

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Participants: Rich Canino (chair), Janet Nackoney, James Ball, David Hiles, Jared Messinger, Brie Welzer, Thaddeus Waterman, Dawn Taft (staff), Lesley Riddle (staff), Ben Simasek (council)

Guests: Mary Abe, PG County Dept of Env.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of November meeting minutes: **APPROVED**.
3. [PG County Climate Action \(Draft\) Plan](#)
 - Joined by Mary Abe, PG County Dept of the Environment (DOE). Provides staff support to the Climate Action Commission (formed in June 2020 via county council resolution). The Commission has been meeting regularly through the present to put the plan together.
 - Worked with a consulting firm and the Univ of Maryland Env Finance Center and Low Impact Development Center. Huge effort, as part of a larger regional effort to pave the way for transitioning toward renewable energy and increased resilience to climate change.
 - Public comment period ends tomorrow. Dec 15 deadline to submit letters of support. Heart of the plan is Section 8, recommendations. This is in draft form, intended to be a living document and will be updated in 18 months (and continue to be updated regularly).
 - How will the plan be adopted by the Council? The resolution, as passed, mandates the development of this plan. After public comment period, a supplemental report will be generated to summarize the comments provided. Then it's up to the County Council to adopt and implement/use that feedback (or not).
 - Message from Laura Reams-- need to have something in writing to the clerk by this week in order to get this on the agenda for the Dec 6th City Council meeting. Q: why doesn't the Action Plan consider updating the Landscape Manual? Only last updated in Dec 2010. MA: We do need to update the Landscape Manual-- and many others. This particular manual

has a lot of importance to ecosystem services and conservation landscaping practices. There's a lot of room to revise and update many of our documents and will require a whole of County gov't approach.

- Were there conversations about integrating ideas for green development and codes into the plan? Tree canopy monitored by sub-watershed (300, 700, 900 acres). Also impervious area. This is helpful to ensure that tree canopy is monitored at a finer scale (urban vs rural areas). There are some recommendations in the plan about incorporating green infrastructure into development.
 - interesting that the goal seems to be to maintain the existing canopy - through 2050 - rather than pledge a goal of increasing the canopy.
- Feel free to reach out to Mary after Dec to get an update on next steps. Important that citizens speak out and make their interest in the use of the plan heard. Go online, fill out the survey as a private resident to provide comments and be an advocate-- you don't need to only do it through the City.

4. Discussion of proposed comments to City Council and [letter](#)

- It would be good to include a strong statement of support for the plan. Follow up/mention our last/previous letter sent to the Council to encourage them to advocate for the plan in the first place. Would be great to include an over-arching statement of support and looking forward to participating in enacting the plan and potentially participate in a future revision process.
- It's clear that the County needs to see more support and engagement-- great that we are doing this through the City, but let's also provide support as private citizens.
- Elements of the plan will require coordination and channeling of resources at the municipal levels-- this will be important to highlight to the City
- Would be good to also include encouragement that they look at the public comments and take into consideration in the revision process.
- Formal vote: **Approved** to draft these ideas into a formal letter, led by Rich. Thanks Rich!

5. Public outreach opportunities to promote the [Habitat for Humanity Winter Weatherization program](#) (James)

- Not looking for additional publicity or engagement at this time. No actions needed from us.

6. Update on Clay Property preliminary plan of subdivision

- Parks Dept might be proposing ideas for a new park adjacent to the Clay property in early 2022. No new updates yet.

7. Announcements

- Mike Hunninghake will join our January meeting to give us a presentation on Sustainable Maryland.
- Partnership with Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) for ivy removal from residents' yards. Discuss at an upcoming meeting about ways to revitalize this effort.

8. Adjournment.