

Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes
November 19, 2018 7:00-9:00 PM
City Hall

Joseph Jakuta
Sarah Lifsey
Valerie Woodall
Kevin McNeill
Steve “Jackson” Leas

1. Sustainable Maryland

The City of Mount Rainier was recertified under the Sustainable Maryland program and Joseph and Councilmember Shah attended the Maryland Municipal League Meeting to receive the award. Joseph recommended developing an action plan now for the resubmission in three years rather than waiting until the last year and trying to get the city staff to take more of a leadership role in the submission next time as other municipalities do. The report was sent around to the group.

2. Transition

Joseph has been stepping down after having been chair three years. Sarah Lifsey will take over soon, likely at the December 4th City Council Meeting.

3. Next Meeting

December 10 is the next meeting and will be held, likely with Sarah at the helm assuming all goes well on December 4th.

4. Recycling Carts Update

Recycling carts seemed to roll out to go well. As of now no submissions have been made for the contest. Did any city council members send out the contest?

On a related note Kaywood Gardens does not appear to have adequate recycling. Kevin pointed out that in his portion of the complex there are 7 buildings with four units per building. This group of apartments has 6 rolling trash cans and the trash overflows and no recycling either. What options are the requirements for recycling in the county? We should see if Miranda and Luke can help figure out a plan since they already have contact with the apartments.

5. Arundel Green Street

Joseph wrote a response concerning the most recent Arundel Green Street plan that was provided by PG Dept of Environment (DoE) and sent it around to the group for feedback. Councilmember Chesek took the letter City Council and they will submit the letter to PG DoE. This project will not occur until after the levee project has been completed and it has been put in hold due to contracting issues.

6. Events

a. 9/15 - Public Works - E-Waste Drop-off/Stryofoam Drop-off/The Great Rain Barrel Event - Recap

Thanks to Valerie's and other's outreach we sold 99 rain barrels. The county staff were thrilled about the success. Valerie brought up the question of how many people participated in the rain check rebate as a result? Sarah suggested about blogging the process of going through the rain check rebate process. Joseph suggested sending around the #GREENisLIFE workshop video on Rain Check Rebate from the Greening Fair as part of any additional promotion and suggested also reaching out to MaryLee to find out about what was done to get a Rain Check Rebate home tour.

We also picked up another pickup truck full of styrofoam and that has been delivered for recycling.

There was also a good amount of e-waste recycled.

- Joseph will volunteer to the styrofoam pick up again on 12/15

b. 9/29 - September Litter Event - Recap

Dozen or so of high school students came out, which was quite successful. We used our Green Team grabbers for the first time which were popular and got several bags of trash. On a related note Stream Team is accepting volunteers anytime for the event. Did not submit the event Littertrak due to it being down.

c. 10/18 - Solar Party - Recap

About 30 people came out to the event. The talks went well and people seemed to have good conversations. Thanks to Councilmember Cheseck, Jackson, Sarah, and Mimi for their help on the event. We might want to consider doing a survey of the event attendees to try and gauge whether people signed up for anything. We could first see if vendors had luck and wanted to help draft a follow up email to the list.

d. 10/20 - Clean Up Green Up (37th Street Park) - Recap

12 people including four service learning students came to the event. The group planted about 10 bushes, most of the 20 grasses, weeded the native pollinator garden, removed invasive ivy, and mulched. Thanks to Valerie for picking up the the plants before hand as well. The next Clean Up Green Up event will likely be in the Spring, probably towards to the end of April. This is a good opportunity to get some free plants and supplies from the County.

e. Spring Greening Fair

If the Green Team would like to begin to reach out to the Nature Center to determine how to approach collaborating on the Spring Greening Fair. Last year the Green Team played a role that was almost equal to the Nature Center which included putting on the #GREENisLIFE Workshop, social media advertising, contacting vendors, and creation of a website. The event is usually around tax day. The bandalong is nearby and having a demonstration the day of the event could be positive.

- Joseph will email Bernadine and loop in Sarah so any planning can begin.

7. Grants

a. Community Improvement Grants

Only nonprofits can apply to these grants, but perhaps we could partner with someone. Due by December 17. This might be something that Councilmember Cheseck might be interested in for parks and stream improvements. This is an annual grant and perhaps we could think about it for next year.

- Valerie will reach out to Councilmember Cheseck.

b. Chesapeake Bay Trust

Green Team can potentially can apply for this grant. This could possibly be done in conjunction with the schools and provide a learning experience such as to the bandalong or another location. The Green Team had applied for this before in conjunction with the 37th Street Park. This is due on January 10.

- Valerie will draft up some proposals.

8. Outreach

a. The Message

- Topics are needed for upcoming Messages. Kevin brought up the idea of a pledge amongst community members to pick up litter that the Stream Team is going to start to push. Articles are due on the 11th of the month. There is no August issue and either

January or February. Another idea would be a year in review and a discussion of the chair transition. Joseph wanted to write a lead related Message at some point in the future.

- *Joseph will try to determine which issue will not exist January or February.*
- *Joseph and Sarah will work on writing up a year end wrap up.*
- *Joseph will ask about the apartments not receiving the Message .*
- *Kevin will begin a write up concerning the litter pledge to be included when appropriate as part of the outreach push.*

b. #GreensLife Videos

Ancestral knowledge, stream team/bandalong, air quality, winterizing, local schools and green, could be topics to have on the videos. The videos go up on the Mount Rainier Green Team YouTube channel.

- *Joseph will send Doug a list of some of the topics we came up with.*

c. Social Media

We have Facebook, a website, and YouTube. Instagram and Twitter might both be beneficial to add to the repertoire, Instagram in particular could be beneficial and seemed to be the consensus of the next platform to expand to. If we have Instagram we should consider setting up the user base like we have for Facebook where multiple people could post it. Joseph considered setting up the website at least to auto-populate facebook etc, but never got around to setting it up. Joseph also noted that it was unofficial policy to focus the Green Team social media accounts on information related to Mount Rainier and the environment specially.

- *Sarah will look at setting up Instagram for the next meeting.*
- *Joseph will look into automatic posting to facebook and other social media from wordpress.*

9. Compost Pickup

Composting pick up from local restaurants could be a first avenue as could residential compost pick up. City staff are interested in pursuing compost pick up, it is more of a budgeting issue. On a related note Public Works might be putting out street cans for litter.

- *Joseph and Sarah will talk to the city staff about both of these items.*

10. Community Needs Assessment Survey - Tabled

Upcoming Events/Dates

Next Meeting: December 10, 2018