

Green Initiatives Team Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2014

In attendance: Alderman Kelly Russell, Joe Adkins, Pam Reppert, Phil LeBlanc, Peter Brehm, Ginny Sulcer, Lisa Orr, Graham Hubbard, Drew Farrier, Sylvia Carignan, and Jenny Willoughby

1. PALS program will mean several students coming to the City to look at the viability of several projects for their course work, including Hargett Farm, the election cycle, and others.
2. The Pet Waste Project grant—The City applied for a grant based on citizen complaints about dog poop in the downtown area. Joe reiterated that the \$20,000 Chesapeake Bay Trust grant was to determine what the best practices are for our community.
3. Joe briefly touched on MSEC (Maryland Smart Energy Communities), which is a program that offers incentives for communities focused on reducing energy consumption through activities such as energy efficient lighting, purchasing or producing renewable energy, and transportation petroleum reduction. The City is just beginning this process.
4. An update on the bike/ped front—7th street bike lanes and sharrows are in operation and a bike loop is in progress.
5. Rails to Trails--Joe mentioned a new “Rails-To-Trails” proposal to extend service from the MARC Station up to Worman’s Mill (across MD Route 26). Also, considering proposed bicycle lanes along Jefferson Street, Center Street, and Prospect Blvd to create southern loop. Widen the remaining paths (some currently only 3’) around Culler Lake area of Baker Park. Culler Lake to be dredged and retrofitted with new stone fountain and bioretention planting areas.
6. Pam mentioned that the City received a Stream Restoration Challenge competitive grant to plant 52.8 acres at 100 trees per acre, to create a 100-ft buffer around stream banks on Rock and Tuscarora creeks. There also is an educational component that engages both middle and high school students, in addition to a proposed nursery for the FCPS’s Career and Technology Center. Planting has begun and [is](#) scheduled for completion in the fall of 2015.
7. Pam mentioned the Shared Use Path plan in progress to connect Baker Park to Waterford Park, which passes under US 15.

We discussed ideas for projects that GIT could accomplish, a wish-list of sorts.

- Drew Farrier asked about stormwater retrofits near snow piles, perhaps stormwater wetlands, on Bench and Center streets.
- Lisa Orr requested a City representative to work with the County on Green Homes Challenge and more City participation. She mentioned getting volunteer green ambassadors, educational program for residents (and a need to endorse that), to share information, and using the STAR community index. She handed out the Refrigerator Exchange Program information.
- Walking tours of Hood College’s stormwater retrofits

- Ginny talked about recycling chicken manure for heat for farmers, [although we don't have a farming use in the City.](#)
- Graham thought Rosemont and Dill might be a good spot for stormwater retrofit and traffic-calming.
- Joe (and several others) requested more tree plantings, specifically near Rosemont and West College Terrace. Other folks mentioned other areas that could use trees. Pam mentioned that Tom Rippeon has been planting treeless streets in developments that were planned under the 1986 zoning ordinance. The 2005 LMC requires planting street trees on all street classifications, except alleys.
- Phil was interested in seeing more bike tours, bike sharing, and other bike-focused adventures. He also asked about doing another citizen survey or revisit the last survey for priorities.
- Alderman Russell said that the green team will be open back up to the public to get more team members.
- Pam asked for a dedicated person to look at forest stands to determine violations (tree removals and pruning) because the State asks for violations in the annual forest conservation report and the City inspectors do not revisit forest stands after survival numbers are met and the bonding has been released to the developers.
- Pam mentioned that the City should provide educational information to advise people and require appropriate tree pruning, ~~landscape plants and~~ mulching, etc. practices.
- Jenny wanted to work on a self-guided historic or Witness Tree Tour and a tree inventory for street and park trees in the City. Pam mentioned that the City golf course has a huge number of specimen trees in the forest surrounding the greens and along the Monocacy River that at one time was suggested for a walking path.