

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (Chair), Melissa Schweisguth, Janet Nackoney (Notes), Rayya Newman, Dawn Taft (staff), James Ball, Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziewicz, James Wigley, Joseph Demarco, Ian Fay

Guests: Maximiliano Vasquez, Scott Wilson

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [June Meeting Minutes](#): **APPROVED**
3. Public Comment Period
 - No comments
4. Next Steps for Hyattsville Climate Action Plan (James)
 - James has shared an [example](#) from Council of Governments (COG) of an RFP that was developed for the City of Falls Church for a CAP. Seeking input: is this RFP a good model for what we could replicate for the City of Hyattsville?
 - Some preliminary feedback:
 - i. The RFP seems pretty prescriptive and specific– seems like this one could be farther ahead than the City of Hyattsville in determining what they want. Does the City feel pretty certain about its goals, or does it need help from a consultant to help develop those goals?
 - ii. Also, this particular RFP is focused very much on support for GHG inventory. Are there other examples that we could see, for example for a municipality in Maryland? Is it possible to see some of the submissions?
 - iii. How does our budget cap relate to pricing?
 - iv. How do other issues like stormwater and natural ecosystems play into a Climate Action Plan? Are there initiatives that the City can take to help homeowners be more proactive about climate issues?
 - v. Are there any relevant links in the existing [Strategic Plan](#) and the Watershed Implementation Plan? Make sure we aren't being repetitive with those plans and associated goals.

- How do we see the timing of this process– would there be two phases of RFPs? DT: The City did an RFP for Hyattsville’s tree initiatives– there were nine sections and multiple phases in one RFP. Possible to put a second phase out to bid.
 - Next steps: Agreement to look at stormwater considerations, also consider whether we can look at this in multiple phases, and also will ask to look at other examples particularly from Maryland and/or PG County.
5. Green Summit 2024 (Dawn Taft)
- HEC should have received an invitation to have a table at the 2024 Green Summit (email from Terra Virsilas, June 28); request to fill out an Exhibitor Form by Aug 30.
 - City of Hyattsville will have their own table; there is an option for HEC to join forces and be present to talk about Hyattsville’s environmental initiatives.
 - Wide agreement that HEC should share a table with the City of Hyattsville (as opposed to having their own table). **VOTE:** HEC will join the City of Hyattsville’s table. Will continue discussion in August’s HEC meeting.
6. [Hyattsville municipal exemption from MG Ag Spraying](#) (Melissa/Janet)
- Note: Mt. Rainier, the Brentwoods, Colmar Manor and University Park appear to have opted out per [list of areas sprayed in our county](#))
 - DT: The City is sprayed each Monday only if mosquitos have reached a certain threshold. This is based on residential complaints about mosquitos. But this information is not consistent with what is on the website. ACTION: Dawn will check back on some of this information
7. New Business
- [Hyattsville Strategic Plan](#) open for comment until **July 26th** on Hello Hyattsville. HEC folks should add their own input independently as City residents. This is the effort that has evolved from the original idea of a Hyattsville Sustainability Plan– but looks like the scope has changed and is focused less on environmental sustainability generally.
 - (Janet) A group of neighbors on Kennedy and 40th have come together to form a committee around stormwater runoff challenges in their immediate neighborhood. They are already working with the City on this, but have asked Janet if HEC might be interested in hearing an update from the committee.
 - i. Agreement within HEC that this would be helpful; Janet to invite them to share update at our next meeting.
8. Announcements
- **Reminder** about Open Meetings Act trainings: We are all now required to take a training on the Open Meetings Act (also stated in the Committee

Handbook). The training is online and takes approximately 1 hour to complete. Upon completion of the training, the individual will receive a certificate of completion, which must be emailed to committees@hyattsville.org. [Here](#) is the link to take the Maryland Open Meetings Act training.

9. Adjournment