



**Green Initiatives Team
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2014
6pm**

In attendance: Alderman Kelly Russell, Pam Reppert, Sylvia Carignan, Graham Hubbard, Doug Powell

1. The Mayor and Board will be reviewing resumes for the GIT team applicants at an upcoming meeting and will vote on new members.
2. On-going Projects
 - a. UMD PALS sustainability-related courses that may be approved by the Director include a greenhouse gas inventory course, a climate change adaptability course specific for the Frederick City watershed, a trail design studio course for the Frederick City watershed, climate change adaptability for the entire City, and a Carroll Creek algae/water quality study. Some of the courses also relate to minority-owned businesses along the Golden Mile, historic preservation, and other topics tangentially related to sustainability. The whole list of courses have been narrowed down to about 20 possibilities and the final 10-12 will be selected by the Director, Zack Kershner, of which, four or five will be sustainability-related.
 - b. Jenny has collected most of the data needed for the Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant that will help prioritize areas for lighting and HVAC upgrades and targets for fleet vehicles. This data also can be used for the greenhouse gas inventory in the PALS course.
 - c. The urban tree canopy report is due in 2015 and to make future reports more robust, Jenny is working with Drew Ferrier from Hood College, Peter Brehm of Friends of Baker Park, Frederick's Arborist Tom Rippeon, and Heather Montgomery from Frederick County to collect NAC-level tree data following an introduction at the spring 2015 Green Neighbor Forum. The project will begin this fall with a training session for interested GIT members and Hood students to learn tree identification. Anyone is welcome to attend the trainings, which will be a series of about five field trips (approximately three hours each) to learn tree identification. In spring 2015, the group will introduce iTree Design to

the Green Neighbor Forum and will target NAC 9 as the pilot neighborhood. Anyone/any neighborhood is welcome to participate, but the goal will be to use the trained folks to help homeowners identify their trees and enter the data into iTree Design (a free program) specifically for NAC 9.

Following that, we can move to other NACs. Pam mentioned that this data will really help with the tree canopy reports and will show the need for homeowner and HOA support in certain areas of the City. Pam also mentioned that NAC 9 is fairly forested and that tree planting focus should be on some of the other NACs. This data will be able to give information about the specific value of the trees that are already there and the potential value of future tree plantings.

Jenny will send out an email to the group for anyone who would like to attend the trainings, which will likely be in September and October.

- d. Jenny attended the Frederick County Sustainability Commission meeting on May 21. Tim Davis, Transportation Planner for the City presented on EVIC (Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council) and mentioned bringing EV charging stations to the City. Tim showed one station already exists at the MOMs on Route 85. Nancy Norris, Director of TransIT also talked to the group about three new electric buses that the County purchased. The buses are refurbished existing bus bodies with all new electric components. There will be spots for ten charging stations at the TransIT center for future electric buses.

Jenny asked for assistance with this program. Emily Hansford, GIT member, expressed interest via email to help with this project. While the EV/solar grant deadline has passed for 2014, we have plenty of time to gather information for the 2015 grant cycle.

3. Jenny hopes to send out an RFI for solar in the City by September. She requests help from anyone who knows about solar and can help with a basic outline so she can craft the RFI. The RFI will be to explore the possibilities of solar on City property to reduce or eliminate utility expenses AND to serve as an educational opportunity for residents and visitors. Alderman Russell mentioned that she believes Grove Stadium may need a new roof and might be a possibility for a solar project if that is the case. She also mentioned that Lisa Orr from the County led the Solarize Frederick project and might be a good source for information. Jenny will make contact with her to gather information.
4. The group also discussed the possibility of giving LEED tax credits and other incentives for installing solar and other environmentally-friendly practices. The subject has been workshopped several times. Jenny hopes that the sustainability master plan will help shape these ideas for code/ordinance changes and adoptions.

The group also discussed tree benches and grates. Pam said that Tom Rippeon was looking into the cost of grates and would install one as a pilot on the tree near the Cellar Door on East Church Street. The Brooklyn-style benches also were discussed, perhaps trying them on a few trees where it wouldn't impede foot traffic. If the bench locations are identified, it was suggested that possibly sponsors could pay for the benches.

Jenny mentioned a citizen forester program that teaches citizens about trees and empowers them to train others, assist in tree plantings, enter data, and other information. Another idea about hanging large price tags on trees to show their overall value (Stormwater reduction, air quality, etc.), data which is available by plugging the tree information into iTree Design. This would be a very visible educational campaign for residents and visitors.

A program to stop cigarette butts from being thrown on the ground was also discussed. "The Butt Stops Here," was mentioned as a tagline. This may be a project to discuss for future meetings.

5. No other topics were raised and the meeting adjourned.