don't know who will go about entering the information.

- *Joseph will contact Jes Ellis concerning setting up a Green Team/Green Ambassador Event*
- *Joseph will make sure a contact is registered with ICLEI from the current city staff*
- *Joseph will discuss with city staff who is best able to enter the energy bills*

3. **City Hall Walk Through**

Joseph conducted a walkthrough of City Hall the Friday prior to the meeting with an eye towards increasing sustainable practices during daily city hall operations. The walkthrough was based on a checklist developed with input from the Green Team. The draft recommendations were reviewed and input was provided.

- *Additional input on the recommendations are due from the Green Team by August 12.*

4. **The Message - Green and Healthy Living**

The Message will begin publication again in late September and we will resurrect the Green Team's section "Green and Healthy Living." The Tree Committee will have a section on the tree ordinance this month. We discussed having a write up on the styrofoam ban, as well as putting together a schedule for monthly

- *Joseph will write a column on the styrofoam ban for the next issue.*
- *Joseph will confirm with Miranda how often the Message will be published moving forward.*
- *Joseph will put together a schedule for future issues.*

5. **Events**

a. **Mt Rainier Day Planning (Green Team Table)**

The Green Team will not be pursuing a zero waste event since resources are short and waste disposal for the event has already been taken decided on. There are several fliers that should be brought to the table, including the compost bin fliers which need to be updated. The Green Team needs to decide on an activity for the table that will garner interest from the public, children in particular. There will also be a parade and members of the Green Team should be able to participate.

b. **Rain Check Tour**

MaryLee has been developing the idea of holding a tour of RainCheck projects in homes around Mount Rainier. There is a map on the PG county website to allow you to locate the projects. Krista looked up whether there were any relevant celebrations (e.g.,

National Watershed Day) during October or November to correspond with the event, but there were not.

**6. Complete Streets**

The city is moving towards coming up with a plan to fix the streets and sidewalks, rather than focusing on a complete streets plan. City staff would like to sit down with the Green Team after they have work on this more internally. Joseph has been taking pictures of problematic streets and sidewalks to assist with commenting. We should recommend including bump outs that include bio retention or trees in order to help slow traffic and improve water management. The bump outs could be recommended in the middle of the block in addition to near the intersections as is done in Takoma Park. We should look into the Green Infrastructure Plan to determine if any of this has been adopted into the city plan. The Team is not interested in calling for speed bumps instead of bumpouts which serve multiple purposes.

*- MaryLee will review the Green Infrastructure Plan.*

**7. Zoning Rewrite & Building Codes**

Module 2 has been released by the county and there might be a good opportunity for the Green Team to call for reach codes among other policies. We can either take the route of commenting on specific items through the open comment system (<https://pgplanning.opencomment.us/>), producing a letter to take to the City Council or both.

*- Everyone should take a look at Module 2 for opportunities to call for improvements to energy requirements, water requirements, or anything else of note.*

**8. Development Projects**

**a. Flywheel**

The units are currently staged in Brentwood wait for completion of the foundations and there is a robust native plant landscaping plan.

*- Joseph will reach out to Jessica to see if there are ways for the Green Team to promote.*

**b. Menkiti**

We reviewed the differences between the LEED checklist provided to the Green Team in December with the one that was submitted to the LEED program. The new checklist pointed towards a better chance at gold certification, though several aspects of the project have been removed including a green roof and wastewater reuse. There will be a walkthrough of the area outside of the Menkiti project sponsored by Councilmember Knedler on Thursday, to discuss tree plantings among other issues that still need to be resolved and several Green Team members are expected to be in attendance..

**c. 34th Street Bridge**

There were no updates of note on this project since it keeps getting pushed back. Council member Christopherson may have information on whether the slip lane will get removed at the intersection of 34th and Arundel. There is expected to be a public meeting closer to when work is expected to commence.

*- MaryLee will look into the status of the slip lane.*

**d. Kaywood Parking Lot**

Work appears to have been completed on this project, but the sharrows that were promised were not painted and Joseph discussed this with city staff. The five trees promised have not been planted as well and we recommend the tree commission follow up on that.

*- MaryLee will bring the tree issue to the Tree Commission.*

**e. Others**

The Green Team was curious of the status of the Net Zero detached home.

**9. Park Improvements**

The city staff is interested in us in the longer working on a park plan to review capital

improvements. There may be an opportunity right now to leverage funding from Johns Hopkins in order to construct a pollinator garden in the 31st Street pocket park, but there have been delays in obtaining the rights from the county.

**10. Mosquito Control**

Joseph sat down with city staff to discuss control of mosquitos and we requested a meeting with the state staff member in charge of the program. We have been put on a waiting list for the funds, though the alternative available to spraying, some type of bug zappers, are not as effective. There were questions as to whether the spraying would be effective enough, what chemicals would be use, what their impacts on other insects are, and how often spraying would occur. The Green Team would like to conduct further research into more natural ways to control mosquito populations including attracting mosquito eating insects, removing standing water, removing unnecessary brush, etc..

**11. Styrofoam ban**

This topic was discussed earlier.

**12. Topics for a Later Date**

- a. Snow Emergencies
- b. Recycling Bins
- c. LED Street Lights
- d. Business Outreach
- e. College Park Bikeshare
- f. LED for Buildings

**Upcoming Events**

Next Meeting: September 12, 2016 at 7PM

Mount Rainier Day: October 1, 2016