

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Participants: Theresa Goedeke, Janet Nackoney, Dawn Taft, Brie Welzer, Rich Canino, Jared Messinger, Ben Simasek, Edouard Haba

Guests: Kathy Schollenburger, Lindsay Booth, Thaddeus Waterman

Agenda Items:

- Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation
- Approval of [July meeting minutes](#): **Approved**
- Welcome to our City Council liaisons -- Ben Simasek Ward 3 and Eduoard Haba Ward 4 (T. Goedeke)
- Discussion of HVL Committees Handbook (T. Goedeke)
 - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YQE2J7_wHEamlru2wAmL8l9beg7nqJwY
 - [Revisions doc](#): Look at page 4 for HEC and make any suggested changes or edits
- Guest presentation by Kathy Shollenberger about Prince George's County Audubon Society's Wildlife Habitat Program (T.Goedeke)
 - Loss of habitat linked to ecosystem decline
 - Maryland & PG County loss of tree cover and habitat, bird decline
 - Douglas Tallamy: *Nature's Best Hope* book. 5 main rules:
 - 1) Replace and restore your yard with native plants (prevents growth of invasive spp, provides a nurturing environment for wildlife); 2) Don't use pesticides or mulch; rely on natural leaf litter;
 - 3) Structure: Plant densely and in layers; 4) Postpone "fall clean-up" till spring to allow seeds to feed the birds; 5) Plant shelter and housing/habitat for animals to make homes (leave dead trees, brush piles for shelter); 6) Set some water aside for wildlife; 7) Keep outdoor lighting to a minimum, keep cats inside, consider treating windows to prevent bird strikes.
 - Offer through Audubon's Wildlife Habitat Program: a home walk-through property visit. Get help making a plan for your yard.
 - Apply for Audubon Wildlife Habitat Program certification
 - Get a sign!
 - 167 approved gardens in MD

- PG County: Some towns like Bowie building in restoration into their sustainability plans; native plant network/corridor in Mount Rainier; Cheverly Native Planting Project
 - In Hyattsville: 15 house visits so far; 2 resident experienced habitat advisors and 2 more trainees; Possible to get points from Sustainable Maryland for every garden certified.
- Can Hyattsville help get out the word about this program and possible opportunities for trainees, schools and church public spaces, could it be linked to the City Shade Tree Ordinance? Native seed swaps?
- Report on the Ward One Stormwater Study (D. Taft)
 - Lower Ward 1 study: one-pager handout about the study and findings
 - Ask Dawn if you want to see the full study
 - Got funding for a submerged gravel wetland at 42nd PI and Charles Armentrout Dr.
- Announcements or Notices
 - Slots open again for the Anacostia Watershed Stewards Program: <https://www.anacostiaws.org/what-we-do/education/adult-education/watershed-stewards-academy.html>
 - September “tree care” workshop held by the City
 - Ben is getting the stormwater memo ready to submitted for a Sept council meeting
 - Ben talked to Jim Chandler about the City sustainability plan. Current plan runs till 2022, so next year will focus on drafting a new version. Will allow public comment and HEC involvement. Jared flagged new IPCC report-- would be great to frame some of the content around this report.
 - Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights Amendment: <http://mdehr.org/>
 - Note about new bird virus in US: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/07/02/bird-illness-investigation-continues-in-several-states/>
 - Cease feeding birds until this wildlife morbidity/mortality event subsides.
 - Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach mixed with nine parts water), rinse with water, and allow to air-dry.
- Adjournment