

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Dawn Taft (staff), Janet Nackoney (notes), James Ball, Danny Schaible (Council), Rayya Newman, Jared Messinger, Melissa Schweisguth

Guests: Greg Smith, Scott Wilson

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [November meeting minutes](#): **APPROVED**
3. Approval of [HEC schedule for 2024](#): **APPROVED**
4. Public Comment Period
 - a. No comments
5. How to best leverage Metropolitan Washington Council of Government resources
 - a. Postponed to next meeting
6. Development of a Hyattsville Climate Action Plan (CAP) (James)
 - a. JB's [notes doc](#)/brainstorm identifies elements of a CAP, provides resources, funding opportunities and some possible next steps to move one forward for Hyattsville. Maryland Council of Governments (COG) has been helping municipalities apply for funding.
 - b. Discussion: The City of Hyattsville doesn't yet have an agreed-upon climate goal (and no targets for electric fleets etc)– and the role of HEC could be to recommend to Council that the City funds the development of a CAP. It was noted that the City is currently very squeezed in budget and resources– it likely does not have the capacity to fund a CAP, but we could connect the City to COG to obtain support for seeking funding/ writing a proposal. Danny S happy to sponsor this effort.
 - c. Hyattsville's Sustainability Plan: next draft should be forthcoming and Holly will be soliciting for additional public comment. It was noted that the plan doesn't focus on decarbonization, so the idea of a CAP is very different.
 - d. Motion: HEC will develop a proposal for Danny Schaible to recommend the City develop a CAP for the City of Hyattsville: **APPROVED (6 yes, 0 no)**
7. Suffrage Point Discussion (Greg Smith)
 - a. Greg on the board of Sustainable Hyattsville (led by Danny)

- b. Suffrage Point development began in late 2017 (upper parcel; former site of WSSC building). Housing development is also slated for a lower parcel backing up to Driskell Park and situated on a 100-year floodplain. Although the City has opposed the developments, Prince George's County has continued to support them. Greg provided more context on the recent history of the developments and legal challenges.
 - c. Sustainable Hyattsville has drafted a letter that we can customize from HEC to recommend that the City continue to oppose the housing development. Greg feels there might be some City fatigue on this issue and that having additional voices from HEC could be beneficial to keep momentum and add support to our current Council champions. There is value in thanking the City Council for all that they are doing to oppose the project. There is some urgency right now since a public notice has been issued
 - d. Motion: Janet will amend the Sustainable Hyattsville letter to create a HEC statement of support to City Council to continue to oppose the Suffrage Point housing development. She will share with HEC asap for any additional edits with a deadline of Thursday COB; send to Danny by Friday morning in time for Monday's City Council meeting. **APPROVED** (6 yes, 0 no).
- 8. Creative Thinking Workshop for Homeowners
 - a. Postponed until next meeting
- 9. Announcements
 - a. No announcements
- 10. Adjournment.