

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

Joseph Jakuta
Jessica Love
Councilmember Luke Chesek
Sarah Lifsey
Steve "Jackson"
Jerry Burgess
Liz Marshall
Armando Gaetaniello

1. FY19 Budget

Joseph submitted the budget request for FY 2019 on time and included request for more park plantings, recycling educational materials, and funding for other outreach materials, though neglected to include something for the Solar Symposium. It is expected that we will receive 1,200. There was also a request made to the council members for event funding this FY for the Spring Greening Fair and Expo.

- Councilmember Chesek will release \$700 for use at the Spring Greening Fair and Expo.

2. Levee Update

A meeting was held at the end of February concerning the implementation of the levee restructuring. Issues were brought up with tree replacements, bicycle path connections, and air pollution and other hazards that would affect Thomas Stone Students. The tree commission also did a subsequent walkthrough of the trees that are to be removed and there is a two for one replacement being offered. Replanting will occur when the project is complete. The project was expected to start today, but there were delays. At the February meeting a request was made for the tree contractor to make the removed trees available as mulch or firewood, but there would be a potential liability for then and it will likely not happen. The slip lane is still part of the related green street project, though Jignesh Sheth said there is still room for comments on that project. If the Green Team's comments were not submitted there might be opportunities for feedback on the new plans.

- Councilmember Chesek will look into whether the city council submitted our recommendation and we will consider revising it based on the new proposal.

3. Recycling Carts Update

The council voted to reallocate mostly FY2018 funds to purchase trash and recycling carts as well as arms. There was feedback on the rules from some residents due to the size of the carts and rules were amended. The default trash container will remain 45 gallons but people can opt into a 32 gallon cart or if they have a rolling 32 gallon cart already keep that. The cost reduction of 50% for additional trash cans will no longer be provided. Residents can also opt out of 65 gallon recycling carts, but will have to purchase a smaller cart independently and it will have to have a lid. Final rules will be finalized next week. Residents can use old cans for yard waste and there will be a recycling option for old cans.

There will be outreach in late April or early May concerning the program with the former being preferable and the Green Team will try to help.

- Luke, Jessica and Joseph will work on coming up with an outreach plan for the Green Team to help with door to door outreach.

4. Events

a. City Open House Volunteer Appreciation (2/24) - Recap

The event was very successful both with the volunteer appreciation ceremony, which was well attended and received. We also had success with the expanded polystyrene (EPS) dropoff, a pickup truck was filled with the materials and delivered to the recycler the following Monday. Public works staff liked the idea and we should see if they would be willing to have styrofoam dropoff in conjunction with the quarterly e-waste events.

- Joseph will talk to Mr. Kamali about EPA dropoff closer to the June dropoff event.

b. Early Arbor Day 37th Street Planting (3/31)

We have all of the trees ordered at this point, and most are being delivered, except for the ones being purchased at the purveyor near Westminster and Nature By Design in Alexandria. Councilmember Chesek said he intended to head to Nature By Design and could possibly pick up the small order from them. Many of the other supplies are coming through the Tremendous order as well and we still have gloves and trash bags available from the last time. We do need to reach out to the nearby residents to make sure they can help with watering on the day of the event and to reach out to Barry to make sure he can lead this time.

c. Spring Greening Fair/Green Expo (4/14)

i. Workshops

Doug has had great success putting together a series of workshops that include discussions of solar power, composting, rain barrels, and pet waste, among others. The workshops will run inside the building and run from 1-5 and will culminate with a raffle, though we need to determine what should be raffled.

Joseph put together a website to help promote this and the rest of the event and Doug produced a flier that we should start distributing.

ii. Raffle

Suggestions for items to raffle included:

Food - Yes, Glut, Whole Foods, Franklin's, Maryland Meadery, Sweet and Natural

Vendor Donations - Jewelry, etc

Books about Sustainability - Bringing Nature Home, Krista Schyler's Book

Something Big - Electric Bike

d. Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) Earth Day Cleanup (4/21)

We are going to act as site leaders at the Nature Center as part of the annual AWS Earth Day Cleanup. The realization was had that there may be some conflicts with the typical clean up spots conducted by volunteers to the nature center due to the levee project.

Jackson mentioned that there was going to be an event at UMD with a speaker from AWS about a river restoration project.

- Joseph will send out a call for volunteers and let the Nature Center know about the potential for the conflict.

- Jackson will let us know about the event.

e. Litter Pick-Up Event (Clean Sweep) (4/28)

The timing for the event is not set in stone, but we could suggest 10-1. For this event we will be responsible for getting people out and there are some other conflicts that day. We also need to contact Tiaa Rutherford to determine details such as what supplies are available needed for the event and whether there are any promotion materials available that can be used. We can use the new LitterTrak app to record the trash obtained at the event, which is probably required.

- Sarah Lifsey will help put together a postcard to hand out at the Spring Greening Fair to get more interest in participating at the litter pick up event.

- Joseph will get Sarah the information she needs for the postcard and contact Tiaa about the event.

5. Outreach

a. #GreenIsLife Video

The video is complete and we are going to launch it without a logo since it will go out in conjunction with a related article in The Message that will be received by residents at the end of March.

- Green Team members will be notified when its live and should help spread the word.

b. The Message March Issue

Joseph received a Green & Healthy Living write up from Doug earlier today that dealt with the #GreenIsLife Video and urban farming, though it was also due to Councilmember Knedler on Sunday.

- Joseph will review the write up and send it to Councilmember Knedler immediately following the meeting.

c. Future Messages

Councilmember Cheseck suggested a write up concerning the stormwater management plan for the city that is being written to assist with Chesapeake Foundation grants. This process could lead to funds for the stream that runs through 31st street pocket park being daylight with funding that having a stormwater management plan since you have to be managing your stormwater prior to daylighting to avoid floodings. This could also be a topic for budget season as well, in particular as part of the streets and sidewalk project. Toole is working LID center. Noone is quite sure who owns the right-of-way over the stream after it leaves the 31st Street Park, it could be WSSC or DPW&T. We also should coordinate with Brentwood in any remediation since it probably goes through their town, possibly coming out near Jackson and Tilden.

Other topics of note for Messages could concern Mosquito control alternatives, solar installation opportunities, using less plastic, etc.

6. Sustainable Maryland

a. Draft Application

A draft application is not quite ready for review, but the matrix Jessica and Joseph have been working off of was provided. So far the process has been challenging, especially in regards to obtaining documents since many are not readily available on the city website, etc.

- Joseph will send around a list of areas where we need help writing narratives.

- Joseph will provide a list of documents to Councilmember Cheseck that he could have better luck obtaining with greater ease.

b. Feedback on New Actions

The Sustainable Maryland program is accepting application for new actions that cities could get points for. Armando would like to submit several related to expansion of solar power and Joseph would like to submit ones related to complete streets and renewable purchasing. There is a three page application that Armando had sent around a few weeks ago. The deadline for submissions is April 1.

- Joseph and Armando will work on applications and set up a time for interested parties to review the submissions.

7. Green Team Logo - Tabled

8. Youth Corp - Tabled

9. Workgroups

a. Mayor's Climate Challenge Action Workgroup

- Joseph will schedule a meeting of the workgroup before the end of March.

b. **Plastic Waste Reduction**

On hold.

c. **Mosquito Control**

Sarah has started researching some alternatives to spraying for mosquitoes including the removal of standing water, attracting bats and sparrows, and whether certain plants are beneficial. Brentwood Green Team is interested in working with us on this since they faced some of the same spraying that we faced last year. There are also floating discs that can be placed in larger sources of water that prevent the mosquitos from maturing. There was a webinar hosted by the Environmental Finance Center that could be useful and should be sent to Sarah. A big issue is how we will need to deal with properties that are not being maintained.

- Sarah and Joseph will work on getting this workgroup up and running.

10. Topics for a Later Date

a. **Parks**

i. **31st Street Park**

ii. **Rogers Park**

b. **Green Development Fund**

c. **Development Projects**

d. **Curbside Composting**

e. **LED for Buildings**

f. **Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of**

g. **Lead Awareness**

Upcoming Events/Dates

City Open House Volunteer Appreciation: February, 24

Next Meeting: March 12, 2018

37th Street Park Planting: March 31, 2018

Spring Greening Fair/Green Expo: April 14, 2018

Earth Day AWS Clean Up: April 21, 2018

Clean Sweep Mt Rainier Clean Up: April 28, 2018