

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

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

Guests: Marian (?)

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [October meeting](#) minutes. **The Motion was approved unanimously.**
3. Highlights from Sustainable Maryland's Tour of Riverdale Park (Rich). Rich walked through some of the highlights of this development including:
 - Significant amounts of permeable pavement, particularly in parking areas which is not very common.
 - A green roof was installed on the largest commercial property.
 - There are several regular electrical vehicle charging stations in the Whole Foods parking lot but several Tesla specific charging stations at the upper level parking.
 - A recent report found that there is less stormwater runoff in Riverdale Park after the initial development project was completed, despite the loss of some of the tree canopy.

Rich also said that many of these activities were agreed with the city in advance of the development, though it was not clear which aspects were contentious.

4. [PG County Climate Action \(Draft\) Plan](#) (Rich/Edouard)

There was discussion and general support for the climate plan and the goals outlined in it. The public comment period ends on November 30th and there was a discussion about drafting a general letter of support to the City Council. There was a motion of to authorize Rich to draft a letter to the Council of support, stating that 1) HEC supports the goals of the climate plan, 2) requesting

additional time of the County to provide comments, and 3) in the absence of additional time, HEC would provide more comprehensive comments on the plan at our next meeting in December. Rich did a roll call and the motion passed unanimously (Rich shared the letter with Ben and Edouard on 11/10). HEC members indicated that they would review the plan in more depth to identify strengths and areas for possible improvement.

5. Address questions on the [Healthy Trees Hyattsville](#) plan
Dawn provided a brief introduction to the plan, indicating that the major challenge of the plan is ensuring there's enough grant funding.

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

James reached out to Habitat for Humanity for more information but was still waiting to hear back from them. He agreed to move this to next month's meeting.

7. Plastic reduction discussion (Ben)
 - a. [Plastic bag policy](#)
 - b. [Single-use plastic on demand](#)

Ben provided an introduction on his interest for both proposals, including a brief discussion on the analyses he provided. Ben said that he was interested in working with HEC on these two proposals at a later date but wanted to get a temperature check on if there was general interest. There was general support of both proposals. Jared made a suggestion that HEC consider a small surcharge for providing single use plastic, similar to the five cent surcharge for plastic bags in DC.

8. Clay Property: balancing development and conservation (Ben)

Ben provided a brief discussion on the recent history of the Clay Property plan, namely that the County Council disregarded the requests that the Hyattsville City council outlined. The current conceptual site plan is to clear much of the site and build 137 homes. Although much of the plan has already been agreed to, Ben indicated there is a possibility to encourage some environmental changes when the developer presents the preliminary plan of subdivision. Although this plan will go to the Planning Committee, Ben suggested that HEC be given an opportunity to provide a non-binding request for more tree conservation or other

environmental projects be included in the project. Ben thought this proposal would come to the City Council sometime in December. **Note: to add this topic to December HEC agenda.**

9. Announcements

- a. [Chesapeake Bay Trust/ Sustainable Maryland support for condo boards, civic associations, and HOAs who want to form green teams](#) - spread the word this week! (Ben)

10. Adjournment. The motion was supported unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:30.