

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
May 14, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Joseph Jakuta
Jessica Love
Valerie Woodall
Doug Adams
Armando G.
MaryLee Haughwout

1. FY19 Budget

a. Composting

The idea would be for the city to offer once per week food waste collection. County is currently doing an opt-in program county-wide with the goal of 500 participants. The budget proposal would involve providing bins to all residents, but that is not set in stone as the way the program should proceed. The proposal would be for pick up to be combined with yard waste collection. Language for the proposal was borrowed from the compost proposal MaryLee drafted last year. By combining pick up with yard waste money is saved and issues would not occur with a truck. Tuesday at the Council Work Session there is a plan to review the proposal. College Park has not been successful with getting a food waste program up and running, but University Park has a pilot project that can be looked towards. There would be a benefit financially of ordering the bins at the same time. The county recently sent out a press release about expanding their facilities.

- Joseph will send around press release.

- Jessica will send around the proposal.

b. Street Improvements

Improvements to streets and sidewalks are included in the budget and would be based on the Toole recommendations and the sidewalk improvements are the highest priority. There is concern about a potential overlap with the levee project and that is what postponed the Thomas Stone phase, so the next year priority is now on 32nd Street improvements.

- Jessica will try to find the report and send it to the group.

c. Parks Improvements

Improvements to Memorial and Rogers Park are included in the proposal. No comprehensive park plan was included. Roger's Park improvements would focus on storm water issues.

- Joseph will send out an email to let the Green Team know about the work session so people can attend.

2. Recycling Carts Update

a. Rollout Status

The council has approved the forms and the opt-out forms have gone out. Residents can select a smaller trash cart if they like or opt-out due to having a cart or one or two other options. The opt-out forms went out in mid-April and they have until June 15 to be submitted. Retrofits for the trucks have been ordered for the vehicles. Manufacturer has the ability to distribute the containers to streamline the process and can perform pick up for recycling of existing cans. There will be an informational packet as the carts get

distributed, which should occur in late August.

- *Jessica will send out the draft materials for us to review when it becomes available.*

b. Reusing Returned Cans

An option proposed by Valerie is for residents to donate their aluminum cans for use as public receptacles around the city. Public works has been considering doing to something similar. Use of the aluminum cans could also work as a pilot project with a different long term solution. The proposal has cans being labeled as trash and recycling. Proposal doesn't include Public Works time for installation of collection. Plastic cans could also be used by residents for rain barrels, yard waste, or backyard compost instead of recycling them. Valerie could not find another city that has done this when rolling out larger carts. Doug asked if there would there be an incentive for participating, but that might not be possible given that it wasn't budgeted for. The saving would be minimal for the city by taking fewer cans to the recycler. Making the placement of aluminum cans as public receptacles more flexible could provide better data for where permanent cans should go. A question was raised as to whether Toter would be able to separate out the aluminum cans or would public works have to come up with a plan to get them separately.

- *We will take the proposal out to the committee after Valerie makes some updates and then send it along to Public Works.*

- *Jessica will send around the litter hot spots and we can include the map.*

3. Stormwater Issues

a. Draft Stormwater Plan

Overview of a ten-year stormwater implementation plan. Having such a plan would be helpful for applying to grants. No specific projects. Question as to whether the Green Infrastructure plan developed by LID Center was examined and there is a lot of detailed worked that has been done for that. Residential issues should also tackle expansion of use on Rain Check rebate. Doesn't discuss urban tree canopy, which is important to touch on even if it is not the focus. City has the impervious ordinance and should be mentioned as action already taken. Another important issue is working with the County on development projects and the stormwater discussion. The idea of daylighting creeks is about beautification and stormwater awareness. There is also a contract the County has with a contractor for 50 years concerning stormwater management.

- *Joseph will send Luke feedback from what was discussed and send around the GI Plan.*

b. Menkiti Pavement Follow Up

It appears that there is an agreement to resolve , but the landscaping plan. We do not know . Push for native planting. Stormwater fees. Writing a letter would be a solution. Does anyone know what the footage of paving is? Perhaps they could also talk to us about the project in a video.

- *MaryLee will take a draft of a letter and Joseph will send it around to the Green Team.*

c. Arundel Letter Follow Up

The letter did get submitted and we received a response back in April and the response was rather negligent. There were concerns about the "green street" including the dismissal of inclusions of crosswalks, the lack of knowledge of the bioretention, and the lack of knowledge of location of utilities. Also a question of making sure the city has the MOU for the tree replacement. Also include the bike ped coordinator for the county and Deni.

- *Joseph will write a letter.*

4. Youth and Recreation Committee Grant

Doug is applying for the grant as part of the urban farm project to replace ivy on the front of the Urban Farm plot and put in place some native plantings. The grant comes from the Youth and

Recreation Committee, with the purpose of engaging the community and is due on May 20. This is

- We will be supportive of Doug's grant submission and Doug will provide the application so we know what to write.

5. Events

a. **Spring Greening Fair/Green Expo (4/14) - Recap**

The event was very successful. There was estimate of a thousand attendees. Workshops were not quite as well attended, but we have videos of the talks to put online. We will put the videos up on facebook and youtube. Weather was probably too nice to get people to come inside. We are now short the green team canopy since another group was borrowing it and it got damaged beyond repair in a gust of wind. Next year we could try something different as far as the Expo, maybe not something with the Nature Center due to the event being so family focused.

- Joseph will provide the videos to Doug

- Doug will look at editing the videos to make them shorter.

b. **AWS Earth Day (4/21) - Recap**

The event went well. Barry, Joseph, and MaryLee attended from the Green Team. The group Joseph led counted bags and reported it to the Nature Center.

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

Four people came to the event and collected 10 bags of trash and a tire. Leroy helped collect the bags after the event. The idea of having maps to follow seemed to work well, but were designed for groups of 4 and groups of 1 or 2 could not complete them. Data was submitted using the PGCLitterTrak. Attendance was probably a problem due to the many other voluntary events that same day. In the future we could try collaborating with Elementary School kids or local church congregations.

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

It was suggested that having the recycling carts at the festival would be a good item for the city to undertake to increase awareness. Unfortunately Jessica and Mr Kamali will not be able to make it. Concerning our participation in the parade the final decision was to make a "float" using a Rain Barrel. We can borrow a rain barrel from Valerie. Doug was willing to participate in the parade as well.

- Joseph will get together the float if the weather seems appropriate.

e. **Possible Goat Event (5/21 or 5/22)**

Goats will begin clearing Rogers Park next week. Joseph talked about having a small event to learn about the goat project, but it could only happen during the day. A suggestion was made to make a temporary sign about the clearing using the verbiage from the newsletter as a basis. We can let people know what is going on online too.

- Joseph will throw together a sign and let the company know.

f. **6/16 Public Works - E-Waste Drop-off/Styrofoam Drop-off**

The Green Team will do another styrofoam drop off in conjunction with the e-waste drop off on 6/16. Last time we obtained a pick up truck load worth of styrofoam.

- Joseph will take the styrofoam to Crofton unless another volunteers comes forward.

g. **The Great Rain Barrel Event**

The timing will not work out to host the event in June. We should stagger it with College Park whose sale ends in July 10. The September drop off for e-waste would occur at a good time to host a Rain Barrel pick up. Valerie said it would be helpful to have a website set up for the event since a lot of questions will need to be fielded. It is important to determine how many palettes we should get since that affects pricing (more palettes means a lower per unit price). We need to make sure the event doesn't occur at

the same time as trash/recycling cart rollout since that could still be occurring then.
- Jessica will follow up Deborah Weller

6. Outreach

a. The Message

Joseph wound up writing an article on the new Capital Bikeshare station since the Rain Barrel event is delayed. We will write about Mosquitoes for the July issue and Rain Barrels for the August issue.

b. #GreenIsLife Videos

i. Judy Walsh-Mellett

A video will be filmed with Judy in the next few weeks.

ii. Bandalong

Doug is in the process of linking up with Trey at Anacostia River Keepers to put together a video about the Bandalong trash trap.

iii. Solar

A video on solar power testimonials and installation information is in the works and will occur later in the summer.

7. Workgroups - Tabled

a. Solar Workgroup

b. Mosquito Workgroup

8. Summer Youth Program - Tabled

a. Logo

b. Solar Survey

9. Sustainable Maryland - Draft Application - Tabled

10. Topics for a Later Date

- a. Plastics Reduction
- b. Parks - 31st Street Park, Rogers Park
- c. Green Development Fund
- d. Development Projects
- e. LED for Buildings
- f. Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of
- g. Lead Awareness

Upcoming Events/Dates

Mount Rainier Day: May 19, 2018

Next Meeting: June 11, 2018