

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

Attendees:

Joseph Jakuta
Sam McCormally
Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Jessica Love
Amanda Love
Patricio Ilerena
Scott Wilson
MaryLee Haughwout
Ben Stutzman
Tom Liddle

1. **Snow Plan Letter**

After including comments provided by the team the letter was submitted to City Manager Braatz. In additional City Manager Braatz mentioned that a snow symposium will take place at Star Potts in February and will concern some of the issues we address.

2. **Environmental Protection Board (EPB)**

The has not been staffed in a bit, though current resolution calls for 5 persons. 7 might be a more recommended number if changes are made to increase diversity, though quorums will be needed for voting. The EPB resolution is a bit out of date, but there were requirements for providing environmental review that don't exist with the Green Team. Technically EPB is supposed to provide membership to the Green Team according to the Green Team resolution. The Green Team's inclusivity of non appointed members has other benefits. According to Sustainable Maryland the EPB could act as the Green Team, which is what Hyattsville and Greenbelt do. If both organizations exist by-laws may be needed to clarify what each group handles and what the process is.

- Joseph will further examine options and look into more detail at other city's resolutions to develop some language for new resolutions over the next few months.

3. **Bikeshare**

There is a plan that was released in November to expand bikeshare in Prince George's County, mainly along the Route 1 corridor. Three stops are included in Mount Rainier in the plan and those stops would be expected in Phase 1. The system would be compatible with DC's CaBI system. We don't have a clear picture of how definite this is or what the timeframe is, but community meetings are expected. There are aspects of the plan that don't correspond to the Mount Rainier bike plan that we would like to see addressed and we want to make sure needs of underserved residents are being addressed too.

- Patricio and Scott will attend the WABA meeting and report back on next steps.

4. **Lead Awareness**

Joseph provided handouts from a recent Reuters report that found that several census tracts along the Route 1 corridor had the highest incidence of elevated lead levels in the county, including one tract in Mount Rainier. There are state programs available that residents can use to remedy their homes, but not everyone may know about them, so the Green Team should work on increasing awareness. There is a question of what code enforcement does concerning lead on rental properties. Though lead paint is typically what we think of, there is a question of whether some of it is from lead in the soil from gasoline or lead in pipes. The schools in particular should

be looked into, both indoors and outdoors, and perhaps Jes Ellis can provide some insights.

- *MaryLee is going to look into what the community garden to get their soil tested.*

- *Sam will reach out to the schools.*

- *Joseph will talk to code enforcement about their processes.*

5. **Styrofoam Ban**

The ban went into place on use of styrofoam county wide on July 1 after purchases were supposed to stop on January 1. The question was raised as to whether city code enforcement issued citations for infractions. The Department of Environment manages county enforcement.

- *Bryan will follow up on this issue after Joseph provides the list of violators to him.*

6. **Development Projects**

The levee project and Arundel street project is on hold until after two drain projects are completed. We have yet to here if our concerns were met concerning the street project. The drain project that had not been discussed is an underground project and will not impact any trees.

There is also a letter to Adam Ortiz outstanding concerning potential storm water improvements/environmental retrofits that could be made at the Menkiti project.

7. **SM Sustainability Metrics Workshop - Tabled**

8. **Events**

a. **Volunteer List**

The volunteer list was posted on facebook, but so far the responses have been slow.

This will be important for some of the projects we have been pursuing. Discussion turned towards recruiting high schoolers that need community service for graduation.

Councilmember Loh might have some insights on this process from her smoke detector outreach project.

b. **Spring Greening Fair**

Several ideas beyond our current fliers (compost bins, rain check program, and styrofoam ban) were discussed including lead awareness, energy retrofits, and the bikeshare recommendations, and net zero homes. Joseph sought out ideas for a more interactive idea to draw people to visit a table. Ideas included a solar contest, possibly involving the schools, a solar oven construction project, borrowing the styrofoam costume, and a photobooth that is environmentally focused.

c. **Spring Litter Pick Up (Earth Day) - Tabled**

d. **Green Symposium**

The Green Team has been asked to help with a symposium in the early summer sponsored by the city concerning environmental issues. It is Joseph's understanding that it would occur one evening and would include outside speakers. Joe's or Star Potts could be potential locations. Suggestions of having a fun aspect to (food, music, something for the kids) could bring out more residents. It was also recommended that the event be filmed and put up online and on MRTV to increase viewing.

e. **Chesapeake Bay Trust All Hands On Action Plan**

We discussed having two phases for this project and only the first phase would be conducted through the all hands on volunteer day. The first phase would involve conservation landscaping and beautification and be low maintenance. There was discussion of removing the concrete pad, which is likely not related to duel creek making removing it potentially more doable in the long-term, but could also be involved in the creation of a shelter, though it is possible that there can be a shelter and the removal of the impervious surface. Fran Toler from friends of the dueling creek should be contacted concerning the project. Local homeowners have said that they are willing to take a lead on maintenance. We can offer up the town fire hydrants in the maintenance plan for watering according to Bryan. We are looking for a letter of support from the city council

for this project and will discuss it at the next work session. Ben and Tom will take the lead on getting neighbors to sign onto the plan and provide their ideas for phase 2.

9. Topics for a Later Date
 - a. Bandalong Opening
 - b. Development Projects
 - c. Complete Streets
 - d. Parks Plan
 - e. Mosquito Control
 - f. Recycling Bins
 - g. LED Street Lights
 - h. LED for Buildings
 - i. Fee in Lieu Of

Upcoming Events/Dates

WABA PG County - Bike Share: January 10, 2017 in Hyattsville

Next Meeting: February 13, 2017 at 7PM

Mt Rainier Snow Symposium: February 16, 2017 at 6

World Wildlife Day: March 3, 2017

International Day of Action for Rivers: March 14, 2017

World Water Day: March 22, 2017

Spring Greening Fair: April 15, 2017

Earth Day: April 22, 2017