



Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes

February 11, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM

City Hall

Attendees:

- Sarah Lifsey
- Rocio Latorre
- Kevin McNeill

Action Items:

- Sarah will publicize the fundraiser for the Mount Rainier Community Garden and the upcoming Anacostia Watershed Society Presents Community Clean Up event.
- Sarah will put together a flyer for the March 23rd trash pick-up event and send it to the Stream Team and Public Works.
- Sarah will follow up with the Stream Team on: information for the Mount Rainier Yahoo group, Franklin's fundraisers, and points-of-contact for Prince George's County high schools.
- Rocio will work with Public Works to ensure that there is someone to pick up the litter on Mondays after the bandalong clean-outs.
- Kevin will follow up with Sarah about the Stream Team "call to action" write-up; Sarah will post the Stream Team write-up and pictures on the Green Team blog.
- Sarah will follow up with Doug Adams of #GreenisLife on potential video topics.
- The Solar Workgroup will continue to look into locations for solar power events.
- Rocio will follow up with Public Works about plans for upgrading and securing existing cans and the possibility of public recycling cans. Rocio will also reach out to the Kaywood property manager to gauge interest in starting a recycling program.
- Rocio will review a past composting proposal and see if tipping fees have changed; Sarah will follow up with interested parties about the possibility of creating a composting workgroup.
- Sarah will follow-up with Councilmember Chesek about potential topics for a Community Survey and discussion at a future Work Session.

1. Events

a. Fundraiser for the Community Garden - March 18th

- i. This fundraiser will take place at Franklin's all day on March 18th. *Sarah will publicize on Green Team media and send the link for how to sign up for Franklin's fundraisers to the Stream Team.*

b. Spring trash pick-up event – March 23rd

- i. The Green Team and Joe's Stream Team will collaborate on a spring trash pick-up event on March 23rd. Public Works will be able to carry away whatever materials (trash, recyclables) are picked up.
- ii. *Sarah will put together a flyer for the trash pick-up event and send it to the Stream Team and Public Works.*

c. Anacostia Watershed Society Presents Community Clean Up - April 13th at 9am

- i. The meeting point is the Nature Center at 9am. The Green Team will support this and will send out awareness notices as well as post it on the Mount Rainier listserv/Facebook page.
- ii. *Sarah will send the Stream Team an invite/information for the Mount Rainier Yahoo group.*

d. Spring Greening Fair - Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 12-5pm

- i. Previously, Councilmember Chesek talked with Gabe Popkin of the Tree Commission about doing a native wildflower tour on the morning of the Fair since

flowers should be out by early May. After discussion, the native wildflower tour will take place before the Fair (likely the weekend of February 27th-28th) so that everyone can participate in both the walk and the Fair.

- ii. Miss Bernadine sent the vendor application to Joe's Stream Team for the Trash Trap Demo/competition.

e. Open Studio Tour – May 11

- i. Margaret Boozer/Red Dirt Studio is helping to organize a DIY project that will focus on meadow lands (seed planting/butterfly habitats) and be led by Krista Schyler. This project will be part of an open studio tour on May 11 that will feature over 150 artists from all over the Mount Rainier, Brentwood/North Brentwood and Hyattsville area.

2. Ongoing coordination with Joe's Stream Team

- a. Joe's Stream Team is preparing to apply to get its Clean Water Act grant renewed in June. Sarah is interested in helping review the grant requirements and reapplication if needed.
- b. The Stream Team needs some help picking up the litter bags after the weekly litter trap pick-ups. *Rocio will work with Public Works to ensure that there is someone to pick up the litter on Mondays.*
- c. The Stream Team is also working on outreach to local high schools in the hopes of offering community service hours for assistance in cleaning out the litter trap. *Sarah will reach out to Joseph Jakuta to ask for a point-of-contact with who is in charge of Prince George's County high school volunteer opportunities.* The Stream Team is thinking that this opportunity would take place towards the end of the school year (April-June) and could involve as many as five volunteers per week.

3. Solar Workgroup Update

- a. The Solar Workgroup submitted updates via email.
- b. At Kaywood, Kevin McNeil and Stephen "Jackson" Leas spoke with Armando Diello from Neighborhood Sun about doing an event at Kaywood that Kevin could host. This ideally would occur before mid-March because Neighborhood Sun begins operations soon. Kevin is also looking at other places that could host similar events. Joe's is a possibility, as is Pott's Hall.
- c. At Mount Rainier Gardens, there is a space in Queens Manor Garden Complex that could potentially serve as a location for an event geared toward residents of that complex, which is called CAFE Youth (Cultural Academy for Excellence). Stephen went there in person and got the business card of the Community Outreach Manager (Althea Young) and has reached out to her.
- d. The Workgroup has not had success in contacting St. James or getting messages returned. *The Solar Workgroup will continue to look into locations for solar power events.*

4. Grants

- a. PG Litter Reduction and Citizen Engagement Mini Grant Program - **Tabled**

5. Outreach

- a. The Green Team received an email from a leader at the Triumphant Church in Mount Rainier inquiring about volunteer opportunities and help installing a community garden. *Sarah will send information about upcoming events and offer to connect her to the Mount Rainier Community Garden team.*
- b. The Message
 - i. The Stream Team write-up was submitted for the February Message. *Sarah will post the longer version of the write-up with the pictures on the Green Team blog in late February.*

- ii. The Stream Team is interested in following up on its article with a community call to action. *Kevin will draft the community call to action and send to Sarah.*
- iii. For the April Message (due 3/11/19) Sarah will write about the Spring Greening Fair.
- iv. May (due 4/11/19) – Lead (Joseph)
- v. June (due 5/11/19) – Possibly composting?
- c. #GreenIsLife Videos
 - i. *Sarah has reached out to Doug Adams with potential ideas and will follow up.* These include:
 1. Winterizing your home (potentially for the fall; Councilmember Chesek may know someone with a winterization grant who would be willing to be interviewed)
 2. Bandalong/Stream Team (potentially in April-ish with some footage of litter in the community)
 3. Upcoming Glut Anniversary (interviewing staff about the mission of Glut)
 4. Community garden development (if Triumphant Church is interested in documenting the process)
 5. Composting or recycling (showing items that are commonly thrown away when they can be composted/recycled; composting do's and don'ts)
- d. Social Media – **Tabled**

6. Waste Reduction

- a. Public trash cans and recycling cans
 - i. Public Works does not have a listing of “trash hot spots.” If there is a community request Public Works can look into the request and make a proposal to the Mayor and Council for a trash can. Currently it's the area around the circle that has the most trash on the ground.
 - ii. Public Works is interested in upgrading the existing cans and making them more secure. There is a possibility that recycling cans could be added as well, potentially in high-traffic areas like the circle as an experiment to see how they are utilized. *Rocio will follow up with Public Works about plans for upgrading and securing existing cans and the possibility of public recycling cans.*
- b. Kaywood Gardens Recycling update
 - i. Councilmember Chesek reached out to Deni Taveras, who checked on if there is a tax incentive for multifamily units to participate in recycling. According to her office, there is no tax incentive but multifamily complexes are required by to provide the opportunity to its residents to recycle in the same manner that trash disposal is provided. *Sarah is going to continue to research this topic.*
 - ii. There may be a possibility to get the residents to sign a letter or petition of some sort for recycling.
 - iii. *Rocio has the email for the Kaywood property manager and will reach out to ask if recycling is something they would be interested in hearing about and if there are barriers to recycling that could be mitigated.*
- c. Cassette Tape Recycling
 - i. The opportunity for cassette tape recycling, organized by Joseph, was posted on the listserv, Facebook and Next Door. There have been some drop-offs and interest. Joseph is going to collect tapes until the Spring Greening Fair and may have a drop-off at the Fair.
- d. Styrofoam/E-Waste Event – Saturday, March 16th
 - i. Joseph is available to pick up the Styrofoam and take it to recycling.
- e. Compost Pickup

- i. Councilmember Chesek reached out to Hannah and Julia, who might be interested in a compost working group. It would be helpful to develop some public outreach and education materials (quick guidelines, benefits, how easy it is) for the Green Team and the City to use. It would also be helpful to find out how some of the other communities (Takoma Park) do their own composting, if they have best practices. If County can't take the compost, what would we do with it? What are the other options? *Sarah will follow-up to see if they are interested in taking on these tasks.*
- ii. Public Works is working on a department webpage and would be interested in posting information on composting.
- iii. Mr. Kamali is planning on bringing up the idea of a composting pilot program, maybe with about 60 houses to start off with. After the city budget is completed, the Green Team could help Public Works conduct outreach to see if there are people willing to join the pilot program and present that list of the Mayor and Council. Public Works did create a proposal last year on this topic; *Rocio will review the proposal and see if tipping fees have changed.*

7. Community Needs Assessment Survey

- a. The Green Team is interested in having a community survey to see what topics residents are interested in hearing about or working on in terms of going green or living green. Rocio is willing to write up the survey but needs clear guidance on the topics. Suggestions are:
 - i. Solar panels/community solar
 - ii. Public trash can hot spots
 - iii. Compost
 - b. *Sarah will follow-up with Councilmember Chesek about other topics and potentially discussing a community survey at the March City Council Work Session.*
 - c. Outreach ideas included an online survey. The Green Team will need to consider the costs for direct mailing, website additions, and the cost for translating into Spanish.
8. Topics for a Later Date
- a. Mosquito Workgroup
 - b. Art Workgroup
 - c. Plastics Reduction
 - d. Economic Development Fund
 - e. Parks - 31st Street Park, Rogers Park
 - f. Green Development Fund
 - g. Development Projects
 - h. LED for Buildings
 - i. Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of
 - j. Lead Awareness
 - k. Art walk from Joe's to the elementary schools (painted crosswalks)
 - l. Rain Check Rebate follow-up and blog

Next Meeting: March 11, 2019