

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
September 11 2017 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Joseph Jakuta
Jessica Love
Ben Stutzman
Councilmember Knedler
Councilmember Chesek
Doug Adams
Mimi McKindley-Ward

1. Parks

a. 37th Street Park

i. Site Prep Status

Barry Stahl probably did not get around to site prep and is traveling so we have not been able to contact him. The site prep needs to be done soon. Doug suggested doing it after a rainstorm. Bryan Massey has a rotor tiller that could help if we decide to till the area. We can get ahold of the grass killing materials at Home Depot since it is a small enough area. About 100 plants will be planted, mostly quarts but three species are plugs. Newspaper and mulch that can from college park. Get them to deliver directly to the site.

ii. Planting Event

Try to hold the event on the 21st, the 22nd as a rain date. 10-12 or 1. Community garden and the toolshed. We will change the delivery to public works. Mimi has an orange cooler thing and we can also get water at Ben's house. We will use the volunteer list, the signature and facebook to get the word out. Bring a snack to share. Guess that we can get 10 people. Ben will provide some beverages as well. Coffee might be another positive assessment. Probably should bring a table as well Joseph or Mimi can bring. Celina lives across the street and might be interested in helping out. Look into the ReLeaf with MaryLee.

- Joseph will call the company about the plants

- Joseph will write up a plan for implementing the day of project and site prep.

b. Clean Up Green Up

Grants from supplies from PG County are grants to open for clean ups and and planting supplies. Neighborhood Design is also available to help with design. Jessica said that Rogers Park and Memorial Park are two potential parks in need of clean up and beautification. If we want we only need to apply for supplies for doing a site clean up. One issue is that the times lines up with when we are planning the 37th Park Project. We might be able to have a two tiered project where people start with planting on 37th Street Park and then progress to invasive removal and trash removal depending on on time and if that doesn't work out plan a clean up event for a later date.

- Jessica will look into putting in for supplies for a clean up for the project.

2. The Message

The question was posed as to whether we want to follow the theme and if so how will we address some of the topics that have less of a hook. It was suggested that Jacqueline Norris might want to write something on cultural diversity and green issues since that is an important issue to her,

but we haven't gotten confirmation so should look for another writer too. Joseph suggested another avenue is that we could talk about diversity of species and healthy ecosystems as a different take. MaryLee said that she could write something on that topic.

- MaryLee will write an article on species diversity that could be used for the diversity issue or save for a later issue if Jacqueline provides an article.

- Joseph will send out the schedule and call for volunteers

3. Green Expo - Event(s)

a. Hyattsville Recap

- The Hyattsville Expo was held in conjunction with an where owners of electric cars brought their vehicles and they had kind of a car show. They had Community Forklift, Big Bad Woof, PG County Arbor Association, a band, food trucks, and others. The year before they had a lower turnout, but this year it was much successful. It was suggested that perhaps working with other Green Teams in the area such as Brentwood to host a successful event. We should talk to the Hyattsville Chair as well for advice on putting on such an event.

b. Our Event - Goals & Format

Perhaps we should try to partner with the Nature Center to improve the event that they hold in the Spring. Usually the event occurs in the Spring around tax time. The Tree Committee or the Business Development Committee could also be good partners. The Brentwood Green Team would be interested in working with them.

One other idea is to have one off events that could lead up to this event. They would be smaller affairs, perhaps even online only. 3311 Rhode Island is where the Media Arts lab is and they might be able to help out. The group brainstorm people and topics that might be interesting, such as Green Businesses, Tree Trimming, Bee Keeping, among others. We can put finished videos up on MrTV as well.

- Joseph will contact Bernadine about the event in the Spring and partnering as well as the chair of the Hyattsville Green Team about their event.

- MaryLee will contact the Brentwood Green Team about partnering with us.

- Luke will get Doug contact for the Media Arts lab.

- Doug will begin working on the video items, possibly in conjunction with the Media Arts lab.

4. Recycling

a. Recycling Carts - September 19, 2017 Council Work Session

Mr. Kamali and Luke Chesak will be doing a presentation on buying 65 gallon recycling carts and new arms for the trucks at the next City Council Work Session. There is also a truck in the budget already so we only need to add arms to the other trucks. The proposal is to have smaller rolling trash carts than rolling recycling carts. There would be an opt-out form. Strong communication is important to make roll out successful, including The Message, fliers, listserve, etc. The Green Team should consider coming out to the Work Session for support. The idea of saving the workers time and physical labor is important to stress. Budgeting money for communication is needed, especially to ease the people that will not like the change. A sticker would be nice to stick on the carts with pictures of what is recyclable, though one problem is that what is recyclable can change. "Recycling Partnership" can be a source for communication tools since they have helped municipalities of all sized do this time and time again. The write up should mention the reduction of rats, mosquitos, and other pests. We should also se the words "carts" instead of "bins" and "lists/arms" instead arms. School children might also be a good way to get the word out.

- Joseph will send out a call to the Green Team to get members to attend the meeting.
- Luke will update the one pager according to the feedback.

b. Guide

Mimi, Jessica, and MaryLee met to talk about updating the recycling information guide. The City of Mount Rainier essentially follows what PG County has since we leave our waste at the same facility (MRF). We should be looking at what other communities do with their outreach. Pictures are a good addition. College Park's website has quite a good resource. One question is whether we should update the document while the city website is problematic, though we can always just get it ready for when the website is working better. We should look into possibly adding this as an insert in the newsletter. The flier or insert would cover the entire waste disposal gamut, not just recycling. Updating the art is important, possibly by using College Park's sheet or by finding creative commons licensed on the web. We should consider adding information on the elderly and disabled pick up from the County well.

- MaryLee, Mimi, and Jessica will work on finishing up the document.
- Jessica will look into the possibility of include the insert in the Message.

5. Increasing Participation Follow Up

a. Survey

The group was fine with cutting question 8. We should include Saturday/Sunday as options for the meeting even if we don't have a space outside of city hall to host the meeting. A council member could always open the space, though it might be a challenge to get our city staff liaison to participate, which could be a problem. Having a Green Team social event on occasion could be helpful to facilitate conversations. The Community Space, Joe's, or Rainier Manor could all be alternatives to City Hall for hosting event. We should add a question about identifying a barrier to your participation in the Green Team. Another question should be something along the lines of "What is the value of the Green Team to yourself, a green community?" Questions 3 and 4 should move up to 1 and 2. We should also add a question that just says "anything you would like add?" We should send this out first thing first Thursday morning since that should be a better time to increase participation and then send out a reminder. Having a deadline we can have results for the next meeting and not be responsible for checking the results for months on end for a late response. Another question that should be added should be something like "would you like to lead a workgroup on a subject matter?"

- Joseph will make the updates to the survey and send it out Thursday morning along with the reminders.

b. Worksessions - Tabled

6. Mosquito Spraying - Tabled

7. Update from Council Member Chesek

Grant from Chesapeake Bay Foundation, looked at it, but there is not a good way currently to keep track of that right now and engineering studies are needed. Some of this will have to wait. An idea to place speed bumps to make sense from both bio-retention and public safety. Mayor is interested in solar coops/gardens and solar expansion.

Three pilots are being run for solar coops and one is for low income tracts that are very open, which we have. We also have access to DC renewable credits which is much more than MD. We will put out a call to the Green Team to get people to help with this project. Doug is interested in helping with this and Brian Higgins and Bill Update might get on board to help as well. MaryLee wanted to know what was happening with the 31st Street plan. Having an edible forest might be nice and College Park, Edmonston, and Hyattsville did an edible forest that could be

useful.

- *Joseph will ask Mary Abe to give us an update on the project at the next meeting.*

8. Mayor's Climate Challenge Actions

We should figure out how this actually transpired and double check that we signed it.

- *Joseph will go on the Mayor's Climate website to see if we show up as having signed it and then follow up with Jessica.*

9. Green Development Fund - Tabled

Upcoming Events/Dates

Next Meeting: October 9, 2017