

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Rich Canino (chair), Jared Messinger (meeting minutes), James Ball, Melissa Schweisguth, Thaddeus Waterman, Joseph DeMarco, Dawn Taft (staff), Ben Simasek (Council)

Guests: Christine Gray, Michael Reible

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [September meeting](#) minutes. Approved
3. Introduction of Joseph DeMarco to the committee
 - Representing West Hyattsville. New resident of Hyattsville in townhome community by the metro station
 - Work in federal permitting for environment sector
 - Certified Floodplain Manager; expertise in stormwater management
4. Election of new Chairperson
 - 14 months remaining in Rich's term
 - Role includes coordinating agenda items, serving as a spokesperson of HEC for the public, facilitates monthly meetings
 - Thaddeus volunteered to take over Chair position
 - We could consider a 2-3 month trial period to ensure it's a good fit
 - We should also elect a Vice Chair as an alternative to Thaddeus
 - Unanimous approval for Thaddeus as new chair
5. Sustainable Maryland Certification
 - Hyattsville received Silver; highest recognition
 - Frederick received the #1 ranking
 - HEC qualifies as the "Green Team" requirement for Sustainable Maryland Certification
 - Certification provides priority for grant funding opportunities
 - Submissions from every municipality is available on Sustainable MD website
 - Sustainable MD supporting two mapping projects along the Route 1 corridor:
 - i. Pollinator connector map
 - ii. Stormwater issues
6. Hyattsville Sustainability plan - initial hearing sessions and timeline

- Feedback sessions - Sept 27 through Oct 12
- Good turnout at Oct 11 session
 - i. Mostly focused on transportation, parks, place-based interventions
- Goal is to have written document by early spring 2023; City adopted by late spring/early summer 2023
- Unsure if an emissions reduction target is currently included
- Provide virtual feedback here:
<https://hellohyattsville.com/en/projects/hyattsville-community-sustainability-plan-2022-2026>
- 7. University Hills Green Team Update (Ben/moved to Oct).
 - Looking to do 1 short term project and 1 long term project
 - Short term project: storm drain stenciling involving local schools
 - Long term project: create a pollinator garden in the University Hills Park
 - Ben will share an update via email
 - Dawn would like to prioritize tree planting and invasive removal in University Hills Park
- 8. Announcements
 - Opportunity to join the County Resident Advisory Group (RAG) on Climate Action and Justice
 - i. This person will join the RAG and provide guidance on implementing the County Action Plan and report back to HEC
 - Audubon Society Yard Trainings didn't receive enough response
 - i. January - Introduction workshop to explain Audubon work; yard program
 - Healthy Trees Hyattsville program
 - i. Working with Casey Trees to conduct a tree care workshop and hands-on pruning workshop in February/March
 - ii. Family Day at the park in May
 - Considering an intern to support yard assessments on mosquitos; roll out program for "gat trap" for mosquitoes
 - Councilman Danny Schaible proposed to spend Council funding to plant 750 trees on public and private land within the city
 - Environmental Coordinator to support Dawn starting at the end of October
 - Michael Reible: Real Estate agent representing business owner on the west side of the Northwest Branch Anacostia River along Chillum Rd.
 - i. Looking for insight into planning process
 - ii. Melissa recommended reaching out to West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Plan contacts
 - iii. Joseph recommended reaching out to County stormwater office
- 9. Adjournment.

