



## Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda

July 8, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM

City Hall

### Attendees:

- Sarah Lifsey
- Rocio Latorre
- Councilmember Luke Chesek
- Mimi McKindley-Ward

### Action Items

- The Stream Team and the Green Team will look into dates for the Stream Team No Litter Left Behind Pledge event.
- The Green Team will follow up with the Recreation Committee for dates and times for a mosquito clinic, possibly next spring if it doesn't happen this year.
- Councilmember Chesek will keep Rocio and Mr. Kamali in the loop on discussions with the Maryland Environmental Services (MES) on the stormwater management plan.
- Mimi will contact Catholic Climate Covenant to see if there are feasible alternatives to spraying RoundUp around the new solar panels.
- Councilmember Chesek and Sarah will follow up with the City Manager for next steps on the Bikeways Funding.
- Sarah will follow up with the Bike Co-Op on planning for a potential Late Summer Bike Ride.
- Councilmember Chesek will update Kevin, who is the point person to Anacostia River Keepers and Friends of Dueling Creek, on next steps for the Dueling Creek updates.
- Rocio will send the Green Team the name of a speaker the previous Public Works liaison knew of who can come talk about how to grow the Team and how execute ideas.
- The Green Team will discuss alternative recycling with Public Works and will also try to find out what kind of recycling grants the Takoma Co-Op received.

### 1. Events

- a. Stream Team No Litter Left Behind Pledge event (TBD – Mid to Late August)
  - i. The Stream Team and the Green Team are looking into dates for this event.
- b. Mosquito Clinic (TBD)
  - i. The Green Team was contacted by the Mt. Rainier Recreation Committee for a potential mosquito clinic. *The Green Team will follow up with the Recreation Committee for dates and times.*
- c. The Green Team is looking for recruitment events. Suggestions from the group include Mount Rainier Day, the Mayor's Halloween event, the Spring Greening Fair, the Easter Egg hunt and the Thursday night music event put on by Tom Liddle and the Brentwood Art Exchange.

### 2. Solar Workgroup Update – Tabled

### 3. Stormwater Update

- a. Councilmember Chesek sat down with Maryland Environmental Services (MES), which has engineering expertise and provides input into large state-level projects. MES offered to have their engineers meet with the city on developing the stormwater master plan. *Councilmember Chesek will keep Rocio and Mr. Kamali in the loop.* The plan is to bring them in, show them plans for developing the master plan, and then take them and show them Dueling Creek and the long-term vision of daylighting that part of the creek. If MES can lend some technical expertise and input into funding streams it would be good.

### 4. Compost Workgroup Update

- a. The Compost Working Group is working offline to develop a cost proposal. This is slated to be presented in November at a working session.

## 5. Mosquito Workgroup Update

- a. The notice about potential RoundUp Spraying at Convent on Eastern & Bunker Hill has made the rounds on Mt. Rainier social media. The story is that the covenant wants to put in a solar array but does not want to or does not have the resources to mow. *Mimi will contact Catholic Climate Covenant to see if there are feasible alternatives to spraying RoundUp.*

## 6. Native Pollinators

- a. Mimi went to a recent weekend permaculture/building resilient communities conference at a retreat center in Charleston near Harpers Ferry. Some former Mt. Rainier residents live there and one former resident has attended workshops in different states to learn more about native plants, pollinators and insects. This resident has a slideshow based on Doug Tallamay's book *Bringing Nature Home* on native plants and connections to pollinators that does a great job of describing and talking through why native plants are important and why they're more important than ever.
- b. Recently there was a Washington Post article about communities who brought tourism and money in due to their gardens; Sarah noted the America in Bloom contest is a similar idea. Additionally, encouraging native plants dovetails nicely with Councilmember Chesek's dream of having "native greenways" connected throughout the area, with land around waterways and other islands of conservation connected to yards. Communities could map native plantings and try to link them up across properties, in partnership with neighboring communities like Brentwood.

## 7. Biking and walking in Mt. Rainier

- a. *Sarah gave an update on the BikeWays funding. Councilmember Chesek and Sarah will follow up with the City Manager for next steps.*
- b. *Sarah will follow up with the Bike Co-Op on planning for a potential Late Summer Bike Ride.*
- c. 2020 Bike to Work Day Pit Stop - Tabled
- d. Councilmember Chesek's downtown core plan is in the strategic visioning stage; he anticipates developing a PowerPoint deck and sharing with the Green Team later this summer.

## 8. Adding EV vehicles to the Mt. Rainier fleet

- a. Joseph Jakuta has been in contact with the Mayor on adding EV vehicles to the Mt. Rainier fleet. She will put it on a fall agenda and have the city take a look at its fleet and incorporate future purchase of EV into the schedule. Public Works is looking into vendors.

## 9. Parks updates

- a. Dueling Creek updates - Friends of Dueling Creek and Stream Team
  - i. *Councilmember Chesek will update Kevin, who is the point person to Anacostia River Keepers and Friends of Dueling Creek, on next steps for the Dueling Creek updates.*
- b. 31st Street Pocket Park - Tree Commission native forest project
  - i. Gabe is going to talk with the Tree Commission to find dates to go on a field trip to PG County to visit a gardener who designed his yard as a native fruiting forest. Councilmember Chesek and the Tree Commission will take a field trip to see his set-up and whether he would come and look at the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Park.

## 10. Waste Reduction Updates

- a. For alternative recycling drop-off points, the Green Team would need to have a discussion with Mr. Kamali and propose where to drop off the items and how much it will cost to drop them off for recycling. New ideas include medical sharps and unwanted medications, although the latter is generally conducted by the police department. Recently the Takoma Park Co-Op got an award or a grant for alternative recycling drop

offs—can the Glut pursue something similar? *The Green Team will discuss alternative recycling with Public Works and will also try to find out what kind of recycling grants the Takoma Co-Op received.*

- b. Rocio noted that the previous Public Works liaison left a name behind of a speaker who could come to the Green Team and give a talk about how to grow the Team and how execute ideas. *Rocio will look up this speaker and send the information to the Green Team.*
- c. Kaywood Gardens Recycling update – There has been no real movement on this topic, although Public Works noted that they receive calls from Kaywood about how residents want to recycle.

**11. PG County Gateway Arts District Overlay Zone Revision – Backyard Chickens - Tabled**

**12. Grants**

- a. Maryland Department of Natural Resources Funding Available for Resilience, Restoration and Stewardship - Tabled
- b. PG Litter Reduction and Citizen Engagement Mini Grant Program - Tabled

**13. Outreach**

- a. The Message
  - i. August (due 7/11/19) – This issue will include a short blurb for the Stream Team’s No Litter Left Behind campaign.
  - ii. September (due 8/11/19) - Lead
  - iii. October (due 9/11/19)
  - iv. Upcoming topics
- b. #GreenIsLife Videos – Recently filmed videos with Joseph on air quality and lead.

**14. Topics for a Later Date**

- a. Working with the new Mt. Rainier Arts Commission
- b. Plastics Reduction
- c. Economic Development Fund
- d. Parks - 31st Street Park, Rogers Park
- e. Green Development Fund/Development Projects
- f. LED for Buildings
- g. Parks Plan - Fee in Lieu Of
- h. Art walk from Joe’s to the elementary schools (painted crosswalks)
- i. Rain Check Rebate follow-up and blog

Upcoming Events/Dates

Next Meeting: August 12, 2019