

**Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda**  
**October 23 2017 7:00-9:00 PM**  
**City Hall**

**Joseph Jakuta**  
**Jessica Love**  
**Doug Adams**  
**Katherine Johnson**  
**Councilmember Chesak**

**1. Next Meeting**

City Hall is closed for Veterans Day on November 10 and open on November 13 so we will not reschedule our next meeting.

**2. Complete Streets - Workshop November 2**

Street and sidewalk comprehensive inventory being developed by the Tool Development Group. Share feedback of from the users. Jessica has reached out to the Green Team among other community groups about the event. The meeting is at Potts Hall from 7-9 PM. The City has posted the event on their website and promoted it on the listserv. We will post on our facebook about the event. Luke looked at areas where bioretention and speed bumps could be combined with Mr. Kamali. Finishing out sidewalks on the eastern side of town is another priority not mentioned since they don't connect to 34th Street. We will add rain gardens to the principle about bumpouts. Katherine mentioned best practices in other nations for bike lane placement that we should include in the document.

*- Joseph will post about the event on Facebook.*

*- Luke will forward a list of the bioretention to Joseph and send the list Joseph.*

*- Joseph will send around an updated document and a call for more specific locations.*

**3. Recycling**

**a. Carts - November 7, 2017 City Council Hearing**

The meeting will be at City Hall to discuss a budget amendment to purchase rolling recycling cars, rolling trash cars, and arms for the trash trucks. Implementation should save an hour per week for staff to do different work in addition to the other benefits we have discussed. There is some disagreement over trash cans amongst the council. There is already money in the budget to buy a new truck. There will be no tax increase because of an unfilled position. Visuals might be helpful.

*- Joseph will email out the Green Team about attending and producing visual documentation to help make the case.*

**b. Guide - Tabled**

**4. County Issues**

**a. Zoning Rewrite Listening Sessions -**

There are three upcoming zoning rewrite listening sessions this week and some concerns about the new draft of the zoning document. At the last council session former council member Loh gave an update from the built environment perspective, though most of the update probably did not touch on sustainability issues. There are a few potential areas that it does however, requiring lot coverage to be less than 30% in our default zone and outlawing Accessory Dwelling Units, both decrease sustainable land use practices and there could be complications with redeveloping our commercial areas along Rhode Island. The new draft goes further to limit urban agriculture in Mt Rainier by essentially outlawing urban beekeeping here. We do not yet know if it affects Doug's project or the community garden. We also have do not know how our comments concerning green

building standards were considered. We can discuss draft comments at the next meeting that will be provided to city council for consideration in a letter they send. Luke says we should have time to get feedback to the council by our next meeting. County council member Taveras will also be at the November 7 council meeting to answer zoning questions.

*- Joseph will start to put together a draft letter to the city council and start collecting concerns from the remainder of the Green Team.*

b. **Resource Conservation Plan**

This plan is available and was approved by the county council. We have not gotten a chance to see if our concerns were addressed.

5. **34th Street Project**

We reviewed the plan provided by Jessica and saw no additional comments and we will resend the letter submitted last year.

*- Joseph will resend original letter to the council and city staff noting the lack of additional comments.*

6. **Increasing Participation Follow Up - Survey**

Joseph provided the recap of the survey development and the results. We had 9 out of 36 members respond, which is an acceptable number of respondents. Doug suggested that we provide a second survey to the listserv and Joseph suggested that this survey that could be a basis of a Sustainable Maryland project. Everyone should take a look at the report from the survey to see if there is anything else we should start doing, but we will at least try to put into place the recommendations listed.

7. **Green Expo**

a. **#GreenIsLife Video**

Doug reached out to Michelle Lee and the chair of the Hyattsville Green Team on the subject and had conversations about the videos. He is still fleshing out the idea and also reached out to the Mt Rainier Business Association, but has not heard back from them. Goal is to get the first one packaged by the end of the month. Doug shot one on his urban farm on the iPhone this weekend as a teaser and setting them up outside might be a good venue.

*- Doug will continue to reach out to interested parties.*

b. **Spring Greening Fair**

Doug got ideas about getting vendors based on the Hyattsville Green Expo. Joseph talked to Miranda about collaborating on the event with the Nature Center. Joseph did not get to reach out to Bernadine at the Nature Center yet about collaboration.

*- Joseph will contact Bernadine next week.*

8. **Litter Pick-Up Event (Clean Up Green Up + CERT)**

Joseph met with CERT to discuss collaborating on a litter pick-up event.. Jessica applied for clean up supplies for the Green Team for Clean Up Green Up, as well as trees for the Tree Commission. October 28 is the date of Clean Up Green Up. Mr. Kamali volunteered to do planting if there is some timeline. November 18 as a potential date.

*- Joseph will reach out to CERT and start planning the event.*

9. **37th Street Park - Recap**

At least 16 people attended the event, including the Mayor, two council members, neighbors, people that attended due to listserv outreach, and Green Team members. The Mayor posted her pictures from the event on Facebook and MaryLee sent Joseph pictures for posting.

*- Joseph will post MaryLee's and his pictures to Facebook.*

10. **Green Development Fund**

The city has 3.4 million in reserves and the idea is to put some of that towards an economic

development fund that would help businesses to move here and also improve the process of annexation. There are now four recommended funds, one of which includes green incentives. The expectations is that these would likely be cash incentives not loans for doing things like installing solar, energy retrofits, or stormwater abatement project. The video series could actually work here to get businesses talking about. We should see if there is interest from the team in writing a letter of support and also if anyone has any experience working on the issue.

- *Doug will conduct some research on the topic of green development funds.*

- *Joseph will see if any other members are interested in working on the topic.*

#### **11. Mayor's Climate Challenge Actions**

Luke is talking to Cory about the idea of having a solar project in Roger's Park. Jessica met with Nadia from GroundSwell about installing and maintaining solar arrays throughout town with no upfront cost and with under the deal that they reserve 1/3 of the solar for low income people. As this work moves along we should start to seek out a workgroup to focus on this issue.