

Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes
May 8, 2016 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Attendees:

Joseph Jakuta
Jacqueline Norris
Jessica Love
Miranda Braatz
MaryLee Haughwout

1. Events

a. Spring Litter Pick Up - Synopsis

We participated in the Anacostia Watershed Society stream clean up on 4/22. Patricio and Joseph each led stream clean up teams. Joseph's team had about 11 people and Patricio's had about 7 and there were several other teams. Joseph posted about the event afterwards on Facebook. We unfortunately have no good way to track how many people attended the event as the result of our outreach.

b. Mt Rainier Day

Mount Rainier Day is on May 20 this year. We will march in the parade with the trash monster. It would be nice to get a few team members to participate by handing out literature and candy. We will also have a table. We will have the same literature we had at the spring greening fair, the email list sign up, and a raffle. As far as a raffle we could reach out to the local organic purveyors for a gift basket or a gift card donation. Another idea was to look into giving away a CSA share.

- Joseph will reach out to Farmer Mike to see about the idea of having a quarter year share since more than that is outside of our budget.

c. Rain Check Tour - Tabled

2. Sustainable Community Designation

The Sustainable Community Designation program is run through DHCD and is vital to apply for several grants including the community legacy and targeted demolition grants. Both a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the five years since the last application is required. The last application predates the Green Team. There are six categories that need to be addressed and the environmental section is the focus of our feedback. We discussed including items in the plan intended to be reach goals for holistically reducing waste, improving non single occupancy vehicle modes of transportation, reducing residential carbon footprints, improving open spaces, and implementing the green infrastructure plan.

3. Parks

a. 37th Street Park

Joseph made his way through several contacts and talked to Kyle Lowe today and he said that he would provide an email giving us permission to move forward with our 37th street project. We would plan to schedule the planting in the fall to achieve more success in tree survival. We will continue to focus Green Team funds on this project.

b. 31st Street Park

MaryLee was involved in discussions that would move the lead of the 31st street project to Shivali Shah. There are potential pitfalls due to the description of the project as a community garden, but use as an edible forest could meet those needs.

4. Waste

a. Recycling Bins

The City Council included 8,000 in the upcoming budget for upgraded recycling bins and 2,000 for outreach. We will be providing feedback to the city staff on how best to go about implementing this program. Joseph suggested trying to partner with the University of Maryland or another institution to do a random control study on recycling rate changes since we cannot purchase bins for all residents. MaryLee suggested using the 2,000 for conducting a survey to determine what is hindering recycling in town to properly target any efforts. An opt-in program does not appear to make sense since it will likely be taken advantage of by the residents that are already high level recyclers and more disadvantaged residents will not wind up with upgraded bins. The Recycling Partnership has a good number of resources that we can take advantage of and we can also reach out to nearby municipalities that have already upgraded their recycling bins.

b. Bulk Trash/Hazardous Waste

We also reviewed the bulk trash proposal that there is interest in by some staff. Limiting the number of pickups from 6 to 3 should not impact the majority of residents. Limiting the number of pickups could reduce the need for having 2 pickups per month, which would open up a day for public works staff. Concentrating pickups or limiting them to certain times of year could help with ensuring full loads are being transported as well, but more data would be helpful since there is evidence that sometimes several trips are needed. There are also some items put out in bulk trash, electronics and hazardous waste that are not allowed. There are questions of whether they get picked up by staff or not, but perhaps education or even citations are needed to limit them. Many residents do not likely know that e-recycling can be dropped off at public works at any point during the week and more outreach is needed. We should talk with Mr. Kamali about whether staff can stop picking the e- waste up or sort it. Concerning hazardous waste there is a company that could come out to e-waste Saturday events and accept reusable paints. This would not solve the entire problem, but could be a start with helping to reduce the amount of paint being put out in the waste stream, but Community Forklift already offers that service and we don't know how many people take advantage of dropping of reusable paint there which is not that much further of a trek.

5. Development Projects - Tabled