

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Participants: Rich Canino (chair), Janet Nackoney, James Ball, David Hiles, Thaddeus Waterman, Dawn Taft (staff), Jared Messinger, Eduardo Haba (Council), Ben Simasek (Council)

Guests: Mike Hunninghake, Sustainable Maryland

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [late November meeting minutes](#). **APPROVED**
3. Election of officers - Chairperson and recorder (formerly secretary) (Rich)
 - Chairperson nominee(s): Rich
 - Recorder nominee(s): Janet
 - VOTE: Approval of nominees to continue another term **APPROVED**
4. Mike Hunninghake of Sustainable Maryland to present on Sustainable MD and Brainstorming Exercise
 - “Sustainable Maryland Green Team Training: A Greenprint for Communities” slide deck
 - Join the Sustainable Maryland email list! Email Rich if you aren’t on it.
 - Sustainable Maryland is an initiative out of Univ of Maryland Env Finance Center. Provides green certification for municipalities in Maryland. Launched in 2011. Free and voluntary. Also boosts access to grants and other resources and provides a network for municipalities to connect over green initiatives. Also: Green Team trainings, state recognition.
 - Hyattsville has participated in this program for a long time. The City benefitted from help from the program to write a grant to buy our electric Chevy Volt police car, white reflective roof on City Hall building, etc.
 - Point-based system. Requirements: 2 Mandatory Actions (create a Green Team, create a plan). Pass 2 of 6 Priority Actions. Earn a total of 150 points to receive certification.
 - Events need to take place within 12 months of application. Planning documents must be updated within a 6-year period. Municipalities must apply for recertification every 3 years.
 - 85 communities registered since 2011.

- Trying to get Sustainable Maryland funded by the State. Late January Maryland legislature session. Will be reaching out to HEC for help (writing a letter of support). Ben– has volunteered to help testify.
 - Check out “New actions for 2022” (public art, public wi-fi, composting, pesticide-free zones, bike/ped plan, Safe Routes to Schools Program, Bee City, new Historic Preservation category)
5. Sustainable Maryland Recertification process and how HEC can support (Rich/ Dawn)
- June 30 deadline for recertification
 - Mike showed us what we got credit for last time.
 - New activities: gas-powered leaf blower ban, mulching christmas trees, “Leaf it alone” education campaign for residents to leave their leaves on their properties
 - Idea for public wi-fi? <https://www.primoenergy.com/products/energiplant/>
 - Also: what innovative solutions did we do for COVID? City gave Franklin’s use of the City parking lot to provide more outdoor seating space, diaper giveaways, food bank, free parking
 - Mike’s email: mike75@umd.edu
 - What can we do to help Dawn? Dawn will let us know next month.
 - Also: we will respond to the request for a letter from the City to support Sustainable Maryland’s efforts to get Maryland State funding. Mike has a letter prepared, will send tomorrow. Ben will spearhead a motion in Council to support the letter.
 - Motion in support of City Council sending a resolution in support of the Sustainable MD funding proposal.: **APPROVED**
6. Announcements
- Dawn: working with AWS Watershed Stewards on capstone programs
 - Janet: Fall 2021 Watershed Steward. Terrific program, highly recommended!
 - Ben: Rescue Plan funds and eligibility. We can visit this in the Feb meeting.
 - Dawn: Also looking into bringing back the Env Expo this year. Could we partner with another municipality?
7. Adjournment.