

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Rich Canino (chair), Janet Nackoney (secretary), James Ball, Jared Messinger, Melissa Schweisguth, Dawn Taft (staff), Ben Simasek (Council),

Guests: Joseph DeMarco, Jasveen Kaur

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [August meeting minutes](#): Approved
3. Clime DAO Pilot (Rich/Jasveen) [Slides](#)
 - [Clime DAO](#) is a new organization
 - Carbon Bank as a Service (CaaS) platform for businesses and civic organizations
 - Climate change impacts on cities: Global heating in excess of 1.5°C would have devastating consequences for cities
 - How to reach net zero targets? How to ensure effects of climate change are manageable and encourage growth while reaching net zero emissions?
 - Has had discussions with a few other cities regionally: Takoma Park, Gaithersburg. Gaithersburg buys
 - Idea of CaaS = “managing community carbon emissions leading to saving and currency rewards” Perform a climate action and receive credits in exchange for the emissions that are reduced. Residents can choose from a menu of activities to commit to.
 - Climate equity very important. Poorest/most vulnerable feel the impacts of climate change the most. Ability to curate actions around climate equity.
 - Clime DAO will validate the climate actions taken and then help determine the value of those actions in the open marketplace
 - Residents can earn CLI tokens– each token can be offered as a carbon offset to individuals looking to offset their carbon footprint. Clime DAO will also help sell the tokens in a mass carbon offset auction to allow a resident to convert the token to \$\$.
 - There will be some challenges in implementing– how to connect City to County targets, how to track residents’ transport choices for example– but argue that this allows us to start somewhere

- DEMO: 1) Resident will enter info about their carbon footprint. 2) Then resident sets a goal 3) Resident selects from a menu of activities or “action journeys” such as setting your optimal thermostat temp for the winter– or lighting conservation. 4) CLI tokens and credits visible for each action 5) Identity verification 6) Validation of your actions taken 7) Access your tokens 8) Sell your tokens if you choose
 - Community messaging will be very important to attract participation.
 - HEC Discussion: Would be good to have a broader conversation about how or whether Hyattsville is interested in participating in these kinds of programs. It’s a strong concept, but a bit of a risk since it’s a startup and there’s been no pilot testing in other communities. Presentation was very long and it was still unclear what is being asked of us. “Selling” this idea to the City and residents to get their participation will require a really professional, polished communications campaign.
4. Hyattsville Sustainability plan status/process (Rich)
- Plan will be updated in early spring 2023 and presented to City Council
 - Public engagement sessions will be starting up soon
 - Q: Will the plan have an actual emissions reduction goal? Unsure, something to ask
5. City compost/yard waste directions/website update (Melissa)
- Can city residents combine yard waste and compost together? DT: City is likely rolling out some new totes soon for combined single-stream yard waste and compost. This makes it more efficient for the collection of both compost and yard waste together. Will provide an update at next meeting and look at updating the webpage on the City website.
6. University Hills Green Team Update (Ben)
- Update deferred to next meeting
 - Invasive removals are one action they plan to work on.
 - Cleanup at Duck pond/NW branch at 3pm this Sunday with Neighbors of the NW Branch
7. Announcements
- Audubon program with City now launched. Will certify residents’ yards as Audubon certified for wildlife if you get assessed and take action to plant natives.
 - Audubon is hoping to add more advisors across the county. On 9/29 there is an Advisor volunteer training
 - Residents can sign up for yard evaluations. The City will provide a certification sign to the first 25 residents that get certified.
 - HEC/HAP ivy removal off to a good start. One HAP resident has already had ivy removed by Janet and a volunteer three weeks ago. More

residents have been evaluated, Janet is getting a signup form to schedule
ivy volunteers for the fall.

8. Adjournment.