

**Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes**  
**April 9 2017 7:00-9:00 PM**  
**City Hall**

**Joseph Jakuta**  
**Jessica Love**  
**Sarah Lifsey**  
**Mimi McKindley-Ward**  
**Armando Gaetaniello**  
**Councilmember Luke Chesek**  
**Councilmember Shivali Shah**

**1. Events**

**a. Early Arbor Day 37th Street Planting (3/31) - Recap**

The event was quite successful. 11 people came out to plant X trees, Y herbaceous plants, and remove invasives at the 37th Street park. No suggestions were made on how to improve on it for future events though Sarah stated that she enjoyed the lesson Barry Stahl provided at the beginning of the event on how to plant a tree.

**b. Spring Greening Fair/Green Expo (4/14)**

The event is going well and the main goal for Green Team members should be to spread the word and come out on the 14th. We will have a good set of prizes to raffle off, a solid line up for the workshops, and will bring literature to hand out as well.

**c. AWS Earth Day (4/21)**

At this point the registration for the event is closed, and typically is full. The only question is whether enough site leaders have been found.

*- Joseph will check with Bernadine to see if additional site leaders are needed and email the group if some are.*

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

We will be getting county to supply the equipment and materials needed for the event. Depending on what is provided we will try to find a way to recycle what is recyclable. The county would like us to use the PG Litter Trak App and each team should download it and be able to submit. We will print up routes to clean focusing on hotspots around town, in particular several alleys. We will have prizes drawn from anyone that submits a certain number of bags from to the Litter Trak App. We should plan on providing refreshments and Mimi will provide her water jug and table for the event to help with that.

*- Jessica will talk to public works about picking up the trash bags.*

*- Joseph will pick up the supplies from PG County, create maps, obtain prizes, and get additional refreshments.*

**e. Mount Rainier Day (5/19)**

We discussed several ideas for the parade and the focus was on promotion of the new recycling carts. Sarah suggested have people ride in the cans like they were floats. Pictures of what should be recycled and what goes in the trash could play a role. A quiz of some sort as to what was recyclable was suggested by Armando and Joseph brought up that would be a good idea for an activity at a table during the fair portion, though overall there was little interest in manning a table.

**f. The Great Rain Barrel Event**

The Great Rain Barrel Event is an opportunity for PG County residents to pick up a discounted rain barrel that was purchased online in the run up to the event. The period in the run up is typically six weeks. We have been asked to host the Great Rain Barrel

Event along with several other nearby municipalities. The event typically took place at one particular location, but that is no longer possible, which is why municipalities are being asked to help. Public works is fine with being a staging ground. College Park is having their event this month and Cottage City in the fall so summer would make sense for us to stagger them. To allow for promotion and to get credit for Sustainable Maryland we should host the event in June.

- *Jessica Love will follow up with the county liaison for the program to finalize the date.*

## **2. FY19 Budget**

There will be an all day budget hearing on April 21 and we should intend on attending to speak to issues of concern to the Green Team. In particular, we should make sure we can come to defend our committee's budget request. We also should note the solar symposium that we have been discussing. There is a proposal for \$10,000 to improve Rogers and Memorial park each in addition to regular park maintenance, though a park plan which has been discussed is not included and would likely cost \$50-70,000. Also in the request is funding to begin implementing the recommendations in the Complete Street plan, with the first phase geared towards improving walkability near Thomas Stone Elementary. Besides calling for funding for complete streets, we can also request funding to be spent in regards to Green Infrastructure as part of these projects.

## **3. Stormwater Issues**

### **a. Menkiti Pavement Follow Up**

Menkiti at some point in the past presented their plan which had called for the concrete that was poured, including that which occurred in Memorial Park. Councilmember Knedler wanted permeable pavement, but the video from the session needs to be watched to confirm what was agreed to by Menkiti. As of now we don't know if any impervious fees were paid for the city. This topic will be discussed at the work session on 4/18. The Green Team will likely write a letter concerning this incident and implementation of Green Infrastructure in general.

### **b. Draft Stormwater Plan**

Councilmember Chesek had not completed his draft stormwater plan for the meeting, but has found a resident with expertise to assist in its development. The goal is to present the plan as a powerpoint at the May worksession and the Green Team will have an opportunity to provide feedback prior to that. One question is whether any county entities have any information on how water is routed through Mount Rainier. The focus of this effort is on short-, medium-, and long-term planning, research on grants and other funding opportunities, and development of a good story to be used in applying for funding.

### **c. Arundel Green Street Letter**

There is uncertainty as to whether the letter concerning the Arundel Green Street was ever transmitted. Rather than continue to try to figure this out we should just send it directly to Jignesh and his team. We will try to see if we can run canvassing activities every weekend in May and the first two weekends in June. Councilmember Shah said we should be able to use voter file information in this effort to develop a better rapport when canvassing. Joseph mentioned the concern with making sure that the police were aware this activity was going on so we do not face any challenges.

- *Joseph will transmit the letter concerning the Green Street.*

## **4. Recycling Carts Update**

A draft opt-out form has been written up, is under review by the council, and show go out shortly. We will send out an email to the Green Team only seeking volunteers to help cavass to spread the word about the recycling process. Jessica will take the lead on developing a script for the

canvassers and Joseph will assist in that effort.

- *The Green Team should provide any additional feedback on the form by Wednesday 4/11*

**5. PG Youth Enrichment Program - Added**

Councilmember Shah has worked to get several high school students to work at the city from early June to Mid-July through a county work enrichment program. Bilingual students were requested. Two of the students would be based in public works and could provide up to ten hours of support for Green Team efforts. Liability issues are held by the County Program. There are challenges, due to the nature of the program, getting students to work after five or on weekends, which could be problematic if our requests are to complete canvassing activities when residents are typically at home. We should brainstorm ideas that the students could be able to complete and need to have a rough list of to Councilmember Shah within two weeks and we can refine it following. It would be nice to find a way for Green Team members to help mentor the children, though given the hours it might not be possible. Some ideas that were discussed were research on Green Team topics of interest, creation of a Green Team logo, canvassing on Green Team issues (in particular awareness of the opt-out rules).

**6. Outreach**

**a. #GreenIsLife Video 2 - Tabled**

**b. The Message April**

Several ideas for topics for the Message were discussed and decisions were made on the topics to be discussed in the next three Messages.

- *Joseph will write up an article for the May Message concerning pet waste disposal.*

- *Someone will write up an article for the June Message concerning the Great Rain Barrel Event.*

- *Sarah will write up an article for the July Message concerning alternative Mosquito abatement techniques.*

**7. Workgroups**

**a. Mayor's Climate Challenge Action Workgroup - Tabled**

**b. Mosquito Workgroup**

The workgroup should be scheduling their first meeting in the next week or two.

**8. Sustainable Maryland**

**a. Draft Application - Tabled**

**b. Feedback - Recap**

Armando led a group to put together actions that the Green Team recommended to include as actions in the Sustainable Maryland application in future years. Five recommended actions (resident's access to solar power, municipal renewable energy purchasing, complete streets plan, food scrap collection, and a waste reduction plan) were submitted using the template to the Sustainable Maryland program. We do not yet know when these proposed actions will be reviewed and discussed, but will let you know when such an event occurs.

**9. Topics for a Later Date**

**a. Green Team Logo**

**b. Youth Corp**

**c. Plastics Reduction**

**d. Parks**

**i. 31st Street Park**

**ii. Rogers Park**

**e. Green Development Fund**

**f. Development Projects**

**g. Curbside Composting**

- h. LED for Buildings**
- i. Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of**
- j. Lead Awareness**

**Upcoming Events/Dates**

**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**

**Next Meeting: May 14, 2018**

**Mount Rainier Day: May 19, 2018**