



## **Green Initiatives Team**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**July 7, 2014**

**6pm**

In attendance: Alderman Kelly Russell, Tim Davis, Dave Schmidt, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Peter Brehm, Lisa Orr, John Daniels, Sylvia Carignan, Emilee van Norden, Grant Young, Emily Hansroth, and Jenny Willoughby

1. The GIT welcomed new members Emilee van Norden and Dave Schmidt. Emilee works for Maryland Energy Administration and has worked on solar and wind projects. Dave has an HVAC background, specifically energy efficiency at the home scale.
2. On-going Projects
  - a. UMD PALS sustainability-related courses have been narrowed down and we expect very soon to have the final list of approved courses. We expect a September launch event to officially announce the program to the public.
  - b. The City received the grant funding of \$102,000 from Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant. Jenny continues to gather data for that. She also is working on drafting the two policies (energy efficiency and fuel consumption reduction) that must be adopted before projects can proceed.
  - c. Jenny continues to visit the Neighborhood Advisory Councils to talk about sustainability in the City and invite residents to participate in the tree inventory project that will launch this fall.
  - d. Tim Davis talked about electric vehicle charging stations, placement, and presented the group with a few questions about how they think the City should proceed. Davis explained that the City has already amended the building and electrical codes to allow for EV charging stations. He also explained that electrical inspectors have determined that level 3 charging stations, the most expensive and fastest stations, are not financially feasible, but level 2 is feasible in the garages. Davis asked for input to see if they think government or if private sector or combination of the two should install EV stations. The group discussed and seems to agree that a combination would be best.

Ron Kaltenbaugh said that level 1 would be good for longer term parking. Dave Schmidt said level 1 may also be good for the decks. Emilee said that level 2 is not that much more expensive and might be better for the garages. She also said that batteries are only going to get better and have more capacity. Kaltenbaugh said level 2 only costs \$.50 per hour. He also said that businesses may want to join together to pay for on-street EV stations that would be used by their customers. Peter Brehm said he thought it would be better to install them in the garages first and maybe work with the Chamber of Commerce.

Metering also was discussed. Alderman Russell asked the group if they thought it would be better to offer the EV parking stations for free or for a charge. Lisa Orr mentioned that in some areas, EV and hybrid vehicles get preferred parking, but that could annoy others if too many spaces are taken up for priority parking. Russell also said there is an issue with occupying a charging spot for too long. Dave Schmidt mentioned the potential for a parking pass in the City where EVs could park at any of the stations for a flat monthly fee. It remains unclear whether it would be better to charge the actual cost of the electricity or to offer the spots for free.

Davis also noted that MTA will be looking at our MARC station for EV stations, but they are not feasible in the current parking lot. However, once the next stage of Carroll Creek project is installed, EV stations will be feasible in the lower lot. These stations could be level 1 because vehicles are typically parked there for a substantial amount of time. Tim Davis sits on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC) and will be leading the EV projects in the City. Davis will keep the GIT informed as the project moves forward.

3. Alderman Russell showed the team an example of the "Butt Ugly" cigarette butt campaign. The group discussed how to get businesses to participate in the program. Butt receptacles are at various places around the City, but those are owned by the businesses. Alderman Russell said she didn't think the City should put butt receptacles around the City, but thought that posters, PSAs, bumper stickers or some other way to reach the public would be best.

Lisa Orr mentioned the Keep America Beautiful campaign that handed out little metal cases for cigarette butts, kind of like bags for dog waste. She also said it might be best to actually look at who is littering and specifically targeting that group. This spawned a discussion about how to reach out such as video contests and a winning video played at local movie theaters and a jingle contest. Russell mentioned that the City has an AV department with lots of interns that might also be able to put something together.

Peter Brehm suggested posting information at the MVA. Dave Schmidt mentioned a social media pledge, similar to the Scoop the Poop pledge.

Alderman Russell said she was looking to GIT for accessory components of the campaign, technical help with the brochures, and PSAs.

4. Jenny showed the group a very rough outline of solar RFI. The purpose statement has been completed, however, she asked the group for assistance with drafting the remainder of the RFI.

The group discussed why the City is working on an RFI as opposed to an RFP. Tim and Jenny said that the RFI is to discover what the potential is for solar in the City. Emilee van Norden suggested that we would benefit from economies of scale and that it might be good to include addresses of potential places. She also said it might be better to split up the RFI into separate pieces: buildings, garages, parking lots, etc. She also said it would be wise to share information about how we are billed in the City because of the net metering law. It was suggested that we attempt to aggregate the meters, as there are about 300 separate metered bills around the City. She also said that we might benefit from looking at the Montgomery County RFP and Prince Georges County RFQ.

Lisa Orr suggested that grouping the list by buildings and energy providers would be helpful because some utility contracts may restrict the ability to produce or offset power. She also said that the County is working with A1A to help as that company will not be able to bid on any projects. Lisa said she was unsure if the County was paying A1A or if they were offering their consulting services for free. She said she would check on that and get back to the group.

There was a suggestion to call for assistance from a solar contractor that would not be able to bid on a commercial project such as this, perhaps someone focused on residential, but knows how commercial systems operate.

Jenny asked for a subcommittee of two or three members to help with crafting the solar RFI. Emilee van Norden was willing to help. Lisa Orr and Ron Kaltenbaugh said they would be happy to offer liaison help. Jenny asked for another GIT member to help Emilee as Lisa and Ron are not official members.

5. Tim Davis is looking for assistance with bicycle and pedestrian counts at various sites around the City. He needs people to count for three hours in the morning and evening on October 7 and 9. He will provide a how-to package for volunteers.

Tim explained that the City will benefit from data collection with funding and designations. He said that we are a bronze-level bicycle friendly community, but that we could achieve a higher designation if we had data to show how many bike/ped trips are taken each year. This data also will help with STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating) communities certification.

Jenny will bring a sign-up sheet to the next GIT meeting. Members and guests may also contact Tim Davis directly by emailing [tdavis@cityoffrederick.com](mailto:tdavis@cityoffrederick.com) to sign up for a specific location and time.

6. New topics from the group: Lisa said she was managing quite a few projects for the City. She continues to run the refrigerator exchange for low-income households. She also is launching a new Power Saver program that will offer retrofits up to \$8,000 if HVAC is needed, up to \$5,000 if

HVAC is not needed. This program is for low and middle income households. The County also is working on their second year of MSEC funding and their projects will focus on energy efficiency and an electric TransIT bus. They also are working on two watershed programs focused on Peter Pan and brook trout watersheds to provide workshops and incentives for residential stormwater best management practices. She also said that the Green Homes Challenge website was receiving an update.

No other topics were raised. The meeting was adjourned.