

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
March 20, 2016 7:00-9:00 PM (rescheduled from March 13)
City Hall

Attendees

Joseph Jakuta
Jessica Love
MaryLee Haughwout
Luke Chesek
Patricio Ilerena

1. April Meeting Reschedule

Due to the Passover holiday we will reschedule the next meeting to Monday April 17.

- Joseph will follow up with Brishay about reserving the room and updating the city calendar.

2. Events

a. Snow Symposium - Recap

Following Jessica's presentation on the city's snow plan Joseph presented on green deicing. The slides on green deicing were later posted on facebook and could be used in a write up for the Message next year in the winter. There were several residents in attendance and the . Patricio was also there and he and Jessica were able to discuss with the PG County safety representative, Courtney, concerning lead testing.

- Jessica will follow up with Courtney concerning lead tests.

b. Net Zero Townhome Tour - Recap

In between meetings Jessica Lawrence suggested that we host the tour for Green Team members of the townhome that had been suggested in several meetings. We later decided to open it up to the public. As part of the RSVP we also asked people if they would be willing to volunteer with the Green Team. 15 people RSVPed, 3 non-Green Team Members said they would volunteer, and 5 people attended. The event was very informative. One story of the electricity being shut off overnight on a night that got down to 20 degrees, but the house still having a temperature of 70 degrees, the next morning was particularly illuminating.

c. Chesapeake Bay Trust All Hands On Action Plan/37th Street Park

Unfortunately we were not selected to have the All Hands On volunteer day to improve the 37th Street Park. There was no feedback from CB Trust on why we were not selected. After discussion we determine that we should look at purchasing trees through Treemendous and possibly using CleanUpGreenUp as well. If we are going to use Treemendous the order goes in a few weeks so we need to secure approval from M-NCPPC immediately, but Treemendous has a better selection at lower costs than Barry suggested. We should look at including a trash can in the request to help with the litter issues. Some neighbors may be able to help with a tiller to ease the tilling process and we should look into the tool shed's status for borrowing tools. Patricio mentioned we may be able to obtain free mulch from Hyattsville or Takoma Park.

- Joseph will reach out to M-NCPPC on the status of the approval.

- MaryLee and Joseph will look into the tree purchasing options.

d. Spring Greening Fair

Our primary draw will be a photo booth with a trash monster as the thing you will have your photograph taken with and we will need to pick a weekend to help put it together. We will bring candy, a candy wrapper disposal container, fliers/postcards, and the volunteer list.

- Joseph will inquire as to who is attending the event.
- Patricio will look into a list of lead resources.
- Jessica will reach out to EmpowerMD about materials if they are not attending.

e. Spring Litter Pick Up (Earth Day)

We are promoting the Earth Day event that is sponsored by Anacostia Watershed Society and looking for volunteers to help at the Nature Center location. Two Green Team members have signed up to participate at this point. We should work to promote the event on the city calendar and listservs (it is already on facebook). We will also use mailchimp for emailing the volunteers. Finally we will make some post cards for the Spring Greening Fair.

- Joseph will send out the promotional notices.

f. Green Symposium

We are going to hold off on this event since it is beyond our current bandwidth.

g. Rain Check Tour

MaryLee is working with Hannah Martin of CBTrust and Emerson to set up a tour of rain check funded projects in town, which could include the net zero townhome green roof (even though that technically did not receive rain check funding) . One question was whether the tour should be self-guided like the home tours or a group should go from house to house en masse. The goal would be to have most of the projects within ½ mile. May 6 and 13 are the dates that are being looked at. We will promote the event on facebook, listservs, the city calendar, and maybe route one fun.

- MaryLee will work to finalize the details.

h. Bandalong Opening

At this point the permits have not yet been completed for the bandalong so a date for the project to open has not been selected. We will only help with some social media promotion and attend an event, we will not be helping to plan the event. When it comes time to help clean the trap once a year (other groups will be cleaning it at other times) we can call on the volunteer list we are building.

3. Mosquito Control

Last year the city manager put us on a list to receive mosquito spraying, but there are concerns about the impact on personal and pollinator health. Joseph and Jessica attended a webinar on a pilot project University Park with Rutgers initiated to use GATs, a mosquito trap often used in Puerto Rico, to reduce mosquito populations without spraying. To do such an undertaking we would need city support and to make sure the traps were affordable (they go for \$15 per trap and we would likely need 2 per yard). University Park also used block captains to manage the process, something we might be able to pursue using an expanded volunteer list. We should also look into seeing if Rutgers would be interested in partnering with us as well.

- Joseph will look into where we stand with the mosquito spraying list.

4. Development Projects

An RFQ went out for the redevelopment on Rhode Island Ave from Eastern Avenue east. There are aspects of the RFQ that do touch on environmental issues. Because it is an RFQ rather than an RFP we need to understand when we should be involved.

- MaryLee will look into the RFQ and if we need further clarification Joseph will follow up with Councilmember Knedler.

5. Lead Awareness

This item was largely discussed under the Spring Greening Fair and Joseph has no updates from Sam's research to provide.

6. Urban Gardening Letter of Support for City and perhaps County

A resident is working on a project to have an urban farm at a property on the south side of Rhode

Island Avenue. He needs support in order to make it happen especially since zoning likely does not allow that currently. In conversations Joseph had with him he suggested the concept of an “Urban Agricultural Overlay Zone” and pushing the county to include something like that in a zoning rewrite. The idea would be to write a letter of support for his project. MaryLee was concerned if trees would be removed to accommodate the project, but Joseph didn’t know the answer. The consensus was we would be fine with a letter of support if no native trees are being removed.

- Joseph will look into the question of tree removal and if it seems fine draft a letter of support for the next meeting

7. Topics for a Later Date

We had spare time and were able to review the topics for a later date.

a. LED Street Lights

Joseph was supposed to sit down with Miranda to discuss this topic last week, but it got postponed. One program application Jessica is working on could help with funding on these improvements.

b. Bikeshare

At least three people wrote letters to Councilmember Taveras supporting funds for bike share expansion in Prince George’s County including Mt Rainier.

c. Complete Streets

The city will put out an RFP to commission a study on Complete Streets. This is needed to focus street improvement plans and obtain the Bikeways grant funding.

- Joseph will make sure we receive a copy of the RFP to make sure enough civic engagement occurs in the process.

d. Parks Plan

Sam had started work on the draft parks plan with a focus on “greening” them. Luke brought up the concept of “green alleys” especially since our alleys get overwhelmed with litter and even hazardous waste. We shouldn’t limit what we do to the city owned parks in particular. The Gazebo Park in particular could use work and be evaluated.

e. Recycling Bins

The city manager is including the purchase of rolling recycling carts in the draft budget for the following fiscal year. This may also include truck upgrades to accommodate 64 gallon bins.

- Joseph will attend the next City Council work session to support this and our other budget priorities.

f. LED for Buildings

Nothing had been specifically pursued with this, but Patricio suggested that maybe we can support switching the bike coops lights to LEDs.

g. Fee in Lieu Of

This was part of the parks plan discussion.

h. Hazardous Waste Disposal

Joseph brought up the idea of having hazardous waste recycling days at public works to decrease the illegal dumping and save people a trip to Brown Landfill. There may be a need for the city to get permitted to do so if they can at all, since the rules are likely different than for residents.

- Joseph will follow up with Public works to see if there are any prohibitions.