

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
June 12, 2017 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Joseph Jakuta
Councilmember Chesek
Jessica Love
MaryLee Haughwout
Mimi McKindley-Ward

1. Logisticts

The August meeting is canceled, and the July meeting may be depending upon the agenda.

2. Grants

Some stormwater grants are available that are due on July 28 that Luke would like to pursue. There is a major grant and a minor grant as far as funding. For the former we discussed green alleys, in particular the one that runs from Eastern Avenue, and daylighting of the creek that runs through the 31st Street Park. We would need to figure out how to complete any reporting out requirements since that is typically why the city had problems with the grants in the past. For the latter educational materials concerning recycling could be something to pursue.

- Luke or Jessica will follow up with Miranda concerning the question of applying for the grant and the reporting out requirements.

3. Mayor's Climate Challenge

Many local mayors have signed onto this pledge to and some residents have called for the Mayor and Council to sign on. Joseph suggested it is important to follow up a signature with a commitment to pursue concrete action. Some suggestions were requirements that new development meet LEED gold certification, increasing the number of solar panels on residential homes by a certain percentage, increasing participation in EmPower, or replacing city office lights and street lights with LEDs.

- Luke will ensure this item is on the agenda for Tuesday's Council Work Session and reach out in order to get more people to suggest their ideas for concrete actions the city can undertake to achieve a lower carbon footprint.

4. The Message

The upcoming fiscal year will have ten issues of The Message instead of six. December/January and July/August will be double issues. A new draft of the schedule was provided, though there is some confusion on July/August and its deadline. Several people have expressed interest in writing articles including MaryLee on rain check rebate, Mimi on recycling and Ashley on LEDs. We also discussed the fact that the city waste guide has errors and that we should confirm the requirements published by the PG County government and update ours to match since we use the same MRF.

- Joseph will work with Jessica to confirm what the near term Message schedule was and confirm who is writing for each issue.

- Mimi and MaryLee will work with Jessica to start looking at improving the city waste guide.

5. Parks

a. 31st Street Park

There was a City Council meeting the week prior where signing the final lease was discussed. The final agreement should allow for a native pollinator garden and edible native forest rather than the more specific community garden. A question was raised as to whether we should prioritize this project now but since there are no direct plans yet for

the plantings, whereas the 37th street plan is complete and has neighbor buy in, so we should move forward with 37th Street Park first since funding needs to be spent.

b. 37th Street Park

Joseph would like to move forward with purchasing plants that would be delivered in the fall since we do have a bit of money left in our budget for the fiscal year which needs to be spent by the end of June. We cannot plant in the summer since it will be too hot. We have verbal approval from Kyle Lower at M-NCPPC to move forward with the planting, but Joseph wanted to achieve something in writing for the point when he moves on. Luke suggested writing Kyle an email stating the verbal approval to finalize this in writing. Casey trees, Treemendous grants, and Nature by Design were suggested for ordering options. A volunteer event will be needed conduct the planting.

- Joseph will begin ordering plants.

c. Roger's Park

There was some confusion over where the property is - it is along Eastern Ave between Bunker Hill and 28th Street. It was donated by Mr. Rogers from his property to the city. It is overrun by poison ivy and other invasive species and would likely require a professional to come and clean it out. Mimi said that the residents she talked to were not looking for a park per se, just cleaning it out to reduce the mosquito population and litter. They do want to keep the trees. Joseph suggested that it might be good to have some draw so that there is more reason to maintain the property after it gets cleaned up. The Team cannot take this on though until we finish up our work on the other projects. We also need to determine if any of the property falls under DC jurisdiction.

- Jessica will look into seeing if NDC can examine the property to look at potential.

- Joseph will look into the GIS maps to see if he can determine any jurisdictional issues.

6. Events

a. Mt Rainier Day - Wrap Up

The event was fairly well attended. People liked the trash monster and were glad that we participated in the parade. We also managed a table during the afternoon where we got email addresses for volunteers, answered resident questions, and handed out literature. Most persons came by with questions that needed to be directed to other committees (e.g., the Community Garden). We also gave away a month share in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program through a raffle.

b. Rain Check Tour

PG County and CBTrust staff have not been responsive and MaryLee believes we should have an expert participating to answer questions so the lack of that is resulting in the event being put on hiatus.

c. Litter Pick-Up Event/Fall Clean Up Green Up

Joseph was interested in seeing how successful we could be to have a Green Team . We could possibly conduct it in conjunction with a Clean Up Green Up PG County event which could increase resources available and also be helpful since PG County has been pushing for increased litter pick up. We could even use the litter tracking program that PG County has been promoting. The question was raised as to who would pick up the trash bags after the event. When Tracy held her trash pick up last year Public Works picked up the trash bags at the end of the event, which could be an option. The Green Team could also do something independently. We also need to concern ourselves with the availability of volunteers since we will also need people to conduct the plantings discussed for the 37th street park.

7. Increasing Participation

Participation has been declining in recent months and we wanted to discuss how to increase it.

We have increased our awareness of the meetings and the committee through The Message, Facebook, the list serve, and the city website, so it is likely something beyond simple awareness that is the issue. Joseph doesn't believe switching days will really help since people are busy every day. MaryLee had conducted a survey when she began at chair to delve into the issue, though perhaps a new survey could be useful. The idea of having more defined roles for others could be helpful (e.g., vice-chair, secretary, social media expert, etc.). Another idea was to have workgroups so smaller groups of people could get together at their own schedule and then report back at the monthly meeting. Perhaps people see so much getting done and don't think that help is needed. MaryLee asked if we were concerned with getting new people or more interest from existing members and Joseph responded he was mostly interested in having people to take on projects regardless of whether they were old or new. We have been seeing increased participation online recently, so perhaps we can start discussions on the email list, but not make any final decisions until the meeting so everything is completed under the open meeting requirements. Jessica brought up the issue of increased minority and high school student participation as well, which everyone supported. There was a concern that people lose interest when a project they are concerned about doesn't move very quickly, which can get frustrating. There also may be some people that just want to volunteer to do things like clean up litter or plant trees that may not want to be involved more so.

- *MaryLee will try to track down the previous survey.*

- *Luke will reach out to his constituent list to call for more volunteers.*

- *Joseph will look into any issues with starting discussions online.*

8. Development Projects - Tabled

9. Topics for a Later Date

- a. Bandalong Opening
- b. Complete Streets
- c. Curbside Composting
- d. LED for Buildings
- e. Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of
- f. Sustainable MD Reauthorization
- g. Mosquito Control
- h. LED Street Lights
- i. Lead Awareness

Upcoming Events/Dates

Next Meeting: July 10, 2017